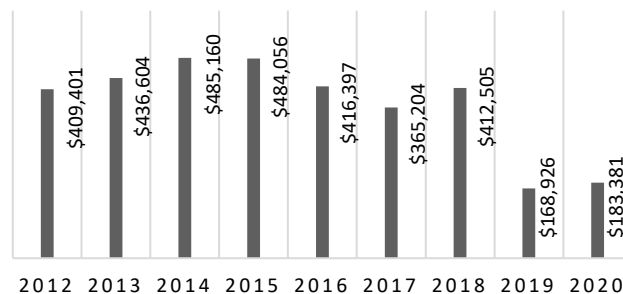


CRIME VICTIMS AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE CENTER 4610

4610 - COUNTY SHARE



MISSION STATEMENT

Mission Statement: Working Against Violence for Everyone (WAVE)

Vision Statement: Empowerment for All

Values Statements:

1. Victims First
2. Boldly Compassionate
3. **STAND** with others to end the culture of Violence
4. Inspire all to **SPEAK** out
5. Unite community to take **ACTION**



Albany County Crime Victim and Sexual Violence Center

WHO WE SERVE

The Albany County Crime Victim and Sexual Violence Center (CVSVC) provides a comprehensive range of free and confidential services to emotionally and physically injured victims of crime who reside in or who were victimized in Albany County. CVSVC is available to anyone of any age who has experienced sexual or domestic violence, or other interpersonal crime at any time in their life, as well as anyone who has been affected by someone else's victimization.

ABOUT OUR DEPARTMENT

CVSVC has been proudly serving victims and survivors of crime since 1975. CVSVC seeks to change societal conditions that allow and perpetuate oppression and violence through advocacy, community mobilization, therapy, and prevention education throughout the urban, suburban, and rural areas of Albany County.

CVSVC has trained, mobile advocates who serve individuals in local courts, at law enforcement agencies, in emergency departments, on college campuses, and at the Child Advocacy Center. CVSVC staff advocate for individuals utilizing a comprehensive, trauma-informed, and multi-system approach, provide information and referrals, and assist individuals in filing claims for compensation from the NYS Office of Victim Services. CVSVC is the NYS Department of Health certified Rape Crisis Center for Albany County and operates a 24-hour crisis hotline for crisis intervention, supportive counseling, and advocacy at Albany County hospital and police stations. CVSVC also provides free and confidential therapy for victims of crime, as well as their friends and family, in individual, family, or group settings. Finally, CVSVC offers public education programs and community mobilization projects on interpersonal violence prevention for adults and children throughout the County.

CVSVC collaborates with other Albany County and community agencies including through Albany County's Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence Team and the Multi-Disciplinary Team to coordinate response in cases of child abuse. We also work closely with the Albany Police Department to reduce gun involved violence and other community service providers to support Albany's local immigrant and refugee population. CVSVC shares staff with Albany County Department for Children, Youth and Families' Children's Advocacy Center to bridge our two departments to collaborate and maximize community outreach.

2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CHALLENGES

- We continue to provide direct victim assistance to survivors of crime in Albany County. In the past twelve months, we have provided 18,856 services to over 7,000 individuals:
 - o We provided crisis intervention 2,200 times.
 - o We assisted 1,662 clients via our sexual assault crisis hotline.
 - o We accompanied over 300 sexual assault victims to the Emergency Room for a forensic rape exam.
 - o We provided criminal justice support to almost 7,500 people.
 - o We accompanied 137 people to court appearances.

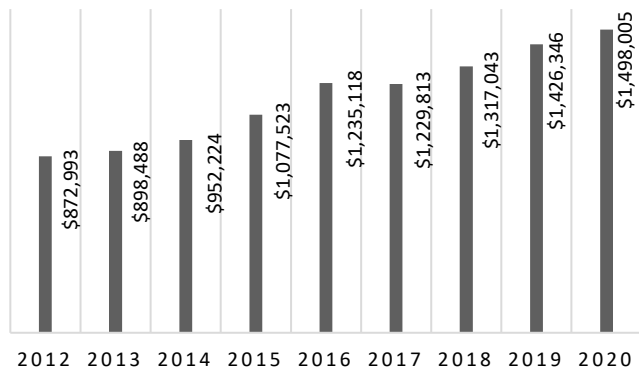
CRIME VICTIMS AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE CENTER - 4610

- o We provided information and referral over 8,800 times.
 - o We provided individual and family therapy to 2,138 crime victims.
 - o We provided a combined 145 community outreach events, prevention education, and professional trainings to approximately 6,000 people.
 - o We outreached to the community at over 40 tabling events.
 - o We completed almost 2,000 Office of Victim Services compensation applications with clients and registered 236 clients for Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE).
- We continue to partner with local schools, community agencies and organizations to provide prevention education programs to youth of all ages, from pre-K classes to colleges. The goal of our education is to further our mission of changing societal norms to promote healthy relationships, nonviolence and engaged communities. Our staff is trained in 7 evidence-based anti-violence curricula and in the last year we provided prevention education programming to over 4,000 youth. Additionally, CVSVC has begun collaborating with Green Island CSD to bring mindfulness and trauma-informed approaches on a school-wide level. This year we trained all Green Island CSD staff on the effects of trauma on the brain, mindfulness, and trauma-informed intervention strategies for de-escalation and boundary setting. We also worked with staff to develop individual implementation programs and provided on-going support in the form of scheduled consultations. Finally, we attended a restorative justice training in partnership with Green Island CSD to create a team of responders.
- Our prevention education programs focus heavily on community mobilization, encouraging community members to foster and empower positive change in those around them. This year we launched our Safer Bars program in partnership with community organizations in Schenectady and Oneida counties. Safer Bars trains bar staff in bystander intervention so they will be better able to identify and address sexual aggression in the bar before it escalates. Currently nine bars have been trained in Albany County.
- CVSVC continued to expand our partnerships with community agencies who serve public health groups, parents and direct service professionals with the goal of educating those who educate our youth. This year, we were honored to be invited to present on the topic of violence against women at the first ever Conference on Women Leaders, hosted by the Center for Women in Government & Civil Society in the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy at the University at Albany, SUNY. We also partnered with the Albany County Department of Health to educate health workers and youth summer camp staff on the warning signs of child abuse and available resources. Additionally, we partnered with the Humane Society of the United States in hosting an animal abuse training during Domestic Violence Awareness Month to discuss the links between animal abuse and domestic violence.
- We assisted several organizations in fulfilling the NYS workplace sexual harassment training requirements including religious and community organizations, nightlife establishments, and the City of Albany Summer Youth Employment Program.
- CVSVC works hard to educate our clients and the general public on ways to prevent violence and keep themselves safe. This year we created several informational pamphlets on a variety of topics in a variety of languages in order to provide our clients with the most up-to-date and detailed information so that they may get the assistance they need, including a brochure on reproductive abuse and strangulation. To make this information as accessible as possible, we translated four of our informational brochures into Spanish. Additionally, we posted informational outreach flyers regarding the impact of domestic violence on the workplace and placed them in county bathroom stalls so that people can get the information they, or someone else, might need in an anonymous and safe manner.
- Our Campus Sexual Assault Coordinator has developed strong, collaborative relationship with all 12 colleges and university in Albany County. This year we collaborated with Saint Rose and Sage College of Albany to train athletes using the evidence-based Mentors in Violence Prevention curriculum. Through collaboration with the Title IX office and athletics department at Saint Rose, we were able to train every athlete in this curriculum. Additionally, we trained resident assistants and faculty/staff how to respond to a student disclosure of sexual violence, held a neurobiology of trauma training for Title IX investigators at Albany Law School, developed an online sexual violence training with Excelsior College, and held a panel discussion at Albany Medical College to teach medical students how to best respond to a patient that discloses a sexual assault. We implemented office hours at Sage in collaboration with their counseling center in order to bring services directly to the students and provide them with an accessible opportunity to speak with an advocate one-on-one. Finally, we worked with the College Experience at the College of Saint Rose, which serves developmentally delayed college students, present about sexual harassment and consent for their students.
- Through new grant funding from NYS Office of Victim Services, we added two new case management position to our office this year. Our case managers provided comprehensive coordinated care to 165 crime victims dealing with complex needs, serving as a point of contact and providing multi-system advocacy.

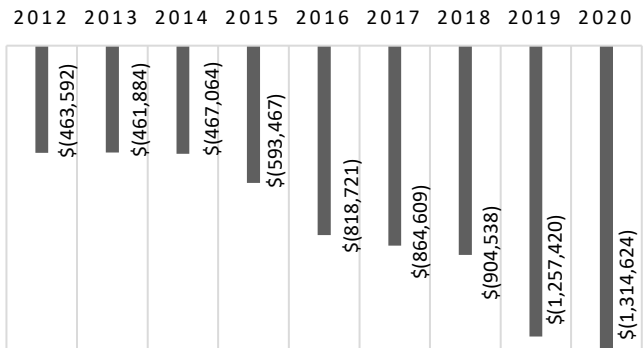
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- This year we started a collaboration with the Albany County Jail to implement the Breaking Barriers support group for incarcerated women at who have experienced trauma at some point in their lives. Each weekly workshop includes a related topic as well as support and an art based activity that allow participants to better understand the effects that their past experiences have in their lives, to empower clients to overcome personal barriers, and increase knowledge of and access to resources in order to promote positive changes and personal growth. We have provided over 300 resource referrals to the participants that will be beneficial to them during incarceration and upon their release with the goal of reducing recidivism and increasing safety.

4610 - APPROPRIATIONS



4610 - REVENUE



2020 GOALS AND PERFORMANCE TARGETS

- We continue to expand our community outreach and mobilization efforts by connecting with every facet of our local community, including schools, faith communities, services providers, universities, community groups and other individuals equally dedicated to addressing violence in our area.
- We will partner with four local colleges to create "What were you wearing?" installations on each of the campuses to stimulate dialogue around rape culture and promote discussion on the topic of consent.
- With the increased grant funding from the NYS Office of Victim Services, we will co-locate a Crime Victim Clinician at the Child Advocacy Center who will provide on-site services to children and non-offending family members, assist with forensic investigations, complete NYS OVS compensation applications and accompany children and youth to non-emergent forensic medical exams.
- Also with the increased grant funding from the NYS Office of Victim Services, we will have an additional Crime Victim Caseworker to expand the number of services, including assistance with NYS OVS applications, crisis counseling and referrals provided to crime victims living in the outlying and rural areas of Albany by the end of 2019.
- With the increased grant funding from the NYS Office of Victim Services, CVSVC will partner with The Legal Project to hire a civil legal attorney to provide civil legal assistance, the enforcement of victims' rights in the criminal justice process, immigration relief for trafficking victims and battered women, and assistance with financial fraud or identify theft.
- We will continue to collaborate with Schenectady and Oneida County partners through the NYS Department of Health on the Rape Prevention and Education: Using the Best Available Evidence for Sexual Violence Prevention grant to expand the Safer Bars network and implement healthy school community and healthy sports community. These community based initiatives will engage our communities to reconsider sexual based violence in our neighborhoods and schools and foster culture change.

SUMMARY OF BUDGET CHANGES

The 2020 Executive budget for the Crime Victims and Sexual Violence Center does not include any substantive programmatic changes.

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As we work in the community, we frequently receive feedback about the impact of our work. Below are a few comments we have received in the past year:

From a local educator:

For the last three years, I have invited CVSVC to come to my ninth grade classroom to instruct my students on consent, sexual violence, and related topics. The presentations have been extremely informative and engaging, featuring video clips, small group activities, and whole group discussions. The students gain real insight into and understanding of these relevant issues from the presentations, which is why I keep asking them back. The Albany County Crime Victim and Sexual Violence Center is an invaluable resource for my district's children and community.

I would not be able to accomplish all of the prevention education training for our students throughout each year without the help of CVSVC staff. Specifically, the relationships and partnerships that I have personally built with Amanda Wingle, Rachel Wilson, and Erin Weiss under the leadership of Karen Zeigler have been so valuable to me as an educator and advocate for our students. Their experience and expertise helps to enrich and expand our programming efforts on campus. I am blessed to have them as partners and colleagues as we work to change campus culture, and I really feel the sense of being a part of a great team.

From a local bar owner:

We would like to take this opportunity to personally and professionally commend and thank the Albany County Crime Victim & Sexual Violence Center, Albany County Executive Daniel McCoy and Prevention Coordinator Rachel Wilson, for the creation of, and their ongoing support for, the Safer Bars initiative here in Albany County. This program exemplifies the type of successful partnership that can be forged between the County and business owners as they work together towards creating a better and safer environment for Albany County residents and visitors.

Through the Safer Bars program, and thanks to the hard work, dedication and passionate advocacy from Rachel Wilson, we have been able to train our staff here at Savoy Taproom to better identify potential sexual aggression and harassment and to know how and when to properly intervene.

Without question this program has dramatically improved our ability to provide a welcoming and safe space for all of our patrons. We could not have been more proud to be a Safer Bars pilot participant and look forward to continuing our participation as the program grows, evolves and improves.

Understanding that it can be somewhat difficult to judge the success of a program like the Safer Bars initiative, we would like to leave you with the following thought. If through our partnership with the County and our training of staff here at Savoy, we can stop even one instance of sexual violence then this program and our participation has been a success.

From Breaking Barriers group participants at Albany County Jail:

"I felt like for the first time, I was thrown a life preserver"

"Thank you for helping me realize I deserve to be respected"

"This program is my safe space"

"I learned that I do not respond, I react; I didn't know there was a difference!"