

Department/Program Description

The Vermont Commission on Women is an independent, non-partisan state agency dedicated to advancing rights and opportunities for women in Vermont. The Commission advises and consults with the legislative and executive branches of state government on policies affecting the status of women in Vermont; conducts research and study of issues affecting the status of women in Vermont; educates and informs business, education, state and local governments and the general public about the nature and scope of sex discrimination and other matters affecting the status of women in Vermont; and serves as a liaison and clearinghouse between government, private interest groups and the general public concerned with services for women.

The Commission consists of 16 commissioners, appointed by multiple appointing authorities, and drawn from throughout the state from diverse backgrounds. An Advisory Council, representing a range of partnership organizations, provides information and assists the Commission. The Commission is staffed by an Executive Director, an Executive Staff Assistant, and a Women's Commission Program Coordinator.

Goals/Objectives/Performance Measures

The Vermont Commission on Women is committed to working to advance rights and opportunities for women in Vermont. Through our work we:

- Act as an advisor and information source for the legislative and executive branches and other policymakers on issues affecting women
- Provide the most local and most appropriate information and referrals to the public on matters related to women and families
- Serve as an educational resource by conducting research, producing publications, and coordinating conferences and workshops
- Engage partnerships and networks of diverse groups to consider issues of interest to women and take action

In FY2021, 8778 individuals accessed VCWs online resource guide or our online version of the Legal Rights of Women in Vermont. 22%, or 2957 of our website visitors downloaded a VCW publication during their visit.

VCW testified in the legislature 14 times; VCW was invited to testify 9 times.

VCWs informational videos about pregnancy accommodations were viewed 253 times.

Key Budget Issues

Approximately 82.5% of the Commission's budget is for personal services, providing for 3.00 FTE staff positions. Approximately 14.5% is for allocated expenses such as fee-for-space,

insurance, and information technology. Approximately 3% covers all other operating expenses, which include commissioner travel reimbursement (mandated), staff travel, office supplies, phone, printing/publications, postage, membership/dues, meeting and conference registration, copier maintenance, computer replacement, repair, and maintenance.