



**Crime Victim Services Training, Provider
Certification, and Statistical Analysis
Annual Report**

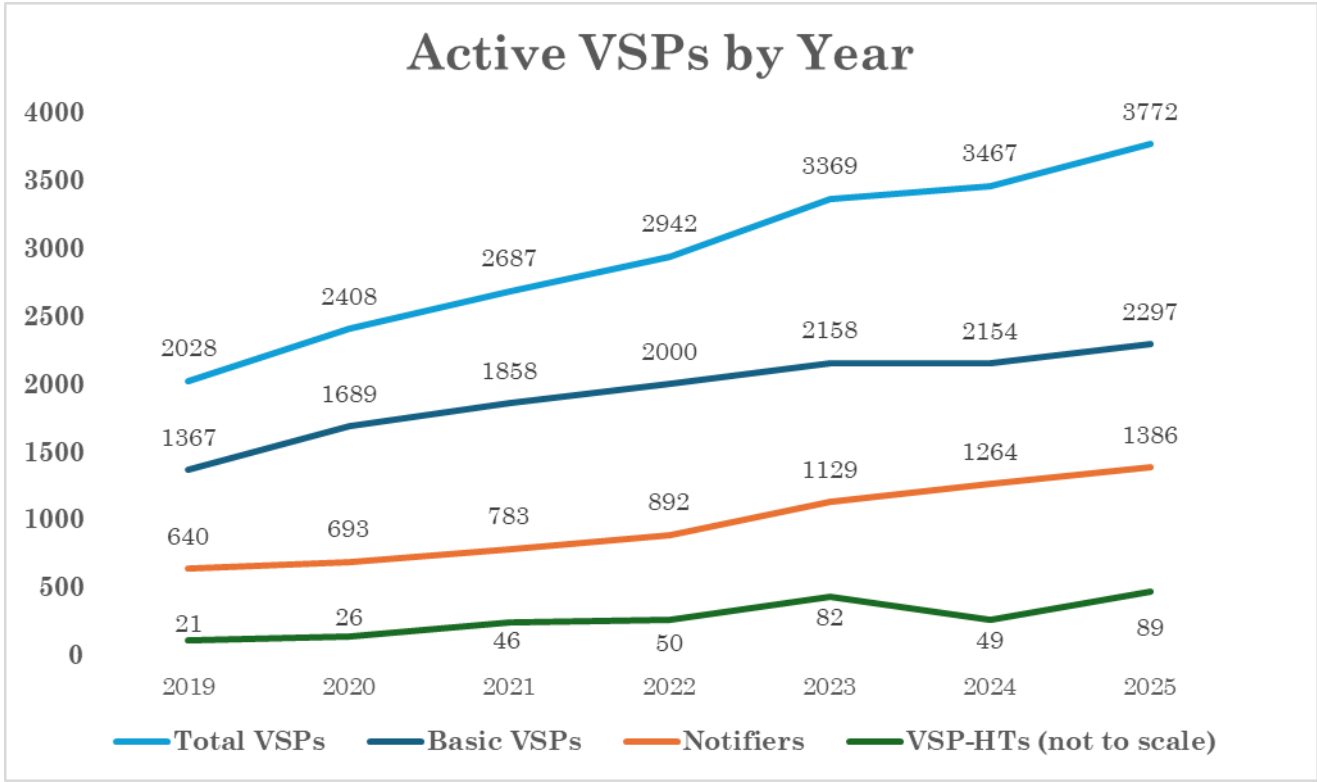
2025

A Message from the Deputy Director

I am pleased to present the first annual report for the Department of Crime Victim Services Training, Provider Certification, and Statistical Analysis (CVST).

CVST was established in 2017 as a department within the Crime Victim Services Division of the South Carolina Attorney General’s Office. Since then, our mission has been to further professionalize the field of victim services by ensuring that all professionals who provide direct services to victims of crime in South Carolina are properly trained.

As of December 31, 2025, there were 3,772 Victim Service Providers (VSPs) participating in our program. These VSPs were employed by a total of 559 victim service agencies, including law enforcement, state/local government, and non-profit agencies.



Many of these agencies work with CVST to provide training for victim advocates. In 2025, CVST worked with 58 agencies to accredit 205 training courses for VSP hours. These accreditation requests were for basic core trainings as well as other topics such as advocate safety, trauma-informed strategies, human trafficking, suicide prevention, and safety planning. Furthermore, CVST collaborated with two state agencies in 2025 to provide training on a larger scale.

A Message from the Deputy Director

CVST worked with the South Carolina Department of Social Services (SCDSS) to accredit their online trainings for VSP hours where appropriate. This allows grant-funded employees of group homes to receive VSP credit for courses they take through SCDSS's website.

We also worked with the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services (SCDPPPS) and the Crime Victim Ombudsman (CVO) to make Victims' Rights and Statutes training available online to 763 of SCDPPPS's staff members.

In addition to our training efforts, CVST completed multiple reports for the Crime Victim Services Division and furnished outside agencies with data upon request.

We are proud of the progress our department has made this year and look forward to continuing to offer training and technical assistance in support of victim advocates across the state.

Ginger Dukes
Deputy Director

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History

On June 10, 2017, Governor Henry McMaster signed the South Carolina Crime Victim Services Act into law. The Act consolidated the crime victim services agencies from different departments of the state government into the Crime Victim Services Division (CVSD) of the SC Attorney General's Office.



SC Governor Henry McMaster

As a result, the Department of Crime Victim Services Training, Provider Certification, and Statistical Analysis (CVST) was created. The duties of CVST are defined by South Carolina Code § 16-3-1410, listed below.



SC Attorney General Alan Wilson

SC Code § 16-3-1410 Authorized CVST to:

- Provide oversight of training, education, and certification of victim assistance programs
- Promulgate training standards and requirements in cooperation with the Victim Services Coordinating Council
- Approve training curricula for credit hours toward certification
- Provide victim service provider certification
- Maintain records of certified victim service providers
- Collect and analyze statistical data

Mission Statement

CVST's mission is to further professionalize the field of victim services by certifying victim service providers, ensuring providers receive proper training, and analyzing relevant statistical data. We accomplish our mission by:

Providing Oversight of Training, Education, and Certification of Victim Service Programs

- As part of the certification process, CVST vets agencies to determine if their employees are eligible for VSP certification.

Working with the Victim Services Coordinating Council (VSCC) to Promulgate Training Standards and Requirements

- The deputy director of CVST is a member of the VSCC. The council meets quarterly to improve coordination efforts regarding victim services in South Carolina, suggest policy and procedural improvements, and recommend statutory changes. CVST consults with the VSCC when updating policies or recommending legislation.

Providing Victim Service Provider Certification

- CVST reviews applications received from victim service providers. As part of the review, CVST confirms job duties and employment status with the provider's employer. Applicants who qualify are given a VSP number.

Approving training curricula for credit hours toward certification

- CVST reviews training courses that organizations submit for credit hours. Training courses that meet CVST's standards for content and quality will be accredited. Victim service providers can also submit training courses they attended that weren't accredited to receive credit as long as the training meets CVST's criteria.

Maintaining Records of Certified Victim Service Providers

- CVST maintains a database of current and past victim service providers, related contacts, trainings, and continuing education records. This database is updated daily to ensure accurate record keeping. This includes sending out correspondence and closing accounts that are no longer active.

Collect and Analyze Statistical Data and Publish Analysis, Needs Assessments, and Reports

- CVST collects data about victim service providers. We analyze this data along with data from outside sources to discover trends within the field of victim services, both for use inside the Division as well as to assist outside partners.

About Victim Service Providers

Victim Service Providers (VSPs) are paid professionals who provide direct services to victims of crime.

VSPs must be either:

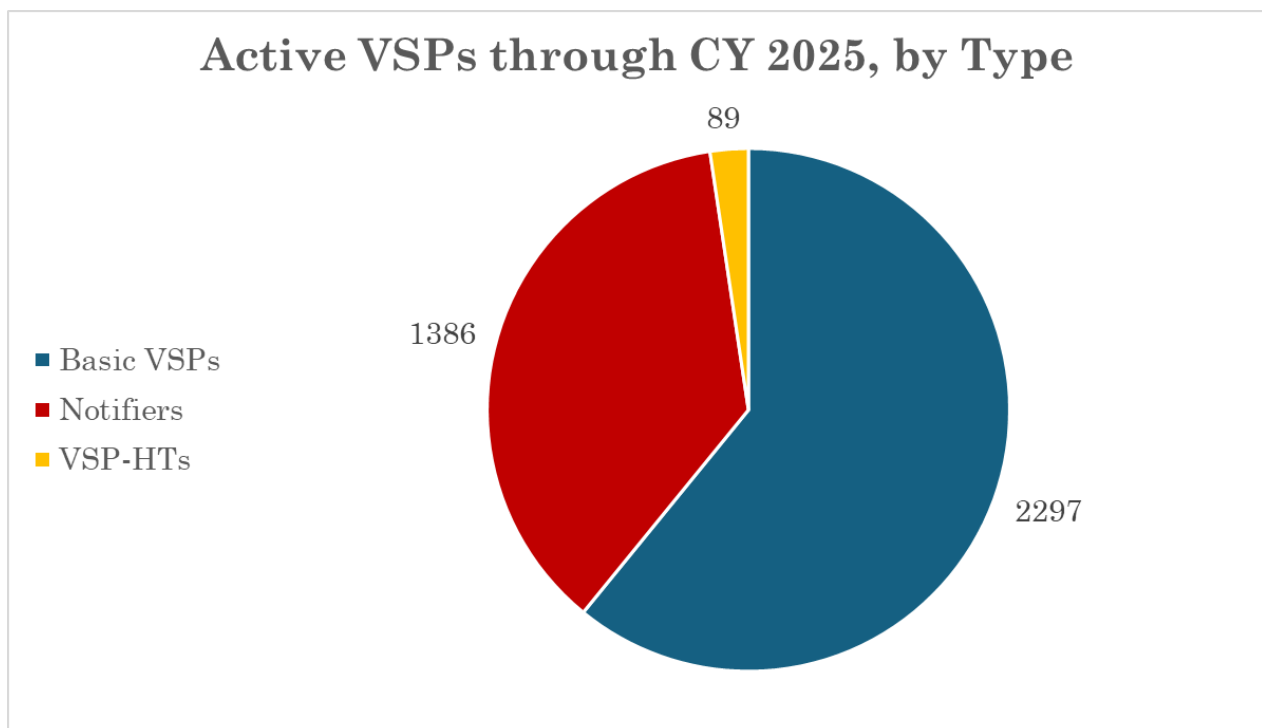
1. Employees of local government or state agencies who provide victim assistance.
2. Employees of state-recognized, non-governmental organizations whose mission is related to victim services.

Per statute, the following occupations are excluded under the state’s definition of victim service provider: mental health clinicians licensed in South Carolina, municipal court judges, magistrate court judges, circuit court judges, and family court judges.

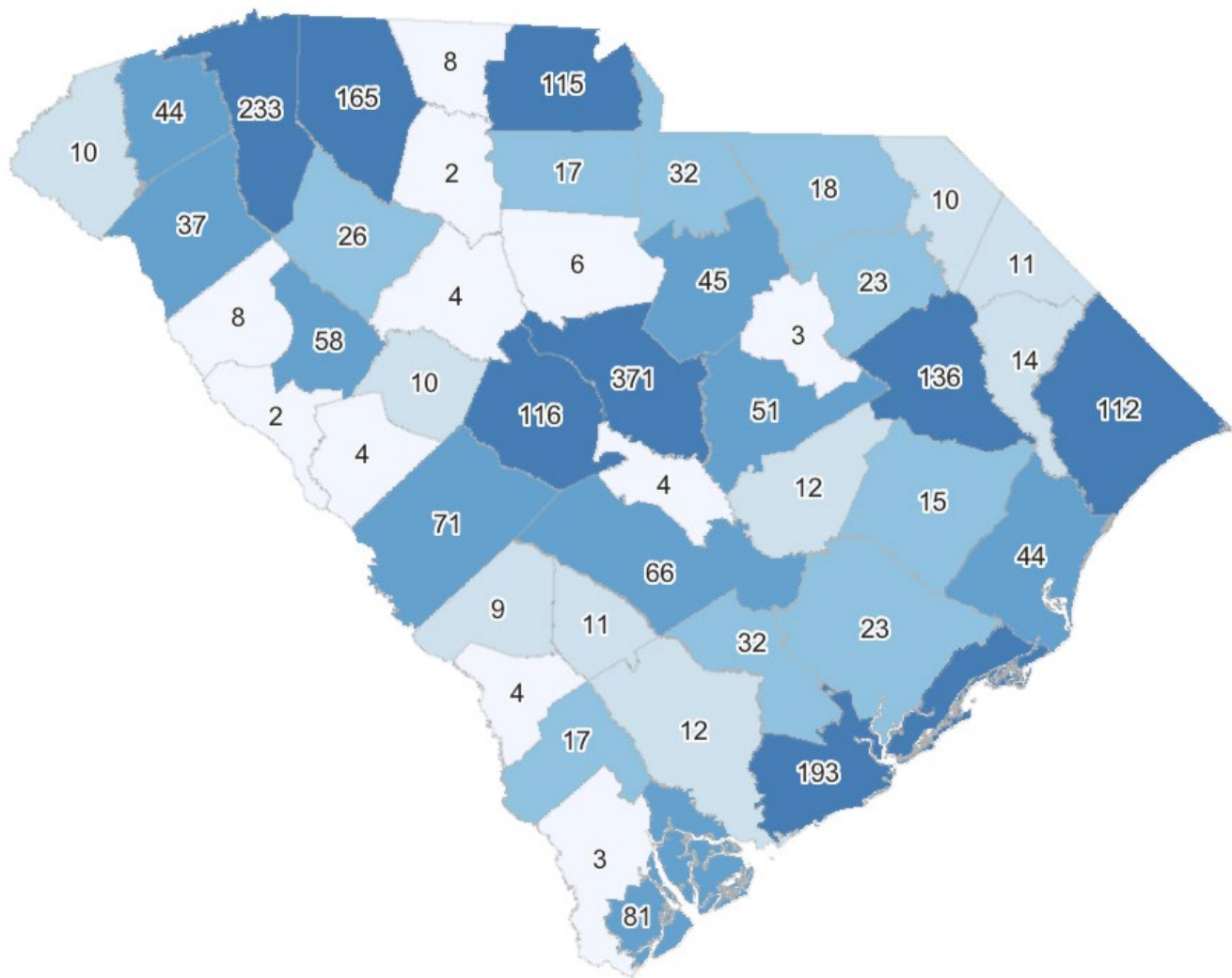
Additionally, there are three subtypes of VSPs:

- **Basic VSPs** are victim service providers who are employed by government agencies, solicitors’ offices, non-profit organizations, and law enforcement agencies.
- **VSP-HTs** are victim service providers who specialize in providing services to victims of human trafficking. By statute, VSP-HTs are required to be certified through the Attorney General’s Office based on criteria established by the SC Human Trafficking Task Force.
- **Notifiers** are victim service providers who are employed in detention centers, jails, and summary courts whose job duties include notifying victims of crime.

The majority of VSPs are Basic VSPs, followed by Notifiers, as shown below.



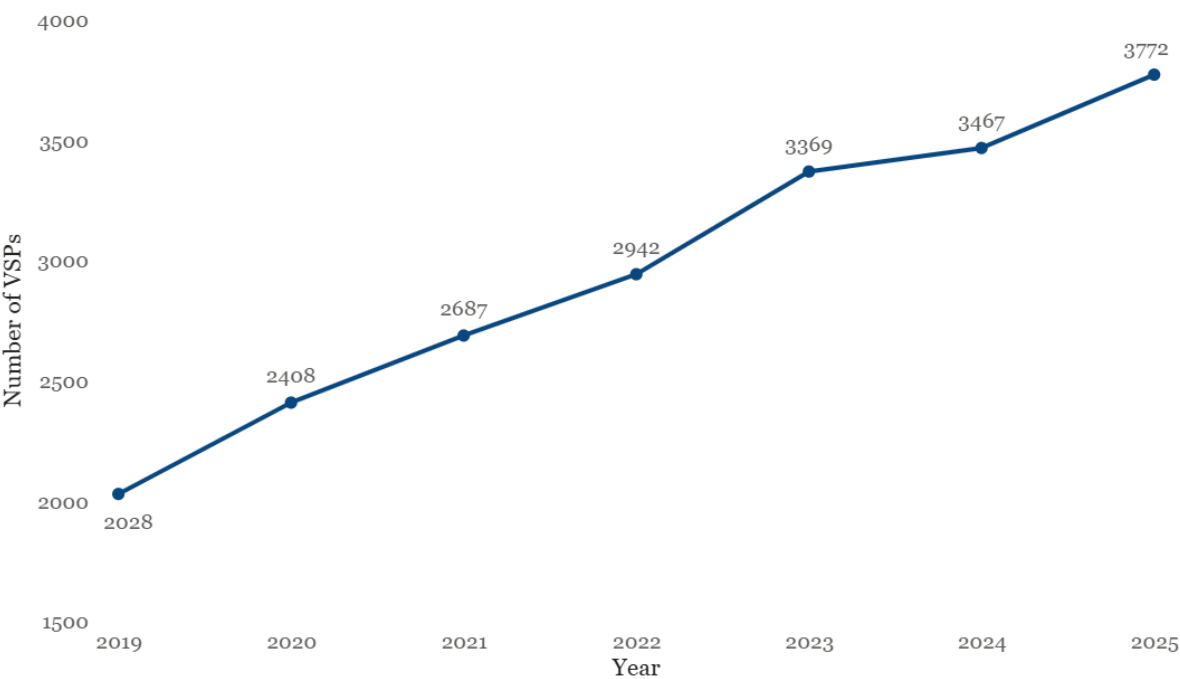
About Victim Service Providers



There are certified VSPs in every county across South Carolina. The above map shows where our Basic VSPs are located as of December 31, 2025. The locations documented here are based on the physical address of each VSP’s employer. However, many VSPs have coverage areas that extend beyond a single county, often serving victims in the neighboring counties or even across the state.

About Victim Service Providers

Number of Active VSPs by Year, All Types



The number of active VSPs has continued to increase year by year.

Employer	Number of VSPs
State Agencies	273
Solicitors' Offices	237
Non-profit Organizations	1,231
Law Enforcement Agencies	623
Federal Agencies	22
Detention Centers/Jails	621
Summary Courts	765

VSPs come from a variety of employment fields. Among our VSPs are solicitor advocates from solicitors’ offices, victim advocates from non-profit organizations, law enforcement victim advocates from county and municipal law enforcement agencies, notifiers from detention centers and summary courts, and victim advocates from state agencies such as the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Corrections, as well as universities across the state.

Initial Training Requirements

Basic VSPs are required to complete a 15-hour Basic Core course during their first year of employment as victim service providers.

The topics included in the Basic Core are Victims' Rights and Statutes, Crime Victim Compensation, Ethics, the Criminal Justice System and Court Procedures, Communication, Self-care, Multidisciplinary Collaboration, and four hours of specialized training.

Every year, CVST and the Department of Crime Victim Compensation (DCVC) co-host a Basic Core training that is open to all Basic VSPs. Other organizations such as the South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (SCCADVASA), the South Carolina Victim Assistance Network (SCVAN), and the Orangeburg County Sheriff's Office also provide Basic Core trainings throughout the year for Basic VSPs.

Some organizations have internal Basic Core courses for their VSPs. The South Carolina Network of Children's Advocacy Centers (SCNCAC) provides Basic Core training to children's advocates. The South Carolina Commission on Prosecution Coordination (SCCPC) provides Basic Core training to solicitor advocates.

VSP-HTs are required to take a specialized, 15-hour Basic Core course that is hosted by the Human Trafficking Task Force of the SC Attorney General's Office.

Notifier VSPs are not required to attend a Basic Core course but must complete a 2-hour course on Victims' Rights and Statutes within their first year of employment. Notifiers can attend this training in person or apply to view it online through CVST's website.



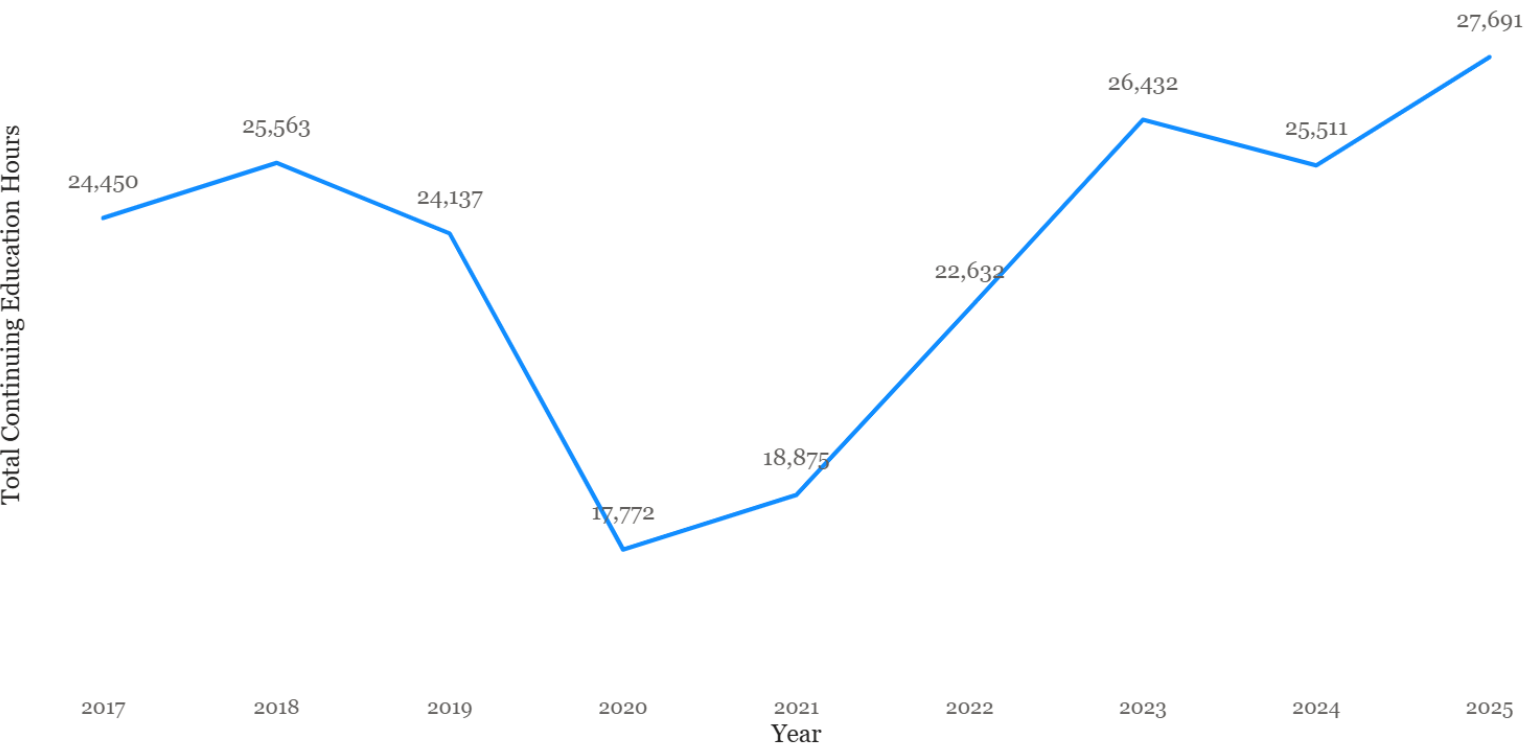
Continuing Education

After their first year, **Basic VSPs** and **VSP-HTs** are required to take 12 hours of continuing education every year to maintain their certifications. Up to 12 hours of VSP credit can be carried forward from one year to the next.

Notifier VSPs are not required to take 12 hours of continuing education per year like other VSPs, but must complete 2 hours of Victims’ Rights and Statutes training every other year to maintain their certifications.

CVST logged 27,691 hours of continuing education in 2025, which was a new record for the agency.

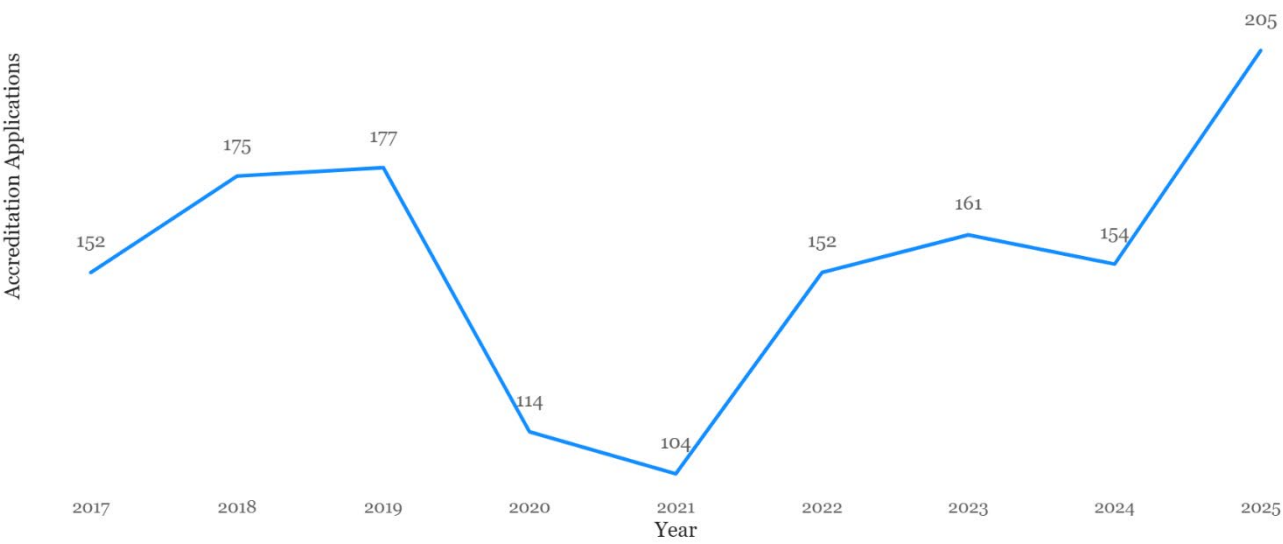
Continuing Education Hours Per Year



Continuing Education

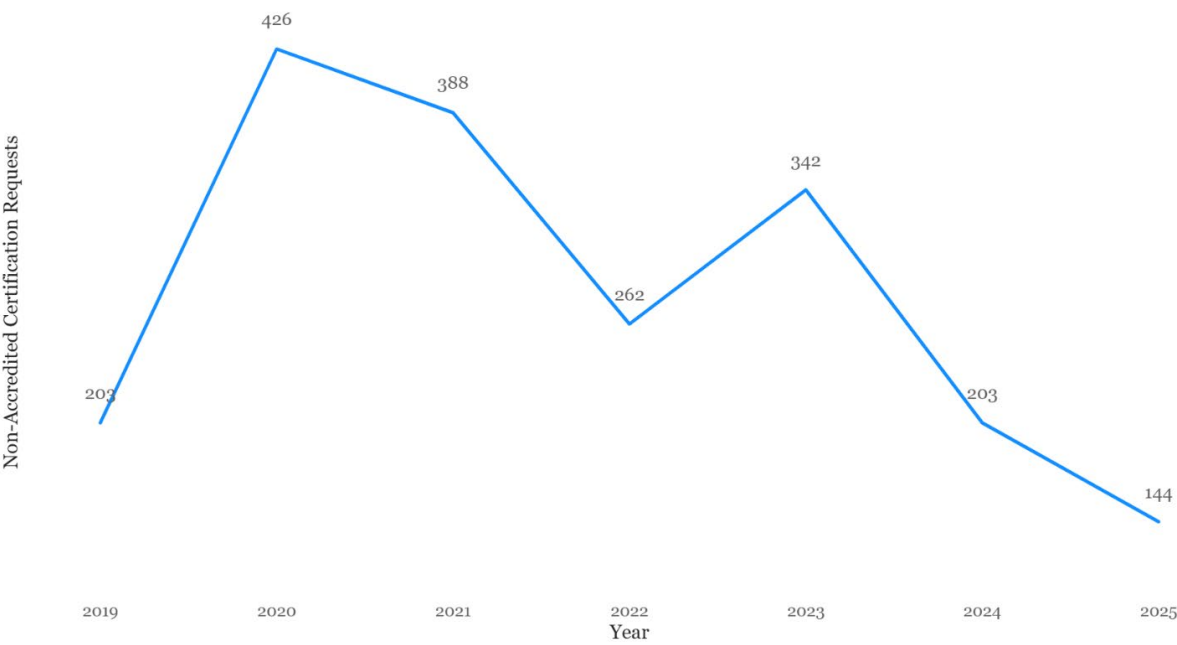
Organizations hosting training courses can apply to get their courses accredited for VSP hours by submitting accreditation applications through our website. Accreditation allows prospective trainees to be certain they will receive credit for attending. Once an application is received, CVST will review the training to ensure it meets our criteria. More training courses were accredited in 2025 than in any prior year.

Accreditation Applications Per Year



VSPs can also receive credit for training courses that weren't accredited beforehand by submitting non-accredited certification requests through our website, as long as the courses meet our criteria. Non-certification requests have continued to decline as more organizations pre-submit their training courses for accreditation.

Non-Accredited Certification Requests Per Year



Trainings Hosted by CVST

CVST, in collaboration with the Department of Crime Victim Compensation (DCVC), hosts a Basic Core Training every year in the midlands. CVST's three-day, in-person training is designed to impart the knowledge and skills that new VSPs need to serve victims. This training is intended for Basic VSPs. VSPs can apply to attend through our website once registration opens for the year.

CVST's 2025 Basic Core Training took place on October 14 - 16 at the West Columbia City Hall. The training was attended by 27 new VSPs.



CVST, in a joint effort with the US DOJ Office of Victims of Crime Training & Technical Assistance Center (OVC TTAC), hosted its inaugural Leadership Development Training in 2025. It was the first leadership development training for VSPs held in South Carolina. This training is intended for VSPs who have been in the field of victim services for at least three years and have shown the potential to be future leaders. Attending gives VSPs the opportunity to sharpen their leadership skills and network with other professionals from across the state.

The 2025 version of this training consisted of a kickoff event, four online sessions, and three in-person days in West Columbia. 28 VSPs completed the course. Due to the service requirement of this training, CVST only offers it every other year, with the next class due to convene in 2027. To attend, VSPs must be recommended by their supervisor and selected by a committee of subject matter experts.



2025 Accomplishments



CVST entered a collaborative partnership with the South Carolina Department of Social Services (SCDSS) to accredit their online training courses for VSP hours when eligible. Group home employees contracted with SCDSS are required to take these courses as part of a continuing education requirement with SCDSS. By getting these courses accredited for VSP hours, CVST and SCDSS have consolidated the amount of continuing education that SCDSS-contracted group home employees need to take each year to remain in compliance with both agencies. As part of this project, CVST engaged with group home directors and streamlined the process for reporting VSP hours.



South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole & Pardon Services

CVST coordinated with the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services (SCDPPPS) and the Crime Victim Ombudsman (CVO) to provide Victims' Rights and Statutes Training to 763 staff members at SCDPPPS. This training was made available through their online learning system so that their employees will be able to easily access it going forward.