



Vermont Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs  
110 State St., Montpelier, VT 05633 Telephone: 802-828-2891

SIU Grants Board Meeting Minutes

June 23, 2026

10:00pm

TEAMS Meeting and 110 State Street Montpelier, VT 05633

Members in Attendance Public Session:

Tim Lueders-Dumont, Chair – Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs  
Jennifer Harlow – Vermont Sheriff's Association  
Ted Brady- Vermont League of Cities and Towns  
Carolyn Hanson – Attorney General's Office  
Christopher Barber- Vermont State Police  
Douglas Farnham- Agency of Administration

Members Absent:

Nancy Miller- Department of Children and Families  
Jennifer Poehlmann- Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services  
Peter Mantello- Vermont Police Chiefs

Other Attendees:

Lauren Clemons – Department of State' Attorneys and Sheriffs  
Matthew Hill- Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs  
Siri Rooney – Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs  
Tracy Patnoe – Lamoille County SIU  
Trisha Black- Addison County SIU  
Samantha Chagnon- NUSI  
Dan Boyer- CUSI  
Lynn Brochu- Orleans County SIU  
Jenna Caslin- Bennington County SIU  
Stephanie Slayton- Windsor SIU

Call to Order: SIUGB Chair, Tim Lueders- Dumont, 10:08AM

Introductions: Captain Christopher Barber from the Vermont State Police was welcomed. Captain Barber is taking over for J.P. Schmidt, who recently retired.

Review of Agenda: Chair, Tim Lueders-Dumont

Motion to approve agenda: Carolyn Hanson. Seconded by Sheriff Jennifer Harlow. No discussion. Motion passed.

Motion to approve minutes from April 22, 2026, meeting made by Douglas Farnham, seconded by Ted Brady. No discussion. Motion passed.

Siri Rooney provided a summary of the FY26 Program Support Grant requests, FY26 actual grant awards, and FY27 grant requests. The SIU Grants Board voted to cap Program Support requests at \$120,000 for FY26, as the grant requests varied widely, ranging from \$90,000 to \$144,000. There were not sufficient funds to cover all of the requests. The twelve SIU programs were notified that the \$120,000 cap would be instituted again in FY27, which made it easier for them to build their budgets this year, as they had the information ahead of time. The SIU Grants Program is moving toward a goal of more equitable distribution of grant funds, as current data and statistics do not warrant the vast discrepancies in funding requests that were being presented. For FY27, eight of the twelve programs requested \$120,000 and the remaining four were slightly lower.

Siri Rooney presented an overview of the FY27 Program Support and Law Enforcement Grant requests as follows:

1. **ADDISON:** The Addison County Unit for Special Investigations is requesting \$120,000 in Program Support funds, as well as the standard \$60,000 Law Enforcement Grant. Addison has a law enforcement partnership with the Middlebury Police Department, which is going well. Executive Director Trisha Black works 40 hours per week, and they have a victim advocate who works 20 hours per week. Trisha Black has done a great deal of work rebuilding her Board. She has had challenges working with the State's Attorney's office, particularly around communication.
2. **BENNINGTON:** The Bennington Special Investigations Unit is requesting \$115,500 in Program Support Funds and the \$60,000 Law Enforcement Grant. Executive Director Jenna Caslin works 40 hours per week and employs an Administrative Assistant for 15 hours per week. The Bennington SIU has an excellent partnership with the Bennington Police Department and the State's Attorney's Office. Jenna Caslin does a considerable amount of community outreach.
3. **CALEDONIA:** The Caledonia Special Investigations Unit is requesting \$112,615 for their Program Support Grant and the \$60,000 Law Enforcement Grant. The law enforcement partnership is with the St. Johnsbury Police Department (\$45,000) and the Hardwick Police Department (\$15,000). Executive Director Jeffrey Maney is relatively new and is a retired law enforcement officer. He works 40 hours per week and has recently created a position for a victim advocate, who will work 20 hours per week. This position is currently being advertised. ED Maney has worked through a transitional time at the Caledonia SIU and aims to continue to work to position the SIU to move

forward on more stable footing, as the Executive Director position was vacant for 5-6 months, during which time bills were not being paid, and grant reports were not submitted. These issues have been resolved and the relationships with local partners is returning to a positive status.

Ted Brady asked for an explanation of the Law Enforcement Grant. Siri Rooney explained that this grant is a standard \$60,000 that each program is eligible to apply for. Chittenden (CUIS) is not eligible, as they have their own in-house detectives. The remaining 11 SIU programs must apply for the LE Grant, which requires a MOU with one or more law enforcement agencies who agree to dedicate one or more detectives to the SIU (at least part-time) to investigate their cases. The SIU Grants Program has oversight of the Law Enforcement Grants, as well.

4. CHITTENDEN: The Chittenden Unit for Special Investigations (CUSI) is requesting \$120,000 in Program Support funds. As mentioned previously, they are not eligible for the Law Enforcement Grant, as they have 7-8 dedicated detectives in-house. Daniel Boyer is the interim Executive Director and works 40 hours per week. Daniel Boyer is a retired law enforcement officer who was working as CUSI's Case Coordinator, which is a 25 hour per week position. The former Executive Director was terminated and Daniel Boyer stepped into the position temporarily, although it has been nearly a year at this point. Similar to Caledonia, CUSI had many issues to clean up, which Daniel Boyer has worked with his Board to accomplish.
5. LAMOILLE: Tracy Patnoe is the Executive Director of the Lamoille County Special Investigations Unit. Tracy works 40 hours per week and is the only staff member at the Lamoille SIU. She is the ED, part-time VA, and maintains the SIU. Tracy Patnoe assists all new SIU directors with questions and is a statewide resource for SIU colleagues. The Lamoille SIU is requesting \$120,000 in Program Support funds and the \$60,000 Law Enforcement Grant. They have a longstanding partnership with the Morristown Police Department, Stowe Police Department, and Lamoille County Sheriff's Department, which is very successful.

Carolyn Hanson asked a question about victim advocacy support for each of the SIU programs, specifically Bennington, as an advocate position was not mentioned for them.

Bennington SIU Executive Director Jenna Caslin fielded a response, stating that she has a dual role of both Executive Director and Victim Advocate. She reports that they had a great deal of turnover in the advocate position, which led to her assuming the dual role.

Siri Rooney summarized that the Addison SIU has an advocate 20 hours per week, the Caledonia SIU is in the process of hiring an advocate for 20 hours per week, CUSI has a partnership with the State's Attorney's office where they have a State's Attorney's Victim Advocate in-house full-time. The Lamoille SIU utilizes advocates from the Clarina Howard Nichols Center, which is a great partnership.

Lamoille SIU Executive Director Tracy Patnoe stated that she works as the Victim Advocate on serious physical injury cases, while the Clarina Howard Nichols Center handles all of the sexual assault cases.

6. FRANKLIN/NUSI: The Northwest Unit for Special Investigations (NUSI) is requesting \$120,000 in Program Support funds and the \$60,000 Law Enforcement Grant. NUSI has a law enforcement

partnership with the St. Albans Police Department (\$42,000) and the Swanton Police Department (\$18,000). NUSI is working on a partnership with the Grand Isle Sheriff's Department for the \$20,000 reimbursable Law Enforcement Grant, but the department does not have an available detective at this time. Samantha Chagnon is the Executive Director of NUSI, working 30 hours per week. Former longtime Franklin County State's Attorney's office Victim Advocate Kelly Woodward is now NUSI's advocate, working 25 hours per week.

7. ORANGE: The Orange County Special Investigations Unit (also known as the Orange County Parent Child Center), is requesting \$108,730 in Program Support funds and are not applying for a Law Enforcement Grant at this time. The Orange SIU has not found a law enforcement partnership that works in their area. They presently utilize the services of the Vermont State Police and are happy with that relationship. Jen Messier is the newly hired Executive Director, and works 40 hours per week, along with a Victim Advocate, who works 20 hours per week.

Carolyn Hanson asked why the Vermont State Police are not eligible for the Law Enforcement grant, particularly when they are doing the work and have an officer dedicated to the SIU.

Siri Rooney responded that she was told that the Vermont State Police are not eligible for the grant when she came aboard a year and a half ago. The understanding is that this is part of VSP's role statewide. Siri agreed to look into the reasoning behind this arrangement.

Jenna Caslin added that she has been with the Bennington SIU for fourteen years and they work with both a local municipality and the Vermont State Police, who also has an office within her SIU. Jenna stated that the Rutland SIU has historically used a VSP detective, as well and agrees that this is certainly worth looking into.

8. ORLEANS: The Orleans County Special Investigations Unit is requesting \$119,171 in Program Support funds, and the \$60,000 Law Enforcement Grant. Executive Director Lynn Brochu works 40 hours per week and has just hired a new Victim Advocate, who will work 30 hours per week. The Orleans SIU has a partnership with the Orleans County Sheriff's Department and the Newport Police Department.
9. RUTLAND: The Rutland County SIU is asking for \$120,000 in Program Support funds and the \$60,000 Law Enforcement Grant. The LE Grant is new this year, as they have not had a law enforcement partnership for a number of years. The Rutland SIU will partner with the Rutland City Police Department. Executive Director Mary Nichols works 40 hours per week and has a full-time victim advocate/program coordinator/administrative assistant, as well. Many members have been on the Board for years and there is some concern with stagnation, but the Rutland ED's goal is to recruit new Board members to improve this situation.
10. WASHINGTON: The Washington County SIU, also known as Our House, is requesting \$120,000 in Program Support funds and the \$60,000 Law Enforcement grant. They have a long-standing law enforcement partnership with Barre City PD. Executive Director Rebecca Duranleau works 40 hours per week and has a Victim Advocate who works 30 hours per week. Our House is an established SIU. Our House has been branching out with community outreach and last year, they hired an in-house therapist. The SIU Grants Program does not pay for the therapist. This partnership

has allowed children involved with the SIU to get into therapy right away and is going extremely well. Several other SIUs are in the process of developing similar partnerships.

Carolyn Hanson mentioned that she would be interested in hearing more about how the Washington SIU was able to hire a therapist and whether this is a model that might work for other SIUs.

Siri Rooney mentioned that Franklin/NUSI also has a therapist in their office a few days per week who prioritizes SIU cases, and this works well.

Ted Brady asked for an explanation of each column of the SIU budget worksheets.

Siri Rooney explained that each SIU Executive Director builds a budget, which they present to their local Board for approval. Once approved, the budgets/grant requests are sent to the SIU Grants Program Administrator for review, and then they are ultimately presented to the SIU Grants Board. The SIU Program Support Grant is the largest grant in the budget, followed by VOCA (Victims of Crime Act), which is a federal grant and is typically \$38,500. The next column is the Law Enforcement Grant, which is a pass-through grant. The column marked "Other Funds" is typically fundraising and town appropriations money, which the SIUs use to fill in the gaps for things that the SIU Grant doesn't cover.

11. WINDHAM: The Windham SIU (also known as Safe Place) is requesting \$120,000 in Program Support funds and the \$60,000 Law Enforcement Grant. They have a partnership with the Brattleboro Police Department (\$45,000) and the Dover Police Department (\$15,000). Executive Director Sam Prince is transition from 40 to 20 hours per week and is currently in the process of hiring a Victim Advocate/Case Coordinator, who will be working 40 hours per week. There were an array of issues with the Windham SIU in FY26, noted by the SIUGB. However, after a year of engagement, the Windham County SIU Board has made a number of changes including increased oversight of staff and day-to-day operations. The Department has noted a tremendous amount of Windham County SIU Board involvement- which has resulted in a more stable environment for the SIU to receive State dollars. Siri Rooney recently met with ED Sam Prince and Board Treasurer Mike Studin to review the grant application.

12. WINDSOR: The Windsor County SIU (also known as The Family Place), is asking for \$120,000 in Program Support funds and the \$60,000 Law Enforcement Grant. The Windsor SIU has law enforcement partnerships with both the Hartford and Springfield Police Departments, which was modeled using the Lamoille SIU's current law enforcement partnership structure. FY26 was the first year of this partnership, and it went very well. The Windsor SIU has a Program Coordinator/Forensic Interviewer, who works 40 hours per week, as well as a SIU Program Manager, who also works 40 hours per week. This program was completely restructured last year and has been doing very well.

Siri Rooney asked the Board if they would prefer to vote on all of the SIU grant requests together (leaving out Orleans County, as Sheriff Harlow is on their Board and will recuse herself from that vote) or vote on each request separately.

Tim Lueders-Dumont voiced his preference for voting on the grant requests as a group, with a secondary vote on Orleans County.

Sheriff Jennifer Harlow made the above motion. Douglas Farnham seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed.

Sheriff Jennifer Harlow made a motion to approve all of the SIU budgets/grant requests except for Orleans County. Carolyn Hanson seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed.

Tim Lueders-Dumont stated that he would entertain a motion to approve the Orleans County SIU budget, with Sheriff Jennifer Harlow recusing herself from this vote.

Carolyn Hanson made the above motion, which was seconded by Ted Brady. No discussion. Motion passed. Tim Lueders-Dumont noted that for the record, Sheriff Jennifer Harlow did abstain from this vote.

Tim Lueders-Dumont discussed training opportunities for the upcoming year. The SIU Grants Program sponsors an annual forensic interview training. This year's training was well attended. The second area of interest is for a Board training for local Board members focusing on the management of a local Board, from by-laws to the rules of civility, to fiduciary practices. The SIU Grant Program will research this and welcome suggestions for potential trainers. Tim Lueders-Dumont also mentioned that there is an annual nonprofit conference, which is great but fills up quickly. Tim Lueders-Dumont asked that if attendees hear of training opportunities in their communities or agencies, to let Siri Rooney know. The final area of training mentioned was inter-agency collaboration, which the SIU Grants Program can help facilitate with roundtable discussions and tabletop types of exercises.

Siri Rooney added that the Basic Forensic Interviewing (BFI) training was a success and forty individuals were trained. The SIU Grants Program also hosted a SIU Board Training earlier in the year, which was well-attended. There is a recording of this training available if anyone would like to view it. Siri Rooney added that she would like to see more Board trainings focusing on fiduciary responsibilities and by laws and is considering making such trainings a requirement of the SIU Grant.

No public comment.

Carolyn Hanson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sheriff Jennifer Harlow seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 10:48.