

OFFICE OF WELFARE INSPECTOR GENERAL

MISSION

The Office of Welfare Inspector General was established in 1992 to prevent, investigate, and prosecute public assistance fraud. The agency acts on allegations that welfare recipients are dishonestly receiving benefits for which they are not eligible, or that Medicaid, day care or other providers or administrators of services are accepting payments fraudulently.

In carrying out its responsibilities, the Office works closely with the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, local social services districts, the Office of Children and Family Services, the Department of Health and the Department of Law.

ORGANIZATION AND STAFFING

The Office is headed by the Welfare Inspector General who is appointed for a five year term by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. In addition to the Inspector General, personnel include a Deputy Inspector General, a Chief Investigator, staff attorney, fraud investigators and administrative support staff. The Welfare Inspector General's statewide operations are administered from New York City, and a field office in Albany.

The Office will have a workforce of 12 for SFY 2001-02, which is consistent with SFY 2000-01 staffing levels.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The SFY 2001-02 General Fund support for the Office of Welfare Inspector General is \$651,000. This represents an increase of \$70,000 compared with SFY 2000-01 levels. The increase is largely due to the annualization of costs associated with moving to a new location in New York City. Approximately 63 percent of the Office's operations are supported by the General Fund and the remaining 37 percent are supported by funds the agency receives from the Federal government for fraud investigations related to welfare, Food Stamps and Medicaid.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Office of Welfare Inspector General is pursuing an aggressive anti-fraud campaign supported, in part, by provisions of the State Welfare Reform Act of 1997 which provided more effective tools to combat welfare fraud.

In 2000, the Office received approximately 600 complaints about alleged welfare fraud originating from citizens, government agencies, or the Office's own related investigations. Fraud investigations generate savings for the State, local and Federal governments by uncovering unreported income or inappropriate claiming practices by those who provide day care, employment, health care or other services to welfare recipients. The Office of Welfare Inspector General completes hundreds of new investigations each year which substantiate allegations of some form of fraudulent activity by a member of a household receiving welfare.

In addition to these investigations of individual welfare recipients, the Office completes investigations to uncover patterns of abuse within the welfare system including investigations of internal corruption within social services districts and welfare contractors. The Office works with the Department of Law to strengthen welfare fraud prosecution

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and also acts directly through its prosecutions unit. In addition to fraud investigations, the Office's activities include making recommendations to the Department of Family Assistance and county and New York City social services offices so that welfare programs and services are more effectively administered throughout the State.

ALL FUNDS APPROPRIATIONS (dollars)

<u>Category</u>	<u>Available 2000-01</u>	<u>Appropriations Recommended 2001-02</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Reappropriations Recommended 2001-02</u>
State Operations	951,000	1,021,000	70,000	0
Aid To Localities	0	0	0	0
Capital Projects	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>951,000</u>	<u>1,021,000</u>	<u>70,000</u>	<u>0</u>

ALL FUND TYPES PROJECTED LEVELS OF EMPLOYMENT BY PROGRAM FILLED ANNUAL SALARIED POSITIONS

Full-Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)

<u>Program</u>	<u>2000-01 Estimated FTEs 03/31/01</u>	<u>2001-02 Estimated FTEs 03/31/02</u>	<u>FTE Change</u>
Welfare Inspector General, Office of the General Fund	11	11	0
Total	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>0</u>

STATE OPERATIONS ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY FUND TYPE APPROPRIATIONS (dollars)

<u>Fund Type</u>	<u>Available 2000-01</u>	<u>Recommended 2001-02</u>	<u>Change</u>
General Fund	581,000	651,000	70,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	<u>370,000</u>	<u>370,000</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	<u>951,000</u>	<u>1,021,000</u>	<u>70,000</u>

Adjustments:	
Transfer(s) From	
Special Pay Bill	
General Fund	<u>(59,000)</u>
Appropriated 2000-01	<u>892,000</u>

STATE OPERATIONS ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAM APPROPRIATIONS (dollars)

<u>Program</u>	<u>Available 2000-01</u>	<u>Recommended 2001-02</u>	<u>Change</u>
Welfare Inspector General, Office of the General Fund	581,000	651,000	70,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	<u>370,000</u>	<u>370,000</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	<u>951,000</u>	<u>1,021,000</u>	<u>70,000</u>

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**STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL AND OFFSET FUNDS
SUMMARY OF PERSONAL SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES
2001-02 RECOMMENDED
(dollars)**

<u>Program</u>	<u>Total Personal Service</u>		<u>Personal Service Regular (Annual Salaried)</u>	
	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Change</u>
Welfare Inspector General, Office of the	788,000	41,000	788,000	41,000
Total	<u>788,000</u>	<u>41,000</u>	<u>788,000</u>	<u>41,000</u>

**STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL AND OFFSET FUNDS
SUMMARY OF NONPERSONAL SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE UNDISTRIBUTED
APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES
2001-02 RECOMMENDED
(dollars)**

<u>Program</u>	<u>Total Nonpersonal Service</u>		<u>Supplies and Materials</u>	
	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Change</u>
Welfare Inspector General, Office of the	233,000	29,000	60,000	0
Total	<u>233,000</u>	<u>29,000</u>	<u>60,000</u>	<u>0</u>

<u>Program</u>	<u>Travel</u>		<u>Contractual Services</u>	
	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Change</u>
Welfare Inspector General, Office of the	14,000	0	157,000	29,000
Total	<u>14,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>157,000</u>	<u>29,000</u>

<u>Program</u>	<u>Equipment</u>	
	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Change</u>
Welfare Inspector General, Office of the	2,000	0
Total	<u>2,000</u>	<u>0</u>