

# **CRIME VICTIMS BOARD**

## **MISSION**

Since its establishment in 1966, the Crime Victims Board (CVB) has been the lead State agency in assisting persons who have been the victims of crime, particularly crimes of a violent nature.

The agency's principal mission is to provide financial assistance to victims for losses they suffer as a result of crime. The Board also provides grants to local agencies which assist witnesses and victims, and serves as the State's advocate for crime victims' rights, needs and interests.

## **ORGANIZATION AND STAFFING**

The Board consists of five members, appointed by the Governor to seven-year terms, who work full-time to administer the agency and to make final decisions on victim compensation awards. The Governor designates one member of the Board to be the Chair. The agency has primary offices in Albany and New York City and has a satellite office in Buffalo. Each office processes victim claims and provides grant program aid and advocacy services on a regional basis in support of the Board's mission. In addition to five Board members, the agency will have 89 staff positions.

## **FISCAL BACKGROUND AND BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS**

During 2002-03, \$5.6 million will be spent to operate the agency. Approximately \$61.4 million in Federal aid and revenue from fines levied against offenders will support compensation payments to victims and local grants to programs assisting victims with treatment and other services.

The recommendations continue the agency's cooperation with the Division of Criminal Justice Services' (DCJS) technology group giving CVB enhanced access to the expertise needed to speed automation of victims' claims processing services. Additionally, the budget recommends the consolidation of routine administrative functions with DCJS, similar to the previous successful initiative with the Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives and the State Commission of Correction.

## **PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

The Crime Victims Board operates with three programs. The Payment to Victims Program compensates individual crime victims for crime-related losses. The Victim and Witness Assistance Program administers grants to local agencies. The Administration Program provides executive direction and administrative support to the agency, as well as advocacy services for crime victims.

The September 11<sup>th</sup> attack on the World Trade Center in New York City was a catastrophic crime, which affected an unprecedented number of people in terms of deaths, injuries, and loss of economic support. The Crime Victims Board immediately responded by establishing several centers throughout the city to which approximately 2,300 families came for emergency financial assistance, and long-term help. Through a series of Executive Orders, the Governor lifted statutory compensation caps for emergency awards to victims and their families impacted by this horrific attack. The agency will continue to assist all victims of the World Trade Center attack to meet medical, housing, employment, and counseling expenses.

## **CRIME VICTIMS**

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### **PAYMENTS TO VICTIMS**

The agency annually reviews more than 20,000 cases of persons who may have suffered financial loss as the result of violent crime or, in the case of the elderly and disabled, any crime. Assistance is given with losses for which no other source of compensation is available. Categories in which payments are made include medical expenses, lost wages due to work missed because of an injury, stolen or damaged essential personal property and the costs of counseling to relieve the traumatic effects of victimization. Survivors of a victim also may be eligible for these services, as well as reimbursement for funeral expenses for a crime victim.

Over the past several years, the agency has made a significant effort to increase public awareness about the services available to assist victims of crime. As a result, the number of people seeking help has risen. To speed assistance to victims, a new claims processing unit was established specifically to fast-track the review of non-injury claims for reimbursement of out-of-pocket property losses. This approach to handling relatively easy to resolve requests allows the most highly trained claim specialists to focus on more complicated claims from victims sustaining personal injuries as a result of violent crime.

### **VICTIM AND WITNESS ASSISTANCE**

The Crime Victims Board currently administers approximately 200 contracts with other State agencies, local governments, and not-for-profit agencies to provide direct services to crime victims and witnesses. In a cooperative program with the New York State Police, CVB funds are used for victim advocates who link crime victims, law enforcement officials and assistance programs for an overall enhancement to criminal justice. Similarly, the agency cooperates with the Department of Correctional Services to fund advocate positions and the automated victim notification system to keep victims informed about the legal status of the offenders responsible for the crimes committed against them. Services provided by local not-for-profit agencies include crisis intervention, counseling and assistance in filing victim compensation.

### **ADVOCACY**

The agency is responsible by law to “coordinate state programs and activities relating to crime victims” and “to advise and assist the Governor in developing policies designed to recognize the legitimate rights, needs and interests of crime victims.” To that end, the agency provides legal and technical assistance to other State agencies and to local organizations involved with crime victims. In addition, the Crime Victims Board sponsors an annual statewide conference on crime victim issues.

The State’s “Son of Sam Law” prevents convicted persons from profiting from their crimes, including the sale of publishing or film rights to their stories. Any such profits can, by law, be payable to the persons who were victims of the crimes. The agency is charged with notifying victims of a convicted person that a “Son of Sam” situation exists, and may also act on the victims’ behalf to prevent the profits from being spent or otherwise put beyond the reach of the victims while a recovery suit is pending.

#### **ALL FUNDS APPROPRIATIONS (dollars)**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Available 2001-02</b>	<b>Appropriations Recommended 2002-03</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Reappropriations Recommended 2002-03</b>
State Operations	5,627,915	5,600,000	(27,915)	0
Aid To Localities	55,089,000	61,397,000	6,308,000	6,250,000
Capital Projects	0	0	0	0
Total	60,716,915	66,997,000	6,280,085	6,250,000

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

**Full-Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)**

<b>Program</b>	<b>2001-02 Estimated FTEs 03/31/02</b>	<b>2002-03 Estimated FTEs 03/31/03</b>	<b>FTE Change</b>
Administration			
General Fund	73	68	(5)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	22	22	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	4	4	0
Total	<u>99</u>	<u>94</u>	<u>(5)</u>

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

<b>Fund Type</b>	<b>Available 2001-02</b>	<b>Recommended 2002-03</b>	<b>Change</b>
General Fund	3,390,115	3,299,000	(91,115)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	1,471,000	1,534,000	63,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	766,800	767,000	200
Total	<u>5,627,915</u>	<u>5,600,000</u>	<u>(27,915)</u>

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

<b>Program</b>	<b>Available 2001-02</b>	<b>Recommended 2002-03</b>	<b>Change</b>
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Special Revenue Funds - Other	766,800	767,000	200
Total	<u>5,627,915</u>	<u>5,600,000</u>	<u>(27,915)</u>

**STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND  
SUMMARY OF PERSONAL SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES  
2002-03 RECOMMENDED  
(dollars)**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>Personal Service Regular (Annual Salaried)</b>	
	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Change</b>
Administration	3,028,000	(108,115)	3,028,000	(108,115)
Total	<u>3,028,000</u>	<u>(108,115)</u>	<u>3,028,000</u>	<u>(108,115)</u>

# CRIME VICTIMS

**STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND  
SUMMARY OF NONPERSONAL SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE UNDISTRIBUTED  
APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES  
2002-03 RECOMMENDED  
(dollars)**

Program	Total		Supplies and Materials	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	271,000	17,000	30,000	0
Total	271,000	17,000	30,000	0

  

Program	Travel		Contractual Services	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	33,000	400	203,000	16,600
Total	33,000	400	203,000	16,600

  

Program	Equipment	
	Amount	Change
Administration	5,000	0
Total	5,000	0

**STATE OPERATIONS - OTHER THAN GENERAL FUND  
SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES  
2002-03 RECOMMENDED  
(dollars)**

Program	Total		Personal Service	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	2,301,000	63,200	1,098,300	63,000
Total	2,301,000	63,200	1,098,300	63,000

  

Program	Nonpersonal Service		Maintenance Undistributed	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	1,201,300	200	1,400	0
Total	1,201,300	200	1,400	0

**AID TO LOCALITIES  
ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY FUND TYPE  
APPROPRIATIONS  
(dollars)**

Fund Type	Available 2001-02	Recommended 2002-03	Change
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	30,149,700	32,458,000	2,308,300
Special Revenue Funds - Other	24,899,300	28,899,000	3,999,700
Fiduciary Funds	40,000	40,000	0
Total	55,089,000	61,397,000	6,308,000

**AID TO LOCALITIES  
ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAM  
APPROPRIATIONS  
(dollars)**

Program	Available 2001-02	Recommended 2002-03	Change
Payment to Victims			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	5,149,700	7,458,000	2,308,300
Special Revenue Funds - Other	17,848,000	21,848,000	4,000,000
Victim and Witness Assistance			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	25,000,000	25,000,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	7,051,300	7,051,000	(300)
Fiduciary Funds	40,000	40,000	0
Total	55,089,000	61,397,000	6,308,000