

# **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 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. Including the five Board members, the agency will have 103 staff in 2003-04.

## **FISCAL BACKGROUND AND BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS**

During 2003-04, \$6.1 million will be spent to operate the agency. Approximately \$63.1 million in Federal aid and revenue from 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> attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City were a catastrophic crime, which affected an unprecedented number of people in terms of injuries and loss of economic support. Although most claims have been processed, the agency will continue to assist all victims of the World Trade Center attacks to meet medical, housing, employment, and counseling expenses.

## **PAYMENTS TO VICTIMS**

The agency annually reviews more than 23,000 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

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the costs of counseling to relieve the traumatic effects of victimization. Surviving family members 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.

### **VICTIM AND WITNESS ASSISTANCE**

The Crime Victims Board currently administers approximately 185 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 2002-03</b>	<b>Appropriations Recommended 2003-04</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Reappropriations Recommended 2003-04</b>
State Operations	5,980,000	6,139,000	159,000	0
Aid To Localities	61,397,000	63,114,000	1,717,000	29,956,000
Capital Projects	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>67,377,000</u>	<u>69,253,000</u>	<u>1,876,000</u>	<u>29,956,000</u>

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

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

<b>Program</b>	<b>2002-03</b>	<b>2003-04</b>	<b>FTE Change</b>
	<b>Estimated FTEs 03/31/03</b>	<b>Estimated FTEs 03/31/04</b>	
Administration			
General Fund	70	64	(6)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	28	28	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	5	5	0
Payment to Victims			
Special Revenue Funds - Other	6	6	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>(6)</b>

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

<b>Program</b>	<b>Available</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	<b>Change</b>
	<b>2002-03</b>	<b>2003-04</b>	
Administration			
General Fund	3,590,000	3,425,000	(165,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	1,623,000	1,857,000	234,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	767,000	857,000	90,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,980,000</b>	<b>6,139,000</b>	<b>159,000</b>

**STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND  
SUMMARY OF PERSONAL SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES  
2003-04 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	3,201,000	(118,000)	3,201,000	(118,000)
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,201,000</b>	<b>(118,000)</b>	<b>3,201,000</b>	<b>(118,000)</b>

**STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND  
SUMMARY OF NONPERSONAL SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE UNDISTRIBUTED  
APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES  
2003-04 RECOMMENDED  
(dollars)**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>Supplies and Materials</b>	
	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Change</b>
Administration	224,000	(47,000)	20,000	(10,000)
<b>Total</b>	<b>224,000</b>	<b>(47,000)</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>(10,000)</b>

<b>Program</b>	<b>Travel</b>		<b>Contractual Services</b>	
	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Change</b>
Administration	23,000	(10,000)	176,000	(27,000)
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,000</b>	<b>(10,000)</b>	<b>176,000</b>	<b>(27,000)</b>

<b>Program</b>	<b>Equipment</b>	
	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Change</b>
Administration	5,000	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>0</b>

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**STATE OPERATIONS - OTHER THAN GENERAL FUND  
SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES  
2003-04 RECOMMENDED  
(dollars)**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>Personal Service</b>	
	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Change</b>
Administration	2,714,000	324,000	1,232,000	44,300
Total	<u>2,714,000</u>	<u>324,000</u>	<u>1,232,000</u>	<u>44,300</u>

  

<b>Program</b>	<b>Nonpersonal Service</b>		<b>Maintenance</b>	<b>Undistributed</b>
	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Change</b>
Administration	1,481,000	280,100	1,000	(400)
Total	<u>1,481,000</u>	<u>280,100</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>(400)</u>

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

<b>Fund Type</b>	<b>Available 2002-03</b>	<b>Recommended 2003-04</b>	<b>Change</b>
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	32,458,000	36,523,000	4,065,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	28,899,000	26,551,000	(2,348,000)
Fiduciary Funds	40,000	40,000	0
Total	<u>61,397,000</u>	<u>63,114,000</u>	<u>1,717,000</u>

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

<b>Program</b>	<b>Available 2002-03</b>	<b>Recommended 2003-04</b>	<b>Change</b>
Payment to Victims			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	7,458,000	11,523,000	4,065,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	21,848,000	19,500,000	(2,348,000)
Victim and Witness Assistance			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	25,000,000	25,000,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	7,051,000	7,051,000	0
Fiduciary Funds	40,000	40,000	0
Total	<u>61,397,000</u>	<u>63,114,000</u>	<u>1,717,000</u>