

# ***CRIME VICTIMS BOARD***

## ***MISSION***

The Crime Victims Board serves as 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 financial losses they suffer as a result of crime. The Board also provides grants to local agencies which assist witnesses and victims, and it 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 the five Board members, the agency will have 80 staff positions.

In an effort to further consolidate the administrative functions of criminal justice agencies, it is recommended that the personnel and fiscal functions of the agency be transferred to the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS). This is consistent with the successful Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives and State Commission of Correction administrative mergers with DCJS in 1997. This will reduce the agency's workforce by four positions, one of which will be transferred to DCJS to assist with the increased workload of that agency as a result of the organizational change.

## ***FISCAL BACKGROUND AND BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS***

During 1999-2000, \$2.9 million in State tax dollars will be spent to operate the agency. Approximately \$37.4 million in Federal aid and fine revenue will support compensation payments to victims and local grants to programs assisting victims with treatment and other services.

## ***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 compensation program, as well as advocacy services for crime victims.

## ***PAYMENTS TO VICTIMS***

The agency annually reviews more than 20,000 cases of persons who may have suffered financial losses as the result of violent crime or, in the case of the elderly and disabled, any crime. Payments are made to crime victims who have suffered out-of-pocket financial 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

## **CRIME VICTIMS**

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 including reimbursement for funeral expenses for a crime victim.

### **VICTIM AND WITNESS ASSISTANCE**

The Crime Victims Board currently administers more than 130 contracts with local governments and not-for-profit agencies which provide direct services to crime victims and witnesses. Services provided by these local agencies include crisis intervention, counseling and assistance in filing victim compensation claims.

### **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 those ends, 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**

Category	Available 1998-99	Appropriations Recommended 1999-00	Change	Reappropriations Recommended 1999-00
State Operations . . . . .	\$4,452,700	\$4,593,350	+ \$140,650	. . . . .
Aid To Localities . . . . .	37,937,200	37,357,600	-579,600	\$4,500,000
Capital Projects . . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
Total . . . . .	<u>\$42,389,900</u>	<u>\$41,950,950</u>	<u>-\$438,950</u>	<u>\$4,500,000</u>

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

Program	Available 1998-99	1999-00 Recommended Average Fill Level			Change
		Personal Service (Regular)	Maintenance Undistributed	Total Recommended 1999-00	
Administration					
General Fund . . . . .	73	69	. . . . .	69	-4
Special Revenue Funds — Federal . . . . .	14	14	. . . . .	14	. . . . .
Special Revenue Funds — Other . . . . .	2	2	. . . . .	2	. . . . .
Total . . . . .	<u>89</u>	<u>85</u>	<u>. . . . .</u>	<u>85</u>	<u>-4</u>

**STATE OPERATIONS  
ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY FUND TYPE  
APPROPRIATIONS**

<u>Fund Type</u>	<u>Available 1998-99</u>	<u>Recommended 1999-00</u>	<u>Change</u>
General Fund . . . . .	\$3,003,900	\$2,953,450	-\$50,450
Special Revenue Funds — Federal . . . . .	813,600	991,700	+ 178,100
Special Revenue Funds — Other . . . . .	635,200	648,200	+ 13,000
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b><u>\$4,452,700</u></b>	<b><u>\$4,593,350</u></b>	<b><u>+ \$140,650</u></b>

**STATE OPERATIONS  
ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAM  
APPROPRIATIONS**

<u>Program</u>	<u>Available 1998-99</u>	<u>Recommended 1999-00</u>	<u>Change</u>
Administration			
General Fund . . . . .	\$3,003,900	\$2,953,450	-\$50,450
Special Revenue Funds — Federal . . . . .	813,600	991,700	+ 178,100
Special Revenue Funds — Other . . . . .	635,200	648,200	+ 13,000
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b><u>\$4,452,700</u></b>	<b><u>\$4,593,350</u></b>	<b><u>+ \$140,650</u></b>

**STATE OPERATIONS — GENERAL FUND  
SUMMARY OF PERSONAL SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES  
1999-00 RECOMMENDED**

<u>Program</u>	Total Personal Service		Personal Service Regular (Annual Salaried)	
	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Change</u>
Administration . . . . .	\$2,716,900	-\$45,200	\$2,716,900	-\$45,200
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b><u>\$2,716,900</u></b>	<b><u>-\$45,200</u></b>	<b><u>\$2,716,900</u></b>	<b><u>-\$45,200</u></b>

**STATE OPERATIONS — GENERAL FUND  
SUMMARY OF NONPERSONAL SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE UNDISTRIBUTED  
APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES  
1999-00 RECOMMENDED**

<u>Program</u>	Total		Supplies and Materials	
	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Change</u>
Administration . . . . .	\$236,550	-\$5,250	\$25,875	-\$4,125
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b><u>\$236,550</u></b>	<b><u>-\$5,250</u></b>	<b><u>\$25,875</u></b>	<b><u>-\$4,125</u></b>

<u>Program</u>	Travel		Contractual Services	
	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Change</u>
Administration . . . . .	\$32,600	. . . .	\$173,075	-\$1,125
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b><u>\$32,600</u></b>	<b><u>. . . .</u></b>	<b><u>\$173,075</u></b>	<b><u>-\$1,125</u></b>

<u>Program</u>	Equipment	
	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Change</u>
Administration . . . . .	\$5,000	. . . .
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b><u>\$5,000</u></b>	<b><u>. . . .</u></b>

# CRIME VICTIMS

## STATE OPERATIONS — OTHER THAN GENERAL FUND SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES 1999-00 RECOMMENDED

Program	Total		Personal Service	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration . . . . .	\$1,639,900	+ \$191,100	\$710,600	+ \$172,400
Total . . . . .	\$1,639,900	+ \$191,100	\$710,600	+ \$172,400

Program	Nonpersonal Service		Maintenance Undistributed	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration . . . . .	\$922,300	+ \$11,700	\$7,000	+ \$7,000
Total . . . . .	\$922,300	+ \$11,700	\$7,000	+ \$7,000

## AID TO LOCALITIES ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY FUND TYPE APPROPRIATIONS

Fund Type	Available 1998-99	Recommended 1999-00	Change
Special Revenue Funds — Federal . . . . .	\$19,897,900	\$19,318,300	-\$579,600
Special Revenue Funds — Other . . . . .	17,999,300	17,999,300	. . . .
Fiduciary Funds . . . . .	40,000	40,000	. . . .
Total . . . . .	\$37,937,200	\$37,357,600	-\$579,600

## AID TO LOCALITIES ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAM APPROPRIATIONS

Program	Available 1998-99	Recommended 1999-00	Change
Payment to Victims			
Special Revenue Funds — Federal . . . . .	\$3,780,300	\$3,200,700	-\$579,600
Special Revenue Funds — Other . . . . .	13,550,000	13,550,000	. . . .
Victim and Witness Assistance			
Special Revenue Funds — Federal . . . . .	16,117,600	16,117,600	. . . .
Special Revenue Funds — Other . . . . .	4,449,300	4,449,300	. . . .
Fiduciary Funds . . . . .	40,000	40,000	. . . .
Total . . . . .	\$37,937,200	\$37,357,600	-\$579,600