

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 2005-06.

FISCAL BACKGROUND AND BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

During 2005-06, \$6.1 million will be spent to operate the agency. Approximately \$67.6 million in Federal aid and revenue from offenders will support compensation payments to victims, local grants to programs assisting victims with treatment and other services, and, beginning in 2005, payments for forensic rape exams.

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.

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 11th attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City were a catastrophic crime, which affected an unprecedented number of people in terms of deaths, 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 18,000 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. Surviving family members of a victim also may be eligible for these services, as well as reimbursement for funeral expenses for a crime victim.

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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 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)

Category	Available 2004-05	Appropriations Recommended 2005-06	Change	Reappropriations Recommended 2005-06
State Operations	5,838,000	6,184,000	346,000	0
Aid To Localities	63,146,000	67,614,000	4,468,000	35,367,000
Capital Projects	0	0	0	0
Total	68,984,000	73,798,000	4,814,000	35,367,000

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

Full-Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)

Program	2004-05 Estimated FTEs 03/31/05	2005-06 Estimated FTEs 03/31/06	FTE Change
Administration			
General Fund	64	64	0
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	28	28	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	5	5	0
Payment to Victims			
Special Revenue Funds - Other	6	6	0
Total	103	103	0

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

Fund Type	Available 2004-05	Recommended 2005-06	Change
General Fund	3,056,000	3,332,000	276,000
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	1,925,000	1,925,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	857,000	927,000	70,000
Total	<u>5,838,000</u>	<u>6,184,000</u>	<u>346,000</u>

Adjustments:

Transfer(s) From

Special Pay Bill

General Fund

(132,000)

Special Revenue Funds - Federal

(68,000)

Special Revenue Funds - Other

(32,000)

Transfer(s) To

Crime Victims Board

Special Revenue Funds - Other (Aid

To Localities)

32,000

Appropriated 2004-05

5,638,000

STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND SUMMARY OF PERSONAL SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES 2005-06 RECOMMENDED (dollars)

Program	Total		Personal Service Regular (Annual Salaried)	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	3,115,000	271,000	3,115,000	271,000
Total	<u>3,115,000</u>	<u>271,000</u>	<u>3,115,000</u>	<u>271,000</u>

STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND SUMMARY OF NONPERSONAL SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE UNDISTRIBUTED APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES 2005-06 RECOMMENDED (dollars)

Program	Total		Supplies and Materials	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	217,000	5,000	21,000	1,000
Total	<u>217,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>21,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>

Program	Travel		Contractual Services	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	15,000	0	176,000	4,000
Total	<u>15,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>176,000</u>	<u>4,000</u>

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

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STATE OPERATIONS - OTHER THAN GENERAL FUND SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES 2005-06 RECOMMENDED (dollars)

Program	Total		Personal Service	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	2,852,000	70,000	1,349,000	70,000
Total	<u>2,852,000</u>	<u>70,000</u>	<u>1,349,000</u>	<u>70,000</u>

Program	Nonpersonal Service	
	Amount	Change
Administration	1,503,000	0
Total	<u>1,503,000</u>	<u>0</u>

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

Fund Type	Available 2004-05	Recommended 2005-06	Change
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	36,523,000	36,523,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	26,623,000	31,091,000	4,468,000
Total	63,146,000	<u>67,614,000</u>	<u>4,468,000</u>

Adjustments:	
Transfer(s) From	
Crime Victims Board	
Special Revenue Funds - Other (State Operations)	(32,000)
Appropriated 2004-05	<u>63,114,000</u>

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

Program	Available 2004-05	Recommended 2005-06	Change
Payment to Victims			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	11,523,000	11,523,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	19,532,000	24,000,000	4,468,000
Victim and Witness Assistance			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	25,000,000	25,000,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	7,091,000	7,091,000	0
Total	<u>63,146,000</u>	<u>67,614,000</u>	<u>4,468,000</u>