

CRIME VICTIMS BOARD

MISSION

The Crime Victims Board (CVB) 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 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 2001-02, \$5.5 million will be spent to operate the agency. Approximately \$55.1 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 — essential if the agency is to meet increasing client demands in a timely manner. This proposed association with DCJS is expected to bring continuing workload efficiencies in subsequent fiscal years. 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. As a result, three employees will be transferred to the host agency.

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.

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

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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 over the years. This year, the agency has studied ways to speed assistance to victims. As an example, a new claims processing unit is being 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 will free 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, CVB 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 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 (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 | 5,790,300 | 5,523,900 | (266,400) | 0 |
| Aid To Localities | 50,487,000 | 55,089,000 | 4,602,000 | 9,935,000 |
| Capital Projects | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | <u>56,277,300</u> | <u>60,612,900</u> | <u>4,335,600</u> | <u>9,935,000</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> |
|---------------------------------|--|--|-------------------|
| 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)**

| <u>Fund Type</u> | <u>Available 2000-01</u> | <u>Recommended 2001-02</u> | <u>Change</u> |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| General Fund | 3,546,200 | 3,286,100 | (260,100) |
| Special Revenue Funds - Federal | 1,475,300 | 1,471,000 | (4,300) |
| Special Revenue Funds - Other | 768,800 | 766,800 | (2,000) |
| Total | <u>5,790,300</u> | <u>5,523,900</u> | <u>(266,400)</u> |

Adjustments:

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Transfer(s) From | |
| Special Pay Bill | |
| General Fund | (271,000) |
| Special Revenue Funds - Federal | (65,000) |
| Special Revenue Funds - Other | (12,000) |
| Appropriated 2000-01 | <u>5,442,300</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> |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Administration | | | |
| General Fund | 3,546,200 | 3,286,100 | (260,100) |
| Special Revenue Funds - Federal | 1,475,300 | 1,471,000 | (4,300) |
| Special Revenue Funds - Other | 768,800 | 766,800 | (2,000) |
| Total | <u>5,790,300</u> | <u>5,523,900</u> | <u>(266,400)</u> |

**STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND
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> |
| Administration | 3,015,400 | (276,800) | 3,015,400 | (232,800) |
| Total | <u>3,015,400</u> | <u>(276,800)</u> | <u>3,015,400</u> | <u>(232,800)</u> |

| <u>Program</u> | <u>Holiday/Overtime Pay (Annual Salaried)</u> | |
|----------------|---|-----------------|
| | <u>Amount</u> | <u>Change</u> |
| Administration | 0 | (44,000) |
| Total | <u>0</u> | <u>(44,000)</u> |

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**STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND
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> |
| Administration | 270,700 | 16,700 | 30,000 | 0 |
| Total | 270,700 | 16,700 | 30,000 | 0 |

| <u>Program</u> | <u>Travel</u> | | <u>Contractual Services</u> | |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| | <u>Amount</u> | <u>Change</u> | <u>Amount</u> | <u>Change</u> |
| Administration | 32,600 | 0 | 203,100 | 16,700 |
| Total | 32,600 | 0 | 203,100 | 16,700 |

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

**STATE OPERATIONS - OTHER THAN GENERAL FUND
SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES
2001-02 RECOMMENDED
(dollars)**

| <u>Program</u> | <u>Total</u> | | <u>Personal Service</u> | |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| | <u>Amount</u> | <u>Change</u> | <u>Amount</u> | <u>Change</u> |
| Administration | 2,237,800 | (6,300) | 1,035,300 | 61,700 |
| Total | 2,237,800 | (6,300) | 1,035,300 | 61,700 |

| <u>Program</u> | <u>Nonpersonal Service</u> | | <u>Maintenance Undistributed</u> | |
|----------------|----------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| | <u>Amount</u> | <u>Change</u> | <u>Amount</u> | <u>Change</u> |
| Administration | 1,201,100 | (68,000) | 1,400 | 0 |
| Total | 1,201,100 | (68,000) | 1,400 | 0 |

**AID TO LOCALITIES
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 | 570,000 | 0 | (570,000) |
| Special Revenue Funds - Federal | 28,977,700 | 30,149,700 | 1,172,000 |
| Special Revenue Funds - Other | 20,899,300 | 24,899,300 | 4,000,000 |
| Fiduciary Funds | 40,000 | 40,000 | 0 |
| Total | 50,487,000 | 55,089,000 | 4,602,000 |

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

| <u>Program</u> | <u>Available 2000-01</u> | <u>Recommended 2001-02</u> | <u>Change</u> |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Payment to Victims | | | |
| General Fund | 435,000 | 0 | (435,000) |
| Special Revenue Funds - Federal | 3,977,700 | 5,149,700 | 1,172,000 |
| Special Revenue Funds - Other | 13,848,000 | 17,848,000 | 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 | 7,051,300 | 0 |
| Fiduciary Funds | 40,000 | 40,000 | 0 |
| Legislative Initiatives | | | |
| General Fund | 135,000 | 0 | (135,000) |
| Total | <u>50,487,000</u> | <u>55,089,000</u> | <u>4,602,000</u> |