

# **OFFICE OF WELFARE INSPECTOR GENERAL**

## **MISSION**

The Office of Welfare Inspector General was established in 1992 to prevent, investigate, and prosecute public assistance fraud. The Agency acts on allegations that welfare recipients are dishonestly receiving benefits for which they are not eligible, or that Medicaid, day care or other providers or administrators of services, or government employees are accepting payments fraudulently.

In carrying out its responsibilities, the Office works closely with the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, local social services districts, the Office of Children and Family Services, the Department of Health and the Department of Law.

## **ORGANIZATION AND STAFFING**

The Office is headed by the Welfare Inspector General who is appointed for a five-year term by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. In addition to the Inspector General, personnel include a Deputy Inspector General, a Chief Investigator, a General Counsel, staff attorneys, fraud investigators and administrative support staff. The Welfare Inspector General's statewide operations are administered from New York City, and a field office in Albany.

The Office will have a workforce of 10 for 2006-07, which is consistent with 2005-06 staffing levels.

## **FISCAL BACKGROUND AND BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS**

The 2006-07 Executive Budget recommends total appropriations of \$1,234,000 for the Office of Welfare Inspector General, including \$794,000 in General Fund support and \$440,000 in Federal funds the agency receives for fraud investigations related to welfare, Food Stamps and Medicaid. The 2006-07 Budget includes a \$104,000 increase from 2005-06 for negotiated salary and fuel and rent increases.

## **PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

The Office of Welfare Inspector General is pursuing an aggressive anti-fraud campaign supported, in part, by provisions of the State Welfare Reform Act of 1997 which provided more effective tools to combat welfare fraud.

The Office annually receives hundreds of complaints about alleged welfare fraud originating from citizens, government agencies, or the Office's own related investigations. Fraud investigations generate savings for all levels of government by uncovering unreported income or inappropriate claiming practices by those who provide day care, employment, health care or other services to welfare recipients. The Office of Welfare Inspector General completes hundreds of new investigations each year which substantiate allegations of some form of fraudulent activity by a member of a household receiving welfare.

In addition to these investigations of individual welfare recipients, the Office completes investigations to uncover patterns of abuse within the welfare system including investigations of internal corruption within social services districts and welfare contractors. The Office works with the Department of Law to strengthen welfare fraud prosecution and also acts directly through its prosecutions unit. In addition to conducting fraud investigations, the Office makes recommendations to the Department of Family Assistance and county and New York City social services offices on how to administer welfare programs and services more effectively throughout the State.

# WELFARE INSPECTOR GENERAL

## ALL FUNDS APPROPRIATIONS (dollars)

Category	Available 2005-06	Appropriations Recommended 2006-07	Change	Reappropriations Recommended 2006-07
State Operations	1,130,000	1,234,000	104,000	0
Aid To Localities	0	0	0	0
Capital Projects	0	0	0	0
Total	1,130,000	1,234,000	104,000	0

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

### Full-Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)

Program	2005-06 Estimated FTEs 03/31/06	2006-07 Estimated FTEs 03/31/07	FTE Change
Welfare Inspector General, Office of the General Fund	10	10	0
Total	10	10	0

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

Fund Type	Available 2005-06	Recommended 2006-07	Change
General Fund	730,000	794,000	64,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	400,000	440,000	40,000
Total	1,130,000	1,234,000	104,000

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

Program	Available 2005-06	Recommended 2006-07	Change
Welfare Inspector General, Office of the General Fund	730,000	794,000	64,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	400,000	440,000	40,000
Total	1,130,000	1,234,000	104,000

## STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL AND OFFSET FUNDS SUMMARY OF PERSONAL SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES 2006-07 RECOMMENDED (dollars)

Program	Total		Personal Service Regular (Annual Salaried)	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Welfare Inspector General, Office of the Total	794,000	39,000	794,000	39,000
	794,000	39,000	794,000	39,000

# WELFARE INSPECTOR GENERAL

**STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL AND OFFSET FUNDS  
SUMMARY OF NONPERSONAL SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE UNDISTRIBUTED  
APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES  
2006-07 RECOMMENDED  
(dollars)**

Program	Total		Supplies and Materials	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Welfare Inspector General, Office of the	440,000	65,000	38,400	6,500
Total	440,000	65,000	38,400	6,500

Program	Travel		Contractual Services	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Welfare Inspector General, Office of the	21,200	6,800	360,600	48,100
Total	21,200	6,800	360,600	48,100

Program	Equipment	
	Amount	Change
Welfare Inspector General, Office of the	19,800	3,600
Total	19,800	3,600

**STATE OPERATIONS - OTHER THAN GENERAL FUND AND OFFSET FUNDS  
SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES  
2006-07 RECOMMENDED  
(dollars)**

Program	Total	
	Amount	Change
Total	0	0