

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 2008-09.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The Executive Budget recommends **\$77.6 million All Funds (\$39.2 million Other Funds and \$38.4 million Federal Funds)** for the Board, which is a net increase of **\$1.7 million** from the 2007-08 budget. The increase is largely a result of shifting operating expenses from the General Fund to the Criminal Justice Improvement Account, Special Revenue Fund-Other, and the inclusion of associated fringe benefit costs that were not previously reflected in CVB's appropriations. The Executive Budget recommends a staffing level of **103 FTEs** which is unchanged from the 2007-08 budget.

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 Crime Victims Board strives to be a leader in serving needs of crime victims and educating victims about their rights and the services available to them. Most notably, the Chair of the Board serves on an Interagency Task Force on Human Trafficking and the agency implemented a regulation allowing victims of crimes of labor and sex trafficking to avail themselves of the full array of CVB benefits.

PAYMENTS TO VICTIMS

Over the past five years, the agency has processed, on average, more than 16,000 new claims annually from 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 for losses

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when 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.

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. A contract with the New York State Police supports victim advocates who help crime victims contact other law enforcement officials and various assistance programs. Similarly, the agency cooperates with the Department of Correctional Services to fund advocate positions and an automated victim information and notification system which keeps 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 applications.

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 a bi-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 2007-08	Appropriations Recommended 2008-09	Change	Reappropriations Recommended 2008-09
State Operations	7,448,000	10,891,000	3,443,000	0
Aid To Localities	68,534,000	66,744,000	(1,790,000)	44,150,000
Capital Projects	0	0	0	0
Total	75,982,000	77,635,000	1,653,000	44,150,000

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

Full-Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)

Program	2007-08 Estimated FTEs 03/31/08	2008-09 Estimated FTEs 03/31/09	FTE Change
Administration			
General Fund	70	0	(70)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	28	28	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	5	75	70
Total	<u>103</u>	<u>103</u>	<u>0</u>

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

Fund Type	Available 2007-08	Recommended 2008-09	Change
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	1,925,000	2,955,000	1,030,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	5,523,000	7,936,000	2,413,000
Total	<u>7,448,000</u>	<u>10,891,000</u>	<u>3,443,000</u>

Adjustments:

Transfer(s) From	
Crime Victims Board	
General Fund	(4,596,000)
Transfer(s) To	
Crime Victims Board	
Special Revenue Funds - Other	4,596,000
Appropriated 2007-08	<u>7,448,000</u>

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

Program	Available 2007-08	Recommended 2008-09	Change
Administration			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	1,925,000	1,925,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	5,523,000	7,676,000	2,153,000
Victim and Witness Assistance			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	0	1,030,000	1,030,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	0	260,000	260,000
Total	<u>7,448,000</u>	<u>10,891,000</u>	<u>3,443,000</u>

**STATE OPERATIONS - OTHER THAN GENERAL FUND
SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES
2008-09 RECOMMENDED
(dollars)**

Program	Total		Personal Service	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	9,601,000	2,153,000	5,517,000	155,000
Victim and Witness Assistance	1,290,000	1,290,000	783,000	783,000
Total	<u>10,891,000</u>	<u>3,443,000</u>	<u>6,300,000</u>	<u>938,000</u>

Program	Nonpersonal Service	
	Amount	Change
Administration	4,084,000	1,998,000
Victim and Witness Assistance	507,000	507,000
Total	<u>4,591,000</u>	<u>2,505,000</u>

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

<u>Fund Type</u>	<u>Available 2007-08</u>	<u>Recommended 2008-09</u>	<u>Change</u>
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	36,523,000	35,493,000	(1,030,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	32,011,000	31,251,000	(760,000)
Total	<u>68,534,000</u>	<u>66,744,000</u>	<u>(1,790,000)</u>

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

<u>Program</u>	<u>Available 2007-08</u>	<u>Recommended 2008-09</u>	<u>Change</u>
Payment to Victims			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	11,523,000	11,523,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	24,000,000	24,000,000	0
Victim and Witness Assistance			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	25,000,000	23,970,000	(1,030,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	8,011,000	7,251,000	(760,000)
Total	<u>68,534,000</u>	<u>66,744,000</u>	<u>(1,790,000)</u>