

State of Alaska FY2002 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Public Safety
Violent Crimes Compensation Board
BRU/Component

Component: Violent Crimes Compensation Board

Contact: Susan Browne, Administrator

Tel: (907) 465-3040 **Fax:** (907) 465-2379 **E-mail:** susan_browne@dps.state.ak.us

Component Mission

The mission of the Violent Crimes Compensation Board is to mitigate the effects of having been victimized.

Component Services Provided

The Board provides direct service and help to innocent persons, to dependents of homicide victims, and to certain other persons who by virtue of their relationship to the victim of a compensable violent crime incur actual and reasonable expenses, excluding property damage. Alaska Statutes stipulate which crimes are compensable, specify which expenses are compensable, and dictate eligibility requirements. In FY00, the Board awarded 383 claims statewide in urban and rural locations.

The Board serves to ensure state policy towards innocent victims of violent crimes is appropriate and caring. These crimes include murder in any degree, manslaughter, criminally negligent homicide, assault in any degree, sexual assault, sexual abuse of a minor, robbery in any degree, threats to do bodily harm, driving while intoxicated, or other crimes resulting from the operation of a motor vehicle, boat, or airplane when the offender is intoxicated.

The Board must objectively evaluate each claim to determine that:

- 1) The victim did not provoke the incident;
- 2) A crime as designated in AS 18.67.101 was committed;
- 3) The claimant is eligible for an award under the criteria established in AS 18.67.110;
- 4) The expenses listed by the claimant are reasonable and were actually incurred; and
- 5) Any pecuniary loss claimed by dependents of a deceased victim is justifiable.

Component Goals and Strategies

In FY2002, the Board will continue to help innocent victims and their families to "pick up the pieces." The Board will consider and, where appropriate, adopt some or all of the following:

- 1) Determine guidelines for mental health treatment, especially crisis intervention, and costs;
- 2) Determine procedures for setting up Trusts for minors through the courts;
- 3) Change application requirements to allow application on behalf of a minor child by a claimant other than a parent or legal guardian in cases where the parent or legal guardian is the offender;
- 4) Analyze and set reasonable cost standards on medical service compensation;
- 5) Implement an advisory group to the Board made up of mental health service providers, members of Native Tribal Organizations, victims, and others; and/or
- 6) Continue to analyze the need for the activation of the Crime Victim Compensation Fund and formulate plan for implementation if deemed appropriate.

Key Component Issues for FY2001 – 2002

1) FUNDING

The issue of funding for the Violent Crimes Compensation program has always been problematic, as it is impossible to predict the exact number of claims that will be filed and awarded each year.

2) EXPEDITIOUS CLAIMS PROCESSING

From the victim's perspective, an important measure of a compensation program's performance is the speed with which it processes a victim's application for benefits. This program will continue to meet and exceed the processing

goals established by the National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards and the Department of Justice. This may include considering utilizing emergency awards to facilitate crisis intervention services and treatments. In FY2002, this program will network with law enforcement and prosecution officials to ensure the timely receipt of crime related reports so that claims can be processed within targeted time frames to ensure victims receive timely compensation.

3) EXAMINATION OF THE NATURE, LEVEL AND SCOPE OF BENEFITS PROVIDED VICTIMS

The Board must ensure that all victims traumatized by crime receive financial support for adequate and meaningful counseling services. To achieve this goal in FY2002, the Board may consult with advisory groups composed of mental health experts, Native Tribal Organization representatives, and victims to develop treatment guidelines, treatment plans, progress reports and compensation payment levels.

In FY2002, the Board will continue to analyze medical and mental health treatment costs. The Board will strive to ensure victims receive necessary medical services at a reasonable cost. The Board will inform mental health treatment providers concerning the crisis needs of victims and the compensation program. This may include designing specific treatment plans and evaluation measures.

4) CHANGES TO APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SEXUAL ABUSE OF MINOR AND CHILD ABUSE CASES

Currently, the Board requires applications made on behalf of minor children to be made by the child's parent or legal guardian. In FY2002, in cases in which the offender is the legal guardian or parent, the Board will review this policy and implement a practice that best serves these innocent victims.

5) MINOR TRUSTS

The Board will continue to work with the court system, Attorney General's Office and the Office of Public Advocacy to establish procedures to set-up minor Trust Funds when it is in the best interest of child victims.

6) COORDINATION WITH VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The state's compensation program and victim assistance programs must develop effective community outreach strategies to increase public awareness about the purpose and availability of crime victim compensation. In FY2002, the Board will continue its extensive outreach effort to ensure that all victims, regardless of their location, culture, or language, have knowledge of and access to compensation program benefits. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of every person who assists victims on the frontline to inform them that they may be eligible for compensation.

7) VICTIM ADVOCACY

As the U.S. Department of Justice has recommended, the Board will continue to focus not only on proper claim documentation and expeditious claim processing in FY2002, but will assist victims in accessing services beyond the compensation program.

Major Component Accomplishments for FY2000

The Violent Crimes Compensation Board was created to reduce the economic burden on innocent victims of Board compensable crimes. In FY00, the program received 390 applications and awarded 383 claims.

Board meeting funding charts indicate that in FY00, the Board awarded compensation of medical, counseling, funeral, out-of-pocket, and other reasonable expenses which resulted from violent crimes that occurred in Alaska in the amount of \$1,128.4. In FY00, the Board received 390 new applications and processed 524 claims. In addition, the Board completed the processing of all pending claims from prior years. Because of this, all of the claims processed in this budget year will be current. This is a good indication of the Board's success at meeting the goal of expeditious claim processing.

In FY99, the Board implemented measures which resulted in increased claims received, as well as increased awards. The Board established contacts in each Alaskan community and initiated a statewide training program to a wide variety of audiences. This has resulted in the receipt of claims from locations and victims previously under-served.

FY	Claims Received	Claims Determined	Total Amount Awarded
----	-----------------	-------------------	----------------------

88	162	234	\$ 504.5
89	213	211	598.5
90	240	225	733.6
91	230	219	689.2
92	239	248	739.6
93	233	219	621.7
94	247	230	670.0
95	310	267	1,000.1
96	346	239	739.9
97	373	316	916.8
98	494	423	955.1
99	473	559	1,094.6
00	390	520	1,128.4

In FY00, the Board awarded \$552.4 in medical/dental costs; \$156.0 in mental health treatment costs; \$290.0 in lost wages and lost support; \$50.1 in funeral costs; and \$79.9 in transportation, relocation, and other eligible expenses.

Eligible victims and claimants were awarded the following:

CRIME	AWARD AMOUNT
Assault	\$ 529.8
Homicide	\$ 125.0
Sexual Assault	\$ 55.0
Child Abuse (includes SAM)	\$ 194.1
DWI/DUI	\$ 142.3
Other	\$ 82.2
TOTAL AWARDED	\$1,128.4

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

Violent Crimes Compensation Board (AS 18.67)
 Violent Crimes Compensation Board (13 AAC 80.050)

Key Performance Measures for FY2002

Measure: Average time from receipt of a claim to the Board's final determination.

(Developed jointly with Legislature in FY2001.)

Current Status:

This is the first year that this measure has been instituted and data has not yet been compiled.

Benchmark:

This is the first year that this measure has been instituted and data has not yet been compiled. The Board will strive to process claims within 90 to 150 calendar days in accordance with the nationally recognized benchmark of the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office for Victims of Crime recommendations for the 21st Century.

Background and Strategies:

The basic strategy is to decrease the amount of time it takes to process a claim through the various statutory and regulatory requirements connected with board determination.

Status of FY2001 Performance Measures

	<i>Achieved</i>	<i>On track</i>	<i>Too soon to tell</i>	<i>Not likely to achieve</i>	<i>Needs modification</i>
• Average time from receipt of a claim to the Board's final determination.			X		

Violent Crimes Compensation Board
Component Financial Summary

All dollars in thousands

	FY2000 Actuals	FY2001 Authorized	FY2002 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	156.6	199.8	197.2
72000 Travel	20.1	23.5	23.5
73000 Contractual	49.7	48.6	62.8
74000 Supplies	9.1	5.9	5.9
75000 Equipment	6.1	3.0	3.0
76000 Land/Buildings	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Claims	1,097.7	1,300.9	1,286.7
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	1,339.3	1,581.7	1,579.1
Funding Sources:			
1002 Federal Receipts	299.7	409.5	408.4
1050 Permanent Fund Dividend Fund	1,039.6	1,172.2	1,170.7
Funding Totals	1,339.3	1,581.7	1,579.1

Estimated Revenue Collections

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2000 Actuals	FY2001 Authorized	FY2001 Cash Estimate	FY2002 Governor	FY2003 Forecast
Unrestricted Revenues						
None.		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unrestricted Total		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Restricted Revenues						
Federal Receipts	51010	299.7	409.5	409.5	408.4	408.4
Restricted Total		299.7	409.5	409.5	408.4	408.4
Total Estimated Revenues		299.7	409.5	409.5	408.4	408.4

Violent Crimes Compensation Board**Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2002**

The budget includes a line item transfer from awards/grants to contractual services. This will allow the Board to contract for development of a new database, and to cover other increased contractual costs. The new system will improve claims' management, and also will allow the Board to begin to provide accurate reporting on its performance.

Summary of Component Budget Changes**From FY2001 Authorized to FY2002 Governor***All dollars in thousands*

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2001 Authorized	0.0	409.5	1,172.2	1,581.7
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Year 2 Labor Costs - Net Change from FY2001	0.0	-1.1	-1.5	-2.6
FY2002 Governor	0.0	408.4	1,170.7	1,579.1

Violent Crimes Compensation Board

Personal Services Information

Authorized Positions			Personal Services Costs	
	FY2001 Authorized	FY2002 Governor		
Full-time	3	3	Annual Salaries	137,500
Part-time	1	1	COLA	2,217
Nonpermanent	0	0	Premium Pay	8,056
			Annual Benefits	56,399
			<i>Less 3.41% Vacancy Factor</i>	(6,972)
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	0
Totals	4	4	Total Personal Services	197,200

Position Classification Summary

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Administrative Assistant	0	0	1	0	1
Administrative Clerk I	0	0	1	0	1
Administrator VCCB	0	0	1	0	1
Project Asst	0	0	1	0	1
Totals	0	0	4	0	4