

**State of Alaska  
FY2003 Governor's Operating Budget**

**Department of Public Safety  
Violent Crimes Compensation Board  
BRU/Component Budget Summary**

## **BRU/Component: Violent Crimes Compensation Board**

(There is only one component in this BRU. To reduce duplicate information, we did not print a separate BRU section.)

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### **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 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 FY2000, 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 of any degree, manslaughter, criminally negligent homicide, assault of any degree, sexual assault, sexual abuse of a minor, robbery of 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:

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

In FY2003, 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:

- 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;
- Implement an advisory group to the Board made up of mental health service providers, members of Native Tribal Organizations, victims, and others;
- Negotiate with service providers to accept Board payments as "Payment in Full"; and
- Implement and/or extend integrated database system.
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### **Key Component Issues for FY2002 – 2003**

#### **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.

#### **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 FY2003, this program will continue to 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.

#### **EXAMINATION OF THE NATURE, LEVEL AND SCOPE OF BENEFITS PROVIDED TO VICTIMS**

In FY2003, 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 strive to increase measures that assure payment for services from other sources when available are sought. The Board will consider negotiating agreements with service providers, particularly medical service providers, to accept Board awards as "Payment in Full" wherever practical.

Recently passed legislation, which is effective in July, 2002, increases the maximum available for compensation on individual claims. While this may increase the amount awarded on claims in FY2003, it is not expected to require a budgetary increment.

#### **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 FY2003, in cases in which the offender is the legal guardian or parent, the Board may review this policy and implement a practice that best serves these victims.

#### **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.

#### **COORDINATION WITH OTHER CRIMINAL JUSTICE AGENCIES**

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 FY2003, 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.

Board staff will continue to provide training concerning crime victimization and the compensation process to law enforcement agencies across Alaska such as local police departments and Village Public Safety Officers. Board staff will remain involved in statewide advisory committees to agencies such as the Department of Corrections.

#### **STATISTICAL INFORMATION**

In FY2003, the Board will pursue implementation and/or development of a multi-relational integrated computerized system for claim tracking, documentation generation, and statistical reporting purposes. This will result in increased contractual services costs in FY2003.

#### **MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT**

In FY2003, the Board will continue to offer instruction and guidance to mental health treatment providers around the State treating crime victims. The Board will consider preparing and distributing new guidelines for the treatment of child victims.

### **Major Component Accomplishments in 2001**

The Violent Crimes Compensation Board was created to reduce the economic burden on innocent victims of Board compensable crimes. In FY2001, the program received 393 new applications and awarded 339 claims.

Board meeting funding charts indicate that in FY2001, 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 \$972.6. This was slightly less than in FY2000 and may have been the result of the rescheduling of the last meeting of FY2001 to early in FY2002.

In FY2001, the Board received 393 new applications and processed claims well within the target benchmark set for exceptional crime victim compensation programs by the Department of Justice, Office of Victims of Crime. This is a good indication of the Board's success at meeting the goal of expeditious claim processing.

In FY1999, 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. This trend has continued.

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
01	393	470	972.6

\*\*From funding charts, which do not adjust for refunds

In FY2001, the Board awarded \$570.3 in medical/dental costs; \$83.6 in mental health treatment costs; \$186.5 in lost wages and lost support; \$25.6 in funeral costs; and \$106.5 in transportation, relocation, and other eligible expenses.

Eligible victims and claimants were awarded the following:

CRIME	AWARD AMOUNT
Assault	\$466.0
Homicide	\$126.8
Sexual Assault	\$113.2
Child Abuse (includes SAM)	\$60.5
DWI/DUI	\$102.0
Other	\$104.1
<b>TOTAL AWARDED</b>	<b>\$972.6</b>

In FY2002, the Board continued to analyze medical and mental health treatment costs. The Board strove to ensure victims received necessary medical services at a reasonable cost. The Board continued to inform mental health treatment providers concerning the crisis needs of victims and the compensation program. This included distributing specific treatment plan guidelines and evaluation measures.

### Statutory and Regulatory Authority

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

### Key Performance Measures for FY2003

**Measure:**

Average time from receipt of a claim to the board's final determination.  
Sec 121 Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

**Alaska's Target & Progress:**

The measure was new in FY01.

		Target	Actual
FY01	Goal	90 - 150 days	70 days
FY02	Goal	90 - 150 days	

**Benchmark Comparisons:**

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. The Board has delegated authority to close certain claims to the Board's Administrator and has implemented a claim review with recommendation process to expedite claim determinations.

**Violent Crimes Compensation Board  
Component Financial Summary**

*All dollars in thousands*

	FY2001 Actuals	FY2002 Authorized	FY2003 Governor
<b>Non-Formula Program:</b>			
<b>Component Expenditures:</b>			
71000 Personal Services	167.0	197.2	202.4
72000 Travel	28.6	23.5	23.5
73000 Contractual	57.0	62.8	62.8
74000 Supplies	6.7	5.9	5.9
75000 Equipment	2.9	3.0	3.0
76000 Land/Buildings	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Claims	910.8	1,286.7	1,286.7
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Expenditure Totals</b>	<b>1,173.0</b>	<b>1,579.1</b>	<b>1,584.3</b>
<b>Funding Sources:</b>			
1002 Federal Receipts	61.0	408.4	408.6
1050 Permanent Fund Dividend Fund	1,112.0	1,170.7	1,175.7
<b>Funding Totals</b>	<b>1,173.0</b>	<b>1,579.1</b>	<b>1,584.3</b>

**Estimated Revenue Collections**

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2001 Actuals	FY2002 Authorized	FY2002 Cash Estimate	FY2003 Governor	FY2004 Forecast
<b>Unrestricted Revenues</b>						
None.		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Unrestricted Total</b>		<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Restricted Revenues</b>						
Federal Receipts	51010	61.0	408.4	408.4	408.6	408.6
<b>Restricted Total</b>		<b>61.0</b>	<b>408.4</b>	<b>408.4</b>	<b>408.6</b>	<b>408.6</b>
<b>Total Estimated Revenues</b>		<b>61.0</b>	<b>408.4</b>	<b>408.4</b>	<b>408.6</b>	<b>408.6</b>

**Violent Crimes Compensation Board**

**Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2003**

There are no anticipated service level changes for FY03.

**Summary of Component Budget Changes**

**From FY2002 Authorized to FY2003 Governor**

*All dollars in thousands*

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
<b>FY2002 Authorized</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>408.4</b>	<b>1,170.7</b>	<b>1,579.1</b>
<b>Adjustments which will continue current level of service:</b>				
-Year 3 Labor Costs - Net Change from FY2002	0.0	0.2	5.0	5.2
<b>FY2003 Governor</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>408.6</b>	<b>1,175.7</b>	<b>1,584.3</b>

**Violent Crimes Compensation Board**

**Personal Services Information**

	Authorized Positions		Personal Services Costs	
	<u>FY2002</u> <u>Authorized</u>	<u>FY2003</u> <u>Governor</u>		
Full-time	3	3	Annual Salaries	140,675
Part-time	1	1	COLA	3,601
Nonpermanent	0	0	Premium Pay	5,205
			Annual Benefits	57,481
			<i>Less 2.20% Vacancy Factor</i>	(4,562)
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Total Personal Services</b>	<b>202,400</b>

**Position Classification Summary**

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Administrative Assistant	0	0	1	0	1
Administrative Clerk II	0	0	1	0	1
Administrator VCCB	0	0	1	0	1
Project Asst	0	0	1	0	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>