

VIRGINIA WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION

CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION FUND

2006 ANNUAL REPORT
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WHAT IS THE CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION FUND?

Citing the Commonwealth's "**moral responsibility**" to provide financial assistance to victims of crime, the ***Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund*** (CICF) was established by the Virginia General Assembly in 1977 to pay unreimbursed expenses of innocent victims of crime who had suffered physical or emotional injury or death (§ 19.2-368.1, Code of Virginia). The fund is administered by the **Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission**.

For nearly thirty years the Fund has assisted victims of crime and their families by **easing the financial burden that crime often creates**, providing relief in the form of reimbursement for medical expenses, lost wages, funeral expenses, relocation, counseling costs and other "necessary and reasonable" expenditures incurred by the victim. Claimants are eligible for awards up to the statutory maximum of \$15,000 for compensable expenses. By law, CICF is the **payer of last resort**, assisting victims with expenses that are not covered by any other source. While the Fund does take collateral resources into account, assistance from the Fund is not income-based. Since its inception, the Fund has processed **over 30,000 claims** from Virginia victims of violent crime.

The Fund receives no tax dollars from the citizens of Virginia. CICF is funded by court fees, assessments on offenders, and restitution. The Fund also receives federal funds to supplement monies available to victims of violent crime. These funds are generated by court fines at the federal level, not public tax dollars.

In order for a victim to meet the Fund's eligibility requirements, the crime **must occur in Virginia** or against a Virginia resident in a state, country, or territory that does not have a compensation program. The crime must be reported to law enforcement within **120 hours** unless good cause for the delay can be shown. A claim must be filed with the Fund **within one year** of the occurrence of the crime unless good cause exists for not doing so. The claim must have a **minimum value of \$100**. The victim must **fully cooperate** with law enforcement and **must not have engaged in illegal activity or contributed to his or her injuries in any way**. Apprehension and conviction of the offender are **not** prerequisites for a crime victim's CICF eligibility.

"The mission of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund is to administer the Compensating Victims of Crime Act in a compassionate, fair and efficient manner. In so doing, the Fund strives to treat every victim and survivor with dignity and respect, recognizing the tremendous impact that violent crime has upon our society."

FISCAL YEAR 2006 IN REVIEW

Fiscal year 2006 represented another record-breaking year for the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF), with increases in both number of new claims filed (1902, representing an **8% increase** from FY 2005) and number of initial awards made (1448 awards, a **9% increase** from FY 2005). **This year, the Fund provided \$2,970,381 in awards to crime victims and their families, an increase of more than 15% from the prior year.** Once again, CICF staff took steps to insure that victims' CICF awards were able to address as many compensable expenses as possible through continued efforts to negotiate bills with medical providers on behalf of claimants. **In 2006, CICF staff negotiated nearly 500 medical bills on behalf of claimants, ultimately saving victims of crime nearly \$350,000.**

CICF's role does not stop after an initial award is made. Many victims of violent crime require longer term care for the physical and emotional injuries they sustain, and CICF assists Virginia's victims of crime with these ongoing health needs. In FY 2006, 817 victims received supplemental awards totaling \$924,392.42, or 31.1% of the total amount awarded. Supplemental awards are issued when an eligible victim documents the need for additional benefits after the initial award has been entered.

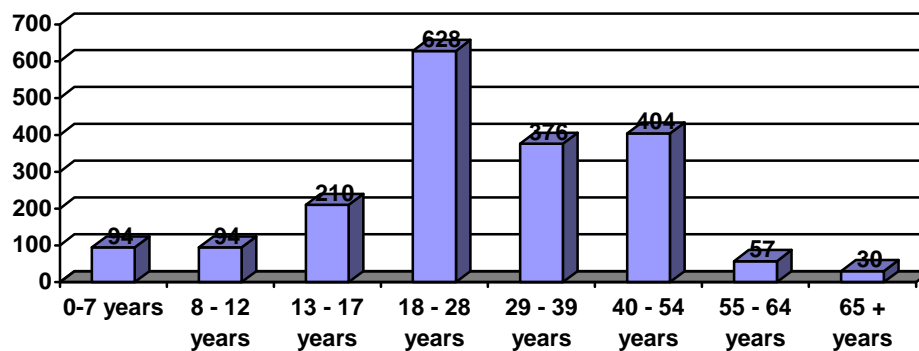
Though the crime categories of arson, robbery, and carjacking showed decreases this fiscal year in terms of numbers of CICF claims filed, the vast majority of crime categories were on the rise from FY 2005. This year saw increases in the number of assaults (a 7.8 % increase over last year), homicides (+13.3%), DUIs (+17%), and sexual assaults (+22%) in which victims were awarded through CICF. The most dramatic increase was a 375% increase in the number of claims filed in abduction cases. Also increasing this fiscal year was the number of child sexual abuse claims filed (+4.1%). **In fact, 21% of CICF's 2006 claims (398) involved victims under the age of 18, with 5% of those claims involving children under the age of 7.**

Professionals within the criminal justice system continue to be the Fund's most significant source of referrals, with **70% of FY 2006's claimants learning about CICF from their area victim/witness assistance program** and another 9% being referred to the Fund from their local police or sheriff's department or commonwealth's attorney's office. Other victims found out about CICF from human service agencies, medical providers, probation offices, funeral homes or other sources. Continued collaboration and training with our criminal justice partners is important to ensure that potentially eligible victims of crime are able to access the Fund. Fund staff is committed to increasing outreach to other allied professionals and the community at large about CICF. Enhanced training efforts in FY 2006 have served to heighten the Fund's visibility as staff work toward a vision of CICF's instant recognition as a resource when an individual has been the victim of a crime.

*Compensation Claims Comparison Summary
(FY 2005 and FY 2006)*

	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>
Claims Received	1760	1902
Claims Awarded	1327	1448
Claims Denied	440	508
Total Amount Awarded	\$2,574,424	\$2,970,381

Age of Victims in FY 2006 CICF claims



Most Frequent Award Type

1. Hospital Expenses
2. Funeral Expenses
3. Physician Expenses
4. Lost Wages
5. Counseling Expenses

Most Frequent Crime Categories

1. Assault (non-domestic)
2. Homicide
3. Assault (domestic)
4. Child Sexual Abuse
5. Robbery

2006 HIGHLIGHTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Outreach / Training

- Implemented aggressive outreach plan, conducting 50 training sessions to 1576 individuals across the Commonwealth
- Partnered with Department of General Services to develop a new agency logo, revise and streamline the CICF application, and develop new marketing materials pursuant to § 19.2-368.17
- Presented at the Circuit Court Judges conference, Virginia Sheriff's Association conference, the Virginia Probation and Parole conference, and the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police conference
- Collaborated with the Department of Health's Division of Injury and Violence Prevention to host two conferences for medical providers (in Southwestern Virginia and Northern Virginia) to educate healthcare professionals about family violence and financial assistance available to victims of crime

Relocation

- Moved from Chesterfield County to new office space at the Bookbindery Building in the city of Richmond to enhance accessibility to CICF clients and to accommodate recent and future program growth
- Hosted an Open House in conjunction with Victim's Rights Week 2006

Collaboration

- Joined the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance, the state's domestic violence/sexual assault coalition and presented at the VSDVAA annual conference for sexual assault and domestic violence advocates
- Continued as an internship site for VCU's School of Social Work, hosting a second-year MSW student for the academic year
- Held a seat on the board of the National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards
- Provided technical assistance and data regarding proposed restitution legislation and assisted VA Supreme Court in development of a restitution worksheet
- Co-sponsored Victims' Rights Week event with the National Organization for Victim Assistance

Other Items of Note

- Continued bill negotiations on behalf of claimants to maximize awards and control costs (456 bills negotiated at a total savings of just under \$350,000)
- Presented the second annual "Victim/Assistance Program of the Year" award to the Chesapeake Victim/Witness Program at the annual conference of the Virginia Network for Victims and Witnesses of Crime in November

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF CLAIMS

CICF received claims from across the Commonwealth as follows:

COUNTIES

Accomack	6	Albemarle	23	Alleghany	4	Amelia	4
Amherst	4	Appomattox	0	Arlington	43	Augusta	22
Botetourt	0	Bedford	3	Bland	0	Brunswick	10
Buchanan	3	Buckingham	1	Campbell	25	Caroline	7
Carroll	4	Charlotte	1	Chesterfield	53	Clarke	6
Craig	0	Culpeper	7	Cumberland	2	Dickenson	4
Dinwiddie	13	Essex	0	Farifax	106	Fauquier	7
Floyd	1	Fluvanna	5	Franklin	9	Frederick	1
Giles	1	Gloucester	4	Goochland	4	Grayson	10
Greene	16	Greensville	9	Halifax	8	Hanover	18
Henrico	55	Henry	9	Isle of Wight	3	James City	15
King & Queen	3	King George	1	King William	5	Lancaster	0
Lee	14	Loudoun	22	Louisa	7	Lunenburg	5
Mathews	1	Mecklenburg	24	Middlesex	3	Montgomery	11
Nelson	1	New Kent	0	Northampton	9	Northumberland	1
Nottoway	2	Orange	4	Page	8	Patrick	2
Pittsylvania	14	Powhatan	0	Prince Edward	5	Prince George	2
Prince William	31	Pulaski	8	Rappahannock	1	Richmond	0
Roanoke	3	Rockbridge	1	Rockingham	2	Russell	3
Scott	1	Shenandoah	6	Smyth	8	Southampton	12
Spotsylvania	27	Stafford	30	Surry	2	Sussex	3
Tazewell	7	Warren	8	Washington	4	Westmoreland	9
Wise	1	Wythe	3	York	7		

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF CLAIMS (con't)

CITIES

Alexandria	54	Bedford	7	Bristol	10	Buena Vista	1
Charlottesville	12	Chesapeake	104	Colonial Heights	3	Covington	2
Danville	24	Emporia	9	Fairfax	7	Franklin	7
Fredericksburg	15	Galax	1	Hampton	46	Harrisonburg	3
Hopewell	17	Lexington	0	Lynchburg	29	Manassas	12
Martinsville	10	Newport News	76	Norfolk	112	Norton	2
Petersburg	56	Poquoson	0	Portsmouth	65	Radford	3
Richmond	204	Roanoke	36	Salem	7	South Boston	1
Staunton	9	Suffolk	25	Virginia Beach	52	Waynesboro	3
Williamsburg	3	Winchester	28				

“Thank you for providing a Fund so helpful to those of us who have experienced such an unexpected tragedy in our lives. This has just made the journey a lot easier.

Thank you for all of your kindness.”

- A CICF claimant

FY 2006 REVENUES AND EXPENSES*

BEGINNING CASH BALANCE	\$6,750,379
Cash Receipts	
CICF (court fees)	\$3,430,478
Restitution	\$ 311,301
Unclaimed Restitution	\$ 334,543
Grant Proceeds	\$1,369,000
Private Donations	\$ 1,789
Miscellaneous	\$ 1,200
TOTAL	\$5,448,311
Cash Disbursements	
Benefits for Victims	\$2,970,381
Administrative	\$ 791,392
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$3,761,773
 ENDING CASH BALANCE	 \$8,436,917

*this data has not yet been audited by the Auditor of Public Accounts

CONCLUSION

Victims of violent crime clearly face a myriad of concerns as they struggle to regain control of their lives and recover both physically and emotionally. The Commonwealth's Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund remains dedicated to playing a role in that recovery by assisting Virginia victims deal with the financial burdens that often accompany victimization. FY 2006 saw an 8% increase in the number of applications received by the CICF office and a 15.4% increase in the total dollar amount awarded by the Fund, with nearly 1500 victims of crime in Virginia receiving assistance through payouts totaling nearly \$3 million dollars. CICF continued its work helping victims, holding offenders fiscally accountable and collaborating with a wide variety of service providers (law enforcement, medical professionals, court services staff, etc.) to best serve the needs of claimants.

Looking ahead to 2007, it is most likely that CICF's claims volume will continue to increase as CICF staff continues extensive outreach and marketing efforts throughout the state to educate allied professionals and the community at large about the Fund. CICF staff remains committed to maximizing operational capacity and will continue to look for ways to streamline the CICF claims examination processes and advocate for victims of crime.

Above all else, CICF will zealously maintain its tradition of providing assistance to victims of crime with compassion, efficiency, and fairness.