

Crime Victim Compensation

Arizona Criminal Justice Commission



What is Crime Victim Compensation

- Provides financial assistance to crime victims
- Covers expenses of physical harm, mental distress, and/or economic loss from victimization
- Does not require apprehension or conviction of offender
- The payer of last resort
- Administered by the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC)
- Arizona is a decentralized program
 - Each county has a compensation board
 - Award decisions made at the local level



Fund Sources

- Federal Sources
 - Crime Victims Fund
 - Federal Government grant monies
 - Victims of Crime Act of 1984
 - Criminal fines and fees
 - Makes up about 1/3 of the program size
- State Sources
 - Penalty Assessment
 - Inmate work fees
 - Unclaimed restitution
- Other Sources
 - Restitution/Subrogation
 - Donations
 - Clerk of the Court interest monies



Who is Eligible?

- Victim of crime under Arizona or Federal Law
- Report the crime within 72 hours
- Cooperate with law enforcement
- Apply within 2 years of the crime
- Suffer economic loss not covered by a “collateral source”
- No contribution to victimization
- Victims need not to be residents of Arizona to apply
- Arizona residents victimized abroad



What Does Victim Compensation Pay For?

- Medical costs – up to \$25,000
- Funeral costs – up to \$10,000
- Counseling – up to \$5,000
- Wage loss – various levels of coverage, based on minimum wage rate
- Crime scene clean up of a residence – up to \$2,000
- Transportation costs – up to \$2,000
- Maximum award for any one claim is \$25,000



Costs Not Covered

- Property Loss or repair
- Pain and suffering
- Attorney fees



Claim Process

- Completed application submitted to program
- Program investigates/substantiates claim
- Forward to the board for consideration
 - Board must hear claim within 60 days
 - Board approves/denies claim
- Approved awards are paid to claimant or provider
- Denials/reductions sent certified mail
- Claimant can request a rehearing of a board decision within 30 days



Decisions Boards Can Make

- Approve a claim in full
- Deny a claim
- Approve a claim at a reduced amount
- Table a claim until a future meeting
- If there are insufficient funds in program the Board may:
 - Deny the claim
 - Make partial award and reconsider later during the fiscal year
 - Extend the claim into subsequent fiscal year



Contact Information

Arizona Criminal Justice Commission
1110 W. Washington, Suite 230
Phoenix, AZ 85007
www.azcjc.gov

Heather Bohnet, Program Manager
Phone: 602-364-1168
Email: hbohnet@azcjc.gov

Dorinda Johns, Program Coordinator
Phone: 602-364-1175
Email: djohns@azcjc.gov

