

ANNUAL REPORT
VICTIMS' COMPENSATION
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
ATTORNEY GENERAL MATTHEW P. DENN

Calendar Year 2017

Victims' Compensation Assistance Program
900 N. King Street, Suite 4
Wilmington, DE 19801
Telephone: (302) 255-1770
Fax: (302) 577-1326

WWW.ATTORNEYGENERAL.DELAWARE.GOV/VCAP

Dear Fellow Delawareans:

At the Delaware Department of Justice, protecting and serving victims of crime is about much more than investigating and prosecuting perpetrators – it is also about supporting victims and their families and helping them along their road to recovery. By providing compensation for financial losses that victims sustain as a result of crime through our Victims' Compensation Assistance Program (VCAP), we are meeting that obligation by helping alleviate the financial burden and distress that crime leaves behind.

VCAP provides financial awards to help cover the costs of a variety of services that help victims and families rebuild their lives, including lost wages, medical expenses, payment for mental health counseling, and funeral expenses.

I am proud of the work we are doing at VCAP, and we are always striving to do more. Victims and their families deserve no less.

Thank you for your continued support of this important program.

Sincerely,

Matthew P. Denn
Attorney General

HISTORY OF VICTIMS' ASSISTANCE

State of Delaware

Delaware's history of assisting victims of violent crime is a long one. The Victim Compensation Fund was established by the General Assembly in 1974 to provide a means of meeting the additional hardships imposed upon the victims of certain crimes by indemnifying those persons for losses sustained as a result of those crimes. Similarly, the legislation created the Violent Crimes Compensation Board to manage the fund, receive and review applications for assistance, and make determinations regarding the awarding of compensation.

In FY 2009, the Violent Crimes Compensation Board faced major changes. The statute was amended and through the efforts of the Joint Sunset Review Committee, the Victims' Compensation Assistance Program was born. Effective July 1, 2010, the newly named program was moved to the Delaware Department of Justice. On May 24, 2011, the Joint Sunset Review Committee voted to release the Victims' Compensation Assistance Program from further Committee review.

The Victims' Compensation Assistance Program is funded from appropriated special funds derived from an 18% surcharge that is levied on all criminal offenses, including motor vehicle offenses. The program is also funded through restitution paid by offenders, probation interest, subrogation reimbursements and a federal grant.

Federal

In 1988, Congress amended the 1984 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) and established the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), a federal agency within the U.S. Department of Justice. OVC was established to provide leadership and funding for state and local victim compensation and assistance programs across the country.

Funding for OVC's programs comes from the Crime Victims Fund, which was established by VOCA to support victim services training for advocates and professionals. Fund dollars come from criminal fines, forfeited bail bonds,

penalties and special assessments collected from offenders convicted of federal crimes.

THE PROGRAM

The purpose of the Victims' Compensation Assistance Program (VCAP) is to alleviate some of the financial burdens faced by victims – those that are directly related to the specific offense – by providing compensation for certain pecuniary losses. Compensation is available for the payment of medical and dental expenses, psychiatric care, mental health counseling, prescription medication and eyeglasses, loss of earnings, funeral/burial costs, loss of support, temporary housing and moving and relocation costs. Secondary victims, including the parent(s), spouse son(s), daughter(s), brother(s), or sister(s) of the primary victim may be eligible to receive mental health counseling for crime-related issues.

EXPENSES THAT ARE COVERED THROUGH VCAP:

- Medical and/or dental expenses
- Mental health treatment or counseling
- Wage or income loss
- Income loss to custodian while providing care to a child victim
- Loss of support for victims and dependents in certain situations
- Funeral and/or burial expenses
- Moving and/or relocation expenses
- Temporary housing
- Change of locks, doors or windows to make the resident safe
- Replacing items seized as evidence by police

EXPENSES THAT ARE NOT COVERED:

- Lost, damaged or stolen property
- Pain and suffering

VCAP IS THE PAYOR OF LAST RESORT

Claims Process

To initiate the claims process, Delawareans can obtain application forms by either calling the Victims' Compensation Assistance Program at (302) 255-1770 or by downloading the application form from the Attorney General's website at <https://attorneygeneral.delaware.gov/vcap/>.

What types of crimes may be covered?

The most common crimes for which financial compensation is provided include murder, assault, child abuse, domestic violence, kidnapping, arson, burglary, sexual assault, and sexual abuse.

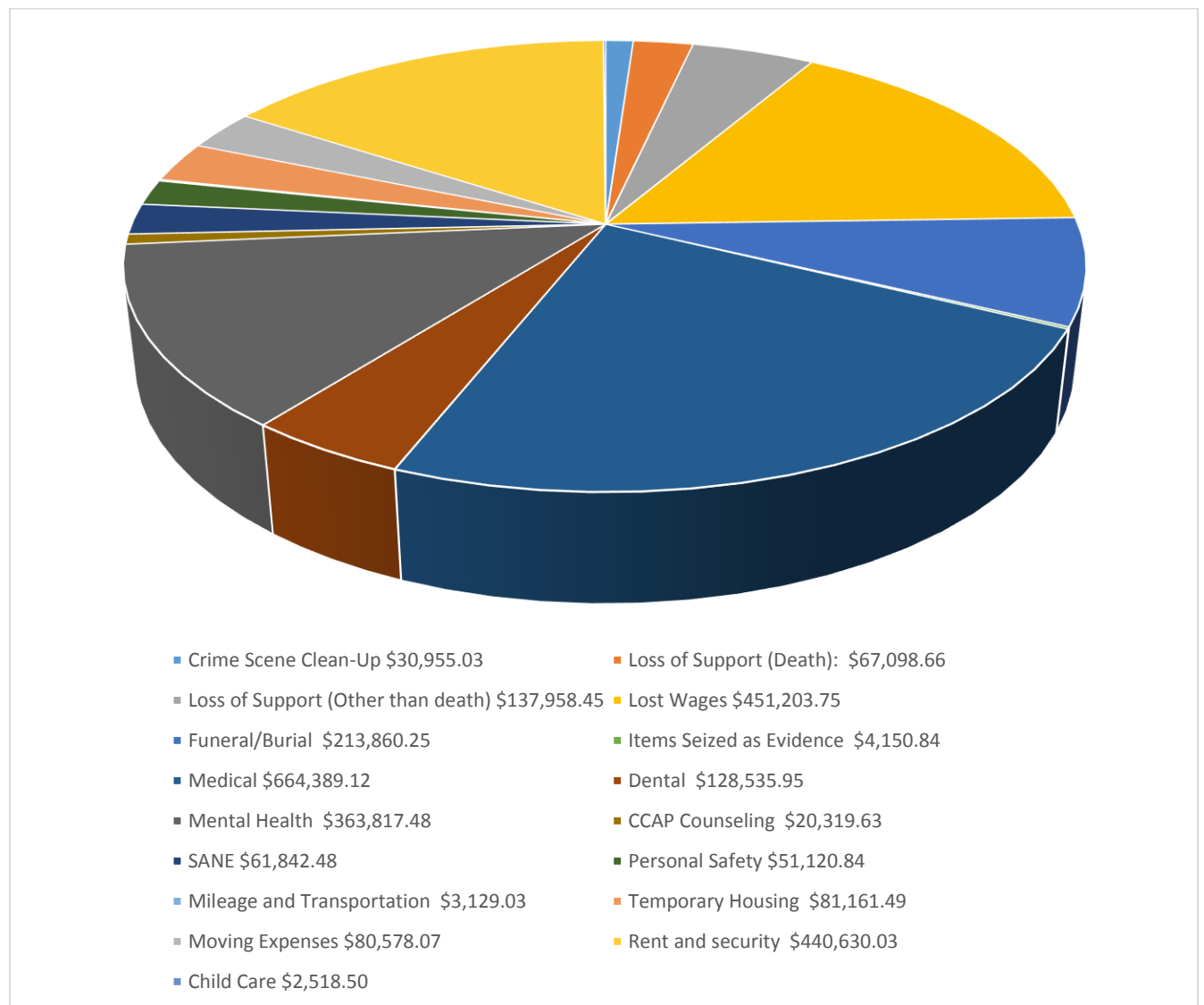
TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR COMPENSATION:

- The crime must be reported to law enforcement within 72 hours (unless the requirement is waived by VCAP)
- The claim must be filed with VCAP within 1 year of the crime (unless the requirement is waived by VCAP)
- The victim must cooperate with law enforcement agencies in the apprehension and prosecution of the perpetrator
- The victim must cooperate with VCAP staff and provide all information requested
- The victim must not have caused or contributed to his or her injury

FINANCIAL AWARDS

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, the Victims' Compensation Assistance Program received 1,257 applications and awarded \$2,902,847.14 to victims and their families. The Victims' Compensation Assistance Program approved 95 percent of the applications received.

PROGRAM SPENDING BY BENEFIT – 2017



PROGRAM SPENDING BY CRIME TYPE – 2017

Assault	\$788,099.68
Assault - DV	\$501,963.73
Homicide	\$292,813.71
Sexual Assault	\$234,834.13
Child Sexual Abuse	\$199,157.57
PFA Only	\$138,262.64
Robbery	\$132,463.21
Strangulation - DV	\$90,085.33
Burglary	\$83,416.58
DUI/DWI	\$40,792.97
Other Vehicular Crimes	\$37,945.08
Home Invasion	\$35,028.85
Vehicular Assault	\$34,322.70
Child Victim Counseling and Assessment Program	\$32,476.59
Vehicular Homicide	\$27,449.80
Child Abuse	\$26,387.53
Sexual Assault - DV	\$25,396.80
Terrorism	\$25,000.00
Assault - School Related	\$12,436.76
Kidnapping	\$9,763.43
Stalking - DV	\$8,725.34
Strangulation	\$6,441.43
Robbery - DV	\$3,358.88
Arson	\$2,115.76
Stalking	\$1,806.13

DV = Domestic Violence

DETAILED EXPENDITURES – 2017

State Victim Claim Payments	\$1,594,664.55
Federal Victim Claim Payments	\$1,195,880.55
Total Claims Payments	\$2,790,544.60
Administrative Costs	\$610,849.77
Total Claims w/ Admin Costs	\$3,401,394.37