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

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