



**DEEP IN THE
HEARTS OF
TEXANS**



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Annual Report

September 1, 2000 - August 31, 2001



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL · STATE OF TEXAS
JOHN CORNYN

December 9, 2001

The Honorable Rick Perry, Governor
The Honorable Bill Ratliff, Lt. Governor
The Honorable Pete Laney, Speaker of the House

The mission of the Texas Crime Victims' Compensation Program is to assist victims by partnering with crime victims, victim service providers and advocates, and criminal justice professionals. That mission continues to be met in an increasingly effective fashion.

The program, reflecting legislative changes and social realities, is more than sheer numbers. The story of the Crime Victims' Compensation (CVC) Program is really thousands of stories of individuals who are getting more help in more ways than ever before.

During the fiscal year beginning September 1, 2000, and ending August 31, 2001, the division processed more applications and paid more money on behalf of victims than in any previous year. We received 23,986 applications and paid out more than \$41,248,503 million to 12,675 victims. Although money alone cannot repair losses, it is an important step towards easing the trauma of victimization.

In addition to what was paid directly to victims of crime, CVC provided funding for other programs. This includes \$4.3 million to the Texas Council on Family Violence for shelters, \$1.1 million for victim assistance liaisons and coordinators and \$1.4 million for Texas Department of Criminal Justice victims services.

In addition, an electronic processing system is now in use for processing claims; we have a call center to assist with phone inquiries; and more providers, law enforcement officials, and victim advocates are taking advantage of Internet access to track case status. The scope of the work being done on behalf of crime victims in Texas is impressive.

My office is proud of its role in administering the Texas Crime Victims' Compensation Program, one of the most comprehensive in the nation. On behalf of my staff and, more importantly, the thousands of victims of crime who benefit, thank you for your support of the program.

Sincerely,

John Cornyn
Attorney General of Texas



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Annual Report

Assisting Victims of Violent Crime

John Cornyn
Attorney General of Texas

Michael T. McCaul
Deputy Attorney General for Criminal Justice

John Green
Director, Crime Victims' Compensation Division

Gene McCleskey
Deputy Director, Crime Victims' Compensation Division

Crime Victims' Compensation Division 2001

In this first year of the new millennium, the Crime Victims' Compensation Division has continued to honor its agreement with Texans and uphold the mission of "Assisting Victims of Violent Crime." This year, CVC paid benefits to victims totaling almost \$42 million and served more victims than ever before. This year could be characterized by "Three Cs: Change, Collaboration and Commitment."

Change is an inherent part of growth, and the CVC program has embraced changes that led to improved service delivery to those we serve. Within the Division, a new computer program was installed that created processing in a "paperless environment," allowing more than one person to work a claim simultaneously. A new Call Center was initiated to handle the ever-increasing number of calls and reduce the time taken away from claims handling by case managers. The Presumptive Eligibility process, a method of submitting applications with all the paperwork required by CVC to make a decision and approve payment, has resulted in claims being processed and paid within a much shorter time. Other changes currently being developed include a voice-activated call response system to further enhance phone cus-

tomers service, an increase in registering advocates online so they can check claim status directly on behalf of their client victims, and computer upgrades that will allow applications to be completed and submitted via the Internet.

Collaboration with our victim service advocates and providers statewide has been a significant focus this year. As a result of last year's promise to address needs of stakeholders statewide, a CVC Ombudsman position was created to address individual needs and concerns of those in the field. On behalf of CVC, a Leadership Advisory Council composed of representatives from most law enforcement, criminal justice, and advocacy agencies was created to provide a two-way forum for discussion and input on the Compensation Division. From these meetings, helpful suggestions and positive responses have been received that shaped the direction of our efforts to streamline the CVC process. We continue to work very closely with state and local agencies that are the front line contacts for the victims we assist.

Commitment by those working in CVC is evident and encourages our efforts on behalf of victims.

Without their caring and willingness to work above and beyond the call of duty, our accomplishments would not shine as brightly. Making a commitment to victims also means a commitment to advocates on all levels. We have responded to the needs expressed to us by advocates in the field by increased grant awards for Crime Victim Liaison and Victim Assistance Coordinator positions and have secured a discretionary grant fund from the Legislature to provide even more grants to address unmet needs of victims and under-served victim groups. Training for advocates statewide on CVC, sexual assault issues, and certification for advocates and programs continues to be a high priority for the Division. In June, a baseline education academy provided training for new and seasoned advocates on compensation and other resources available to victims, and created a networking opportunity to enable communities to strengthen their ability to respond when needed.

Change, Collaboration and Commitment: our pledge to Texans, the advocates who assist them and all who work to "Assist Victims of Violent Crime."

Financial Summary

Fiscal Activity Summary for the Fiscal Year Ending August 31, 2001

Receipts

Federal VOCA Grant	\$12,700,000.00
Court Fees Deposited for FY2001	\$75,367,757.95
Restitution	\$953,757.65
Subrogation	\$258,866.47
Other Receipts	\$1,831,093.14
Grants/Donations	\$260,192.04
Total Receipts	\$91,371,667.25

Disbursements

Benefits Paid to Victims of Crime*	\$41,248,503.47
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Administrative Costs

Salaries and Wages	\$2,457,640.26
Payroll Related Costs**	\$505,915.99
Professional Fees and Services	\$37.25
Travel	\$53,979.77
Materials and Supplies	\$53,972.21
Communications and Utilities	\$103,657.37
Repairs and Maintenance	\$19,901.87
Rentals and Leases	\$22,564.35
Postage and Delivery	\$92,117.56
Other Operating Expenses	\$483,692.53
Capital Outlay	\$41,729.55

Total Administrative Costs **\$3,835,208.71**

Total OAG Disbursements **\$45,083,712.18**

Excess of Receipts over Disbursements **\$46,287,955.07**

* Awards made may include payments on applications that were received in previous years if victims or claimants had subsequent expenses related to crime. Includes cancellations on warrants from previous years, refunds for current and previous years, and adjustments on claims.

** The payroll related costs include other agency disbursements.

Appropriations for other Crime Victim Assistance from the Crime Victims' Compensation Fund

Article.56.51 TCCP 77th Legislature, 2001

PURPOSE	AMOUNT (2002/2003 BIENNIUM)	COMMENT	AUTHORITY
Grants for Victims Assistance Liaisons & Victims Assistance Coordinators	\$4,806,800		TCCP §56.33 1 TAC §63.17
Contract With Texas CASA, Inc.	\$4,000,000 \$223,130 (est.) license plate revenue		Tx. Family Code §264.603
Contract with Children's Advocacy Center of Texas	\$7,998,006		Tx. Family Code §§264.409-411
Family Violence Shelters (Texas Council Family Violence)	\$30,712,664	Direct appropriation to DHS	
Battering Intervention (BIPP)	\$2,500,000	Direct appropriation to TDCJ	
Victim Services	\$2,880,664	Direct appropriation to TDCJ	
Grants made by Sexual Assault and Crisis Services Program for funding local programs	\$6,653,382		TCCP §56.33 1 TAC §62.1 et seq.
Grant to Texas Association Against Sexual Assault	\$750,000		1 TAC §63.31 et seq.
Grant to Texas Equal Access to Justice foundation	\$5,000,000		TCCP §56.54 (e) 1 TAC, Chapter 63
Associate Judge Program Foster Care Courts	\$2,150,000	Direct appropriation to OCA	TCCP §56.54 (j)
Office of the Attorney General Discretionary Grants	\$20,000,000		TCCP §56.33 1 TAC, Chapter 63
Foster Care Payments	\$28,482,708	Direct appropriation to DPRS	
Adult Protective services	\$3,482,710		

Activity Summary

23,986 applications were received in Fiscal Year 2001

19,783 applications were reviewed for eligibility
15,697 were filed in Fiscal Year 2001
4,086 were filed before Fiscal Year 2001

15,850 applications were approved
12,645 were filed in Fiscal Year 2001
3,205 were filed before Fiscal Year 2001

3,933 applications were denied
3,052 applications were filed in Fiscal Year 2001
881 applications were filed before 2001

80.12 percent of all applications were approved

5,999 applications are pending the return of information

9,851 applications were awarded
4,051 applications were filed in Fiscal Year 2001
5,800 applications were filed before Fiscal Year 2001

\$4,187 was the average amount awarded per application

Brief History of the Fund

The Crime Victims' Compensation Fund was created in 1979 with the passage of the Crime Victims' Compensation Act. The Act established guidelines for eligibility and the provision of certain benefits to victims of crime. Program guidelines were established with the first payments being made for crimes that occurred after January 1, 1980.

The Fund was first administered by the Industrial Accident Board, later known as the Worker's Compensation Commission. During that time, the Office of the Attorney General played a limited role, investigating claims. However, in 1991, full responsibility for the Fund was assigned to the Office of the Attorney General and the Crime Victims' Compensation Division.

During the years the Office of the Attorney General has administered the Fund, it has become stronger and better able to serve victims of crime in Texas. When demands on the Fund exceeded the balance, we worked with the Legislature to increase revenue sources for the Fund. The program is now financially able to serve as a source of funding for other victim services. Under careful stewardship, payments to victims have increased substantially.

The key to success has been to keep the focus of our efforts on the victim. While the Texans we serve have faced trauma, tragedy, and financial loss due to the criminal acts of others, no two victims' experiences are the same. We recognize that issues faced by the family of the victim of a drunk driver differ from those of a survivor of sexual assault. Staff training on victim issues is a priority and ensures that each claim is handled with attention to the individual's unique experience and needs.

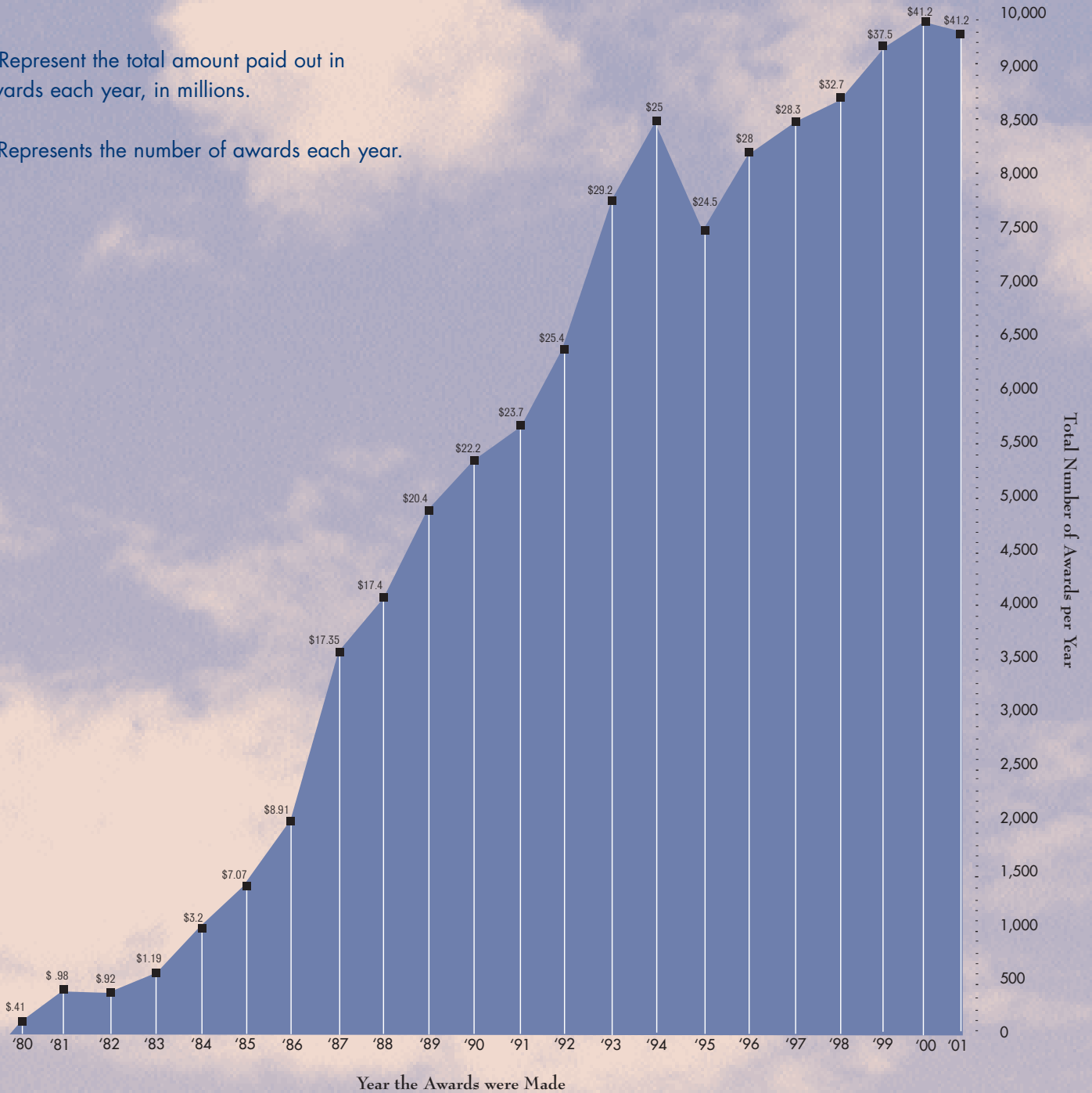
Reflected in these pages is information about the types of victims who can be served by the Fund and the increase in the amount and form of financial assistance that can be paid.

Award Summary in History of the Program

\$437 million has been paid out to victims during the 22-year history of the Crime Victims' Compensation program.

\$ Represent the total amount paid out in awards each year, in millions.

■ Represents the number of awards each year.



Grants

The Texas Legislature appropriated \$2 million over the biennium for Victim Assistance Grants. These appropriated funds are derived from specified court costs and fees and Crime Victim Compensation Excess Funds. With these funds, the Crime Victim Services Division awarded 47 Victim Assistance Grants to local prosecutors and law enforcement agencies. The grant awards totaled more than \$1.2 million for the fiscal year. With these 47 grants, victims in 61 counties were provided victim services through the prosecutor's office and/or the law enforcement agency. These funds are constitutionally dedicated and are limited to providing assistance and services directly to victims of crime. With the limited amount of funds for this new grant program, the Victim Assistance Grants were used solely to defray all or part of the salary of the positions of victim assistance coordinator and crime victim liaison. With future appropriations by the Legislature, the grant program will expand to include salary, as well as fringe benefits and travel/training for the coordinators and liaisons. The Crime Victim Services Division will administer these grants in order to assist and enhance services to victims across Texas.

*Grants Continue
to Help Many
Victims of
Violent
Crime.*

*Awarded in
Fiscal Year 2001:
47 Grants,
\$1,225,388.*

Spotlight on Texas:

Creative & Innovative Programs

District Attorneys' Offices, Police Departments & Sheriffs' Departments

From the high plains and mountains to the Rio Grande valley, from the piney woods and Gulf coast to the centers of commerce and industry, Texas is a state of many contrasts. These contrasts are reflected in the programs funded by grants from the Crime Victims' Compensation Fund. These contrasts also pose a challenge to the dedicated individuals and organizations who serve victims of violent crime.

The following pages spotlight some of the outstanding projects that are working for crime victims and their families. A program to assist gifted children who have suffered abuse; a crime victim liaison who makes house calls over an entire county; a new facility that brings domestic violence and child abuse investigators, family counseling, and crime victims services under one roof — these are just a sample of the more than 450 programs and agencies operating across our state.

The results have been amazing. More and more advocates and concerned volunteers are stepping forward and using new and innovative methods to reach those who need help.

Unfortunately, the number of Texans who qualify for victim assistance also keeps rising. Additional advocates, service providers, programs, business and community supporters, volunteers, and funds will be needed to meet the growing need. We hope these pages serve as an inspiration to all who rise to meet the challenge.

East Texas

“Making a Difference in the Lives of Special Children”

This program helps children heal from the wounds of losing a loved one to violent crime. It is run by the Crime Victims Services Division at the Smith County Criminal District Attorney’s Office in Tyler. The program has been in place for two years.

Only children involved in homicide cases are enrolled in the program.

Business and community leaders sponsor the children, paying for registration and monthly costs during the course of a year. The children are offered special activities such as dance, piano, drawing, drama, karate, and gymnastics. School teachers are available to help with tutoring.



*You took my
hand and
guided my life*

Other programs sponsored by the Victims Services Division include “People Helping People,” a handbook, written in both English and Spanish, that guides crime victims as they go through the judicial process, and “Walking Hand in Hand,” a joint effort involving local churches.

In addition, the Division is creating a cookbook, titled “A Little Taste of Heaven,” containing favorite recipes supplied by friends and families of victims. Proceeds from the book will help pay to add the names of crime victims to Smith County’s Wall of Memories, located near the courthouse in downtown Tyler.

West Texas

Driving Rural Routes to Help Victims of Violent Crime

On September 1, 2000, the El Paso Sheriff's Department hired its first full-time crime victim liaison. The position is fully funded by a grant from the Office of the Attorney General. The department demonstrated its commitment to the victim services program by allocating a vehicle for exclusive use of the victim liaison.

One of the biggest challenges in working as the crime victim liaison in El Paso County is the isolation of many of the residents. The Sheriff's Department has jurisdiction over rural parts of the county, including many colonias. Much of the area has no public transportation or water and sewer service, and many of the streets are not marked and lighted. A large portion of the population speaks only Spanish.

Because the Sheriff's Department committed a vehicle to the program, the crime victim liaison can travel the length and breadth of the county, bringing victim services — including Crime Victims' Compensation applications — to areas that have never before been reached. An officer accompanies the liaison when it is deemed necessary.

As a result, many victims of violent crime who would otherwise have been lost in the system have received compensation. CVC funding and the active commitment of the Sheriff's Department have made a measurable difference in the lives of some of the most vulnerable residents of El Paso County.



Photo by Steve Olason

South Texas

Tree of Angels: A Monument for Victims

The historic Wharton County Courthouse, built in 1889, stands among swaying palms and flowering bougainvillea. The offices of the Wharton County District Attorney's Victim Assistance Program are located in this landmark building. The program, which was established in 1993, serves a countywide population of approximately 41,000 people and is recognized throughout the state as one that is sensitive to the needs of victims. Strong

coalitions have been formed with the Wharton County Sheriff's Department, the Wharton Police Department, the El Campo Police Department, the Texas Department of Public Safety, and the Crisis Center to serve victims. Although this is a relatively young program, it continues to expand yearly and enjoys great respect and cooperation from the community.



Photo by Steve Oleason

The Victim Assistance Coordinator provides information and programs to organizations such as the Rotary Club and other local service groups. Future plans include presenting training on Crime Victims' Compensation to the Law Enforcement Academy at Wharton County

Junior College and networking with schools, providers, clergy, and the judiciary. The Program staff is evaluating opportunities for more community involvement and support, such as trained volunteers to respond to incidents of violence and possibly recruiting interns from the local college.

This Program has taken its legally mandated responsibilities a step further by providing information and services to victims of property crimes. Restitution amounts are verified and victims are notified about relevant court proceedings. The organization continues to search for compassionate and effective ways to serve the victims in the community.

One of the season's highlights each year is the county-wide celebration of the tree of angels. This community honors victims and their families by placing unique angel decorations on a Christmas tree that is located near the center of town.

North Texas

A Special House Built for Safety and Comfort

On November 1, 2001, the City of Irving dedicated its new Family Advocacy Center. The facility will be a permanent home for several of the local law enforcement and social service agencies that assist victims of violent crime. These services will be available to Irving residents and to students and their families in the Irving Independent School District.

The Center will house domestic violence and child abuse investigators, counseling services and the victim services coordinator from the Irving Police Department. It will also house caseworkers from Child Protective Services and Family Outreach. In addition, the Center will provide space as needed to outside organizations such as Lawyers Against Domestic Violence and a local battered women's shelter.

The new building resembles the Prairie Style homes common in Irving in the early 1900s. A two-story structure with 22,000 sq. feet of space, the exterior has six covered porches. Inside, visitors will find classrooms, interview facilities, individual and group therapy rooms, two play therapy rooms for children, and office space for each of the agencies involved in the project. The building was specifically designed to help violent crime victims feel safe and secure and to avoid the impersonal atmosphere often found in government office buildings.



Central Texas

Local Central Texans Help Victims of Violent Crime

The Travis County Sheriff's Office Victim Services Division was begun in 1984. It is the mission of the Travis County Sheriff's Department to develop and coordinate responses to crime victims, community violence, and critical incidents (critical incidents may involve natural disasters, terrorist acts, etc.) The Division's goal is crisis stabilization through early interventions.

The Division is a community-based program and relies heavily on community support to provide services to the victims in Travis County. With six full-time staff members and 90 volunteers, a 24-hour crime scene response is provided to communities within Travis County including Pflugerville, Lago Vista,



Jonestown, Lakeway, West Lake, Mustang Ridge, Bee Caves, Sunset Valley, and Manor. The number of crime victims needing services within Travis County continued to grow with the rapid population growth in this area. In 2000, the Travis County Sheriff's Office Victim Services Division applied for a grant from the Attorney General's Office for an additional staff member hoping to increase the number of victims served by five percent. The grant was awarded, and with the additional person the Division increased the number of crime victims served from 898 in 1999 to 1676 in 2000. The grant-funded staff member

was also able to become a member of a new program in Travis County named Community Justice Accountability Sentencing, otherwise known as "circle sentencing." The program is coordinated through the Travis County District Attorney's Office. It is a community-driven process designed after the Native American justice system that holds offenders accountable to an affected community rather than the State. With circle sentencing, an attempt is made to give the criminal justice system a human face: the face of the victims, the community, and others. "Circles" usually consist of 15-25 participants who may include victims, offenders, and support systems for both parties including victim advocates, small groups of friends, families, and others. In addition, a circle may include representatives from the criminal justice system such as probation/parole officers, law enforcement officers, attorneys, and others. Through this wonderful program, victims are given another voice in the judicial system.

The Crime Victims' Compensation Process & Overview

The Crime Victims' Compensation Division is dedicated to providing compensation to victims in a timely and sensitive manner. Written policies developed within the Division, with the assistance of victim advocates, law enforcement officers, and prosecutors, ensure that decisions are made in a fair and consistent manner. The process begins with getting an application to a crime victim and ends by providing the victim with a check to assist with financial expenses related to the crime.

The TRAINING SECTION of the Crime Victim Services Division increases awareness of the Crime Victims' Compensation program by providing resource material and training programs both to persons statutorily mandated to inform victims and targeted allied professionals who can assist victims with the application. During 2001, the training section has been active in training advocates in a new component of the process called PRESUMPTIVE ELIGIBILITY. This process allows advocates to work directly with victims to gather the required documentation and submit a completed application packet directly to Crime Victims' Compensation eligibility reviewers. The Crime Victims' Compensation reviewer remains responsible for making the final determination as required by law.

The CENTRAL RECORDS section receives all initial inquiries and incoming mail. This section also scans and indexes all medical bills, reports, employment forms, and correspondence and enters this information into the electronic workflow. Additionally, this section maintains files on all active and inactive claims for Crime Victims since 1980. The staff in this section assign claim numbers to applications and reviews to ensure that an offense report is attached. If there is no offense report included, a request is sent to the appropriate law enforcement agency for this information.

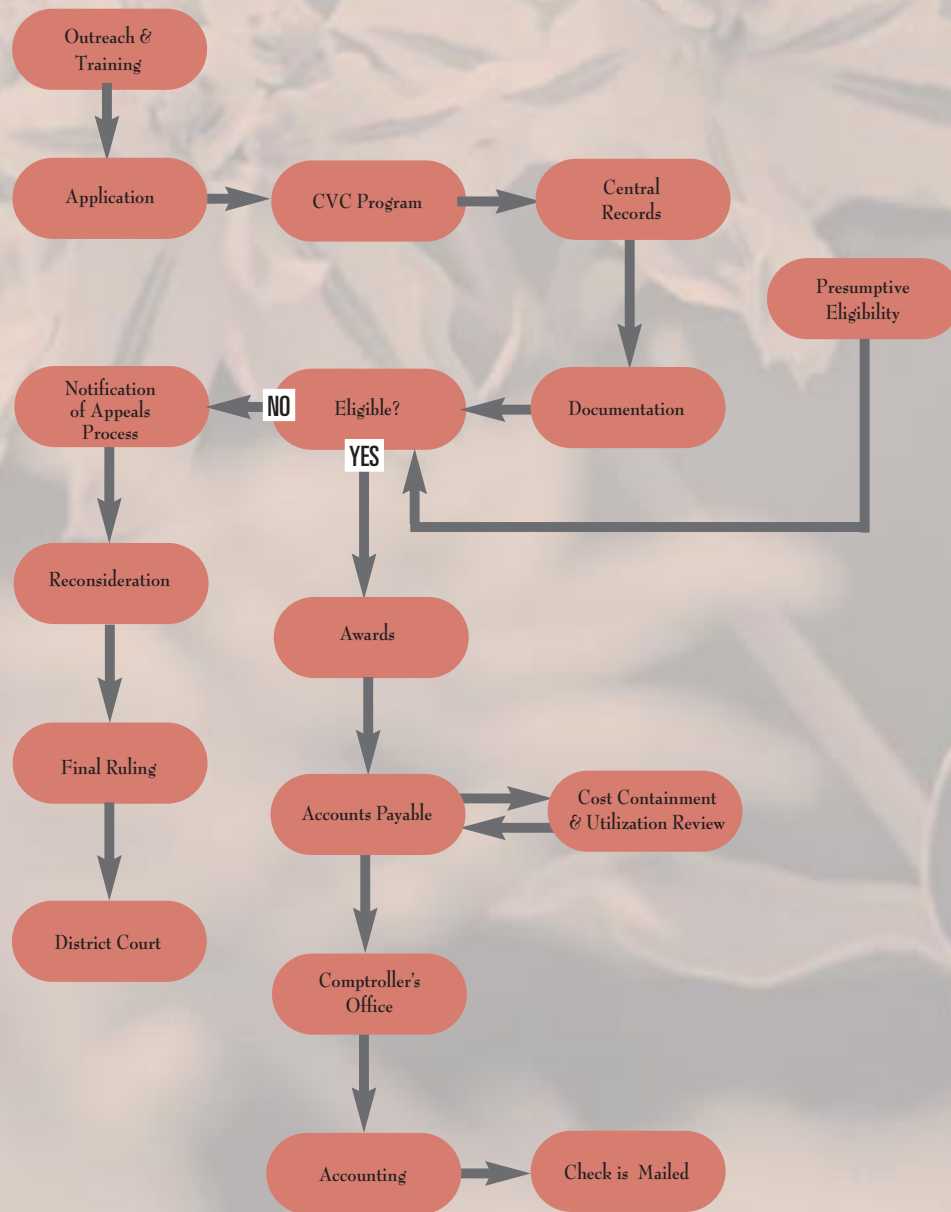
The ELIGIBILITY staff reviews the application, offense report, and any written statements to ensure that guidelines established by statute and administrative rules are met. A primary requirement is that the crime be one in which the victim suffered physical or emotional harm or death as a result of the criminal offense. Applicants must also meet residency, reporting, and filing requirements and cooperate with authorities in the investigation and prosecution of the case. Applications are reviewed to ensure that the victim's behavior did not contribute to the crime.

The AWARDS staff reviews the documentation of losses provided by eligible victims and claimants and determines whether the expenses qualify for compensation. This analysis is based on the type of crime, the nature of the injuries, and general medical standards of treatment. Case managers consult with victims and claimants to determine the best allocation of available funds.

All expenses approved for payment are sent to the ACCOUNTING section for processing, where deductions are made for collateral sources, and the checks are requested from the State Comptroller's Office and mailed.

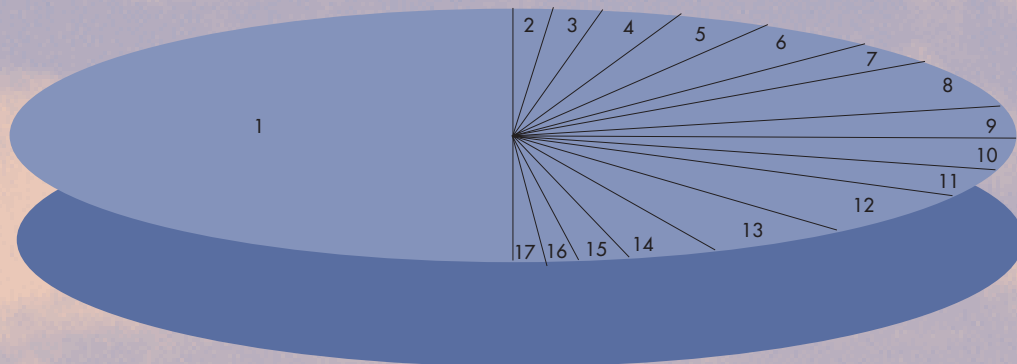
If an application or benefit is denied, the victim or claimant is given a written explanation and instructions on how to exercise the right to APPEAL. The first step in the appeal process is reconsideration, where victims and claimants are to submit any additional information they feel is relevant to their claim for compensation. If a victim or claimant is still dissatisfied with the decision, the second step in the process is the final ruling hearing, which can be followed by an appeal in district court.

How the Process Works

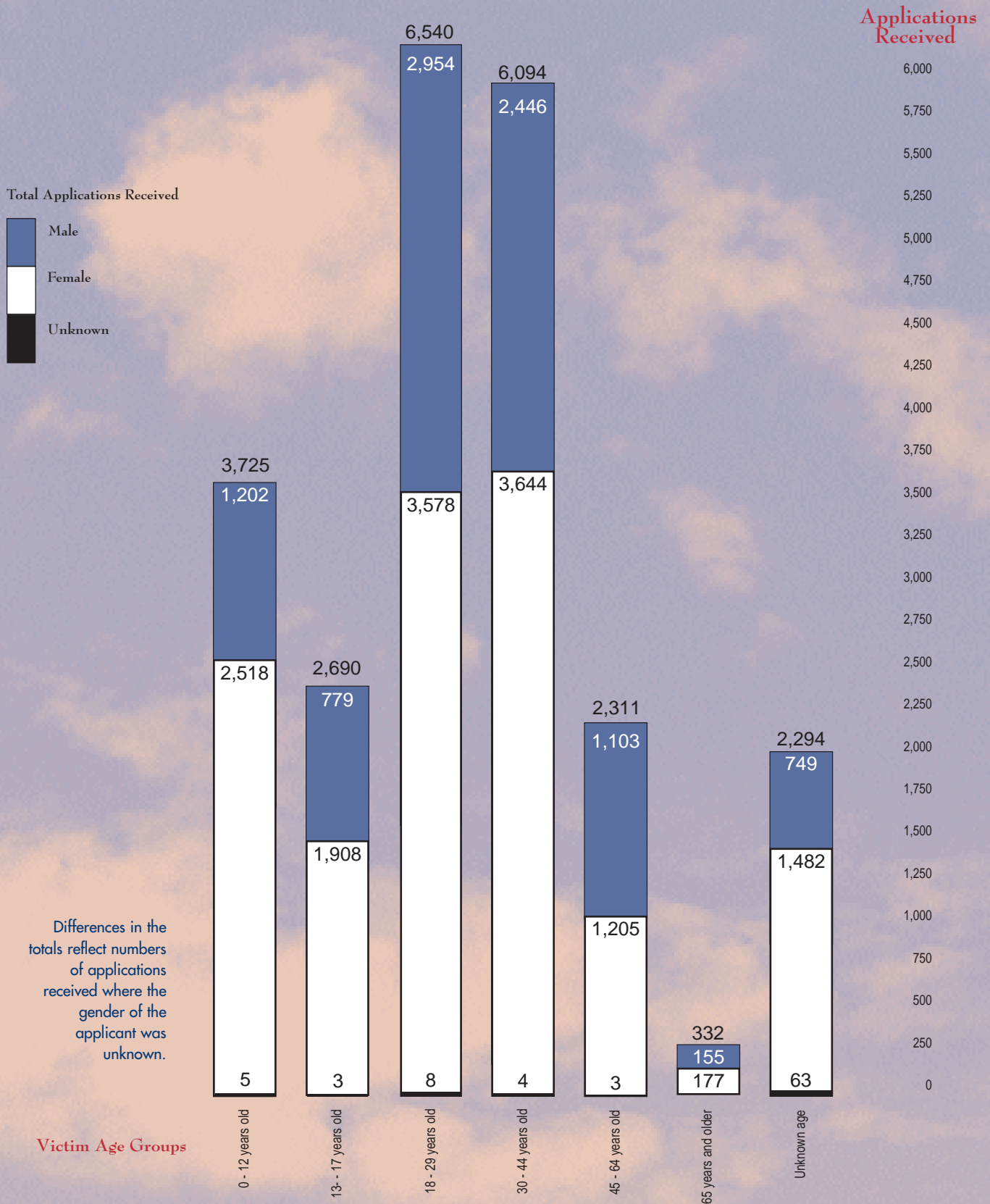


Applications by Type of Crime

	Number of Applications Received	Percentage of Total Applications Received
1 Aggravated Assault/Assault	10,940	45.61%
2 Sexual Abuse of a Child	4,932	20.56%
3 Homicide	1,123	4.68%
4 Aggravated Sexual Assault/Sexual	1,298	5.41%
5 Aggravated Robbery/Robbery	895	3.73%
6 Conduct not Covered by Statute	1,166	4.86%
Other		
7 Driving While Intoxicated	989	4.12%
8 Failure to Stop & Render Aid	513	2.14%
9 Physical Abuse of a Child	492	2.05%
10 Manslaughter	145	0.60%
11 Vehicular Assault	176	0.73%
12 Stalking/Harassment	155	0.65%
13 Kidnapping	79	0.33%
14 Criminally Negligent Homicide	54	0.23%
15 Arson	31	0.13%
16 Physical Abuse of Elder Person	58	0.24%
17 Insufficient Crime Information	940	3.92%
TOTAL	23,986	100.00%

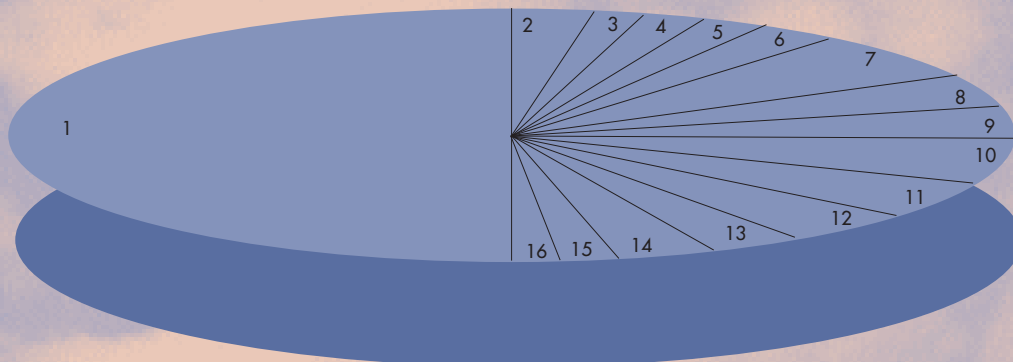


Application Summary by Age & Sex



Award Summary by Type of Crime

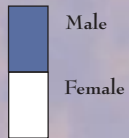
	Number of Applications Awarded	\$ Amount Awarded	% of Total
1 Aggravated Assault/Assault	4,887	\$22,764,382	54.49%
2 Homicide	1,102	5,557,046	13.30%
3 Aggravated Robbery/Robbery	544	2,596,480	6.21%
4 Driving While Intoxicated	407	2,670,008	06.39%
5 Failure to Stop & Render Aid	378	2,447,910	05.86%
6 Sexual Abuse of a Child	1,531	2,439,402	05.84%
7 Sexual Assault	452	706,214	1.69%
8 Manslaughter (Auto only)	129	801,886	1.92%
9 Vehicular Assault	61	454,548	1.09%
10 Other	66	273,787	0.66%
11 Physical Abuse of a Child	121	343,424	0.82%
12 Criminally Negligent Homicide	38	259,194	0.62%
13 Arson	7	35,692	0.09%
14 Kidnapping	65	152,584	0.37%
15 Stalking/Harrasment	53	233,556	0.56%
16 Physical Abuse of an Elder Person	20	44,770	0.11%
TOTAL	9,851	\$41,780,883	100.00%



Award Summary by Age & Sex

The dollar figure at the top of each bar reflects the total amount awarded in that age group.

Total Applications Awarded



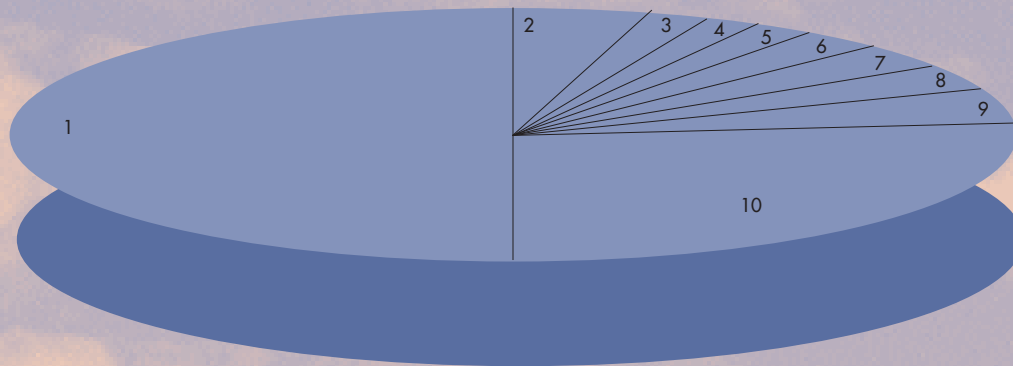
Applications Awarded



Victim Age Groups

Award Summary by Type of Benefit

	Amount of Awards	Percentage of Total Applications Received
1 Hospital Expenses	\$17,603,926	42.13%
2 Loss of Wages	6,246,857	14.95%
3 Loss of Support	3,580,497	8.57%
4 Physician Fees	3,361,729	8.05%
5 Funeral Expenses	3,719,115	8.90%
6 Mental Health Counseling	2,425,153	5.80%
7 Relocation Expenses	1,420,146	3.40%
8 Dental	616,944	1.48%
9 Healthcare Supplies	745,301	1.78%
10 Other		
Physical Therapy	391,001	0.94%
Prescriptions	347,133	0.83%
Child Care	688,825	1.65%
Travel Expenses	255,148	0.61%
Nursing Care	174,085	0.42%
Attorney Fees	49,635	0.12%
Evidence Replacement Costs	13,384	0.03%
Emergency Awards	43,121	0.10%
Crime Scene Clean-up	36,383	0.09%
Judgements	62,500	0.15%
TOTAL	\$41,780,883	100.00%



Training & Victim Assistance Activity

The Training and Victim Assistance Program in the Crime Victim Services Division continued providing training and outreach to law enforcement and prosecutor-based victim assistance liaisons and coordinators to uphold the law on providing the victims rights to information and assistance with Crime Victims' Compensation. Training on crime victims' rights, victimology, and CVC was also provided to advocates statewide. Additionally, direct service to victims was provided by the OAG Victim Assistance Coordinator who assisted victim families of convicted offenders facing death row.

Highlights in this year's efforts included two Strengthening Victim Services conferences in Beaumont and Austin, and two regional conferences sponsored by the Panhandle and West Texas coordinators. In addition to co-sponsorship of Crime Victims' Rights Week activities, a new training initiative called Presumptive Eligibility was introduced. This process is designed to speed processing and expedite payments to victims. Additional training curriculums were developed for an in-house Call Center and orientation for new division employees. Training and outreach at conferences from Houston to Lubbock, El Paso to Dallas/Ft. Worth were a continuing way of reaching those who need our information. We provided training to more than 2,800 advocates and reached more than 55,000 victims, victim families, and advocates through those efforts. It was a year of change and reorganization that has resulted in partnerships with advocates around the state.

Victim Assistance Coordinator & CVC Ombudsman

The OAG's Victim Assistance Coordinator (VAC) assists victims whose case is being handled by our office. During the past year, the VAC assisted victims and family members with trial proceedings, plea agreements, post conviction proceedings (especially in death penalty cases), and executions. The VAC ensures that these victims are notified of their rights and assists with Victim Impact Statements and Crime Victims' Compensation.

The Crime Victims' Compensation Ombudsman is a new position created to provide victims and advocates a point of contact when they have special issues with a CVC claim or concerns about the process. So far, many people have accessed the Ombudsman to discuss cases, points of contention with the program as well as CVC process questions.

Activity Summary by County

RECEIVED is the number of applications received from victims of crimes occurring in that county.

APPROVED is the number of applications eligible for an award.

DENIED is the number of applications that were denied for cause.

CONTRIBUTED is the amount each county collected and paid into the Fund from court costs assessed on crimes committed in that county.

PAID is the amount of Crime Victims' Compensation paid on behalf of people who were victimized in that county.

The tables on the following pages show Crime Victims' Compensation activity by county. The numbers listed for each county reflect applications and court costs received and awards made during Fiscal Year 2001. The total number of applications approved and denied may not equal the number in the received column, because a decision may not have been made yet on applications received at the end of the fiscal year.

COUNTY	RCVD	APPROVED	DENIED	CONTRIBUTED	PAID
No County	583	0	8		
Out of State	126	41	42		\$192,748.62
Anderson	36	32	16	\$137,204.24	\$46,135.26
Andrews	8	6	1	\$49,182.74	\$6,106.10
Angelina	67	42	12	\$253,695.01	\$60,101.22
Aransas	8	5	5	\$68,135.00	\$9,399.59
Archer	0	3	0	\$28,441.80	\$1,910.26
Armstrong	0	0	1	\$44,886.49	\$575.00
Atascosa	36	26	6	\$148,320.46	\$34,629.20
Austin	5	3	2	\$182,149.81	\$6,969.52
Bailey	4	1	0	\$24,161.91	\$0
Bandera	8	7	2	\$27,178.50	\$14,507.89
Bastrop	56	35	4	\$142,871.04	\$79,006.17
Baylor	1	1	0	\$18,199.63	\$0
Bee	33	12	7	\$95,488.07	\$3,694.99
Bell	382	276	48	\$821,748.59	\$714,202.69
Bexar	2428	1334	687	\$3,183,096.99	\$2,746,635.63
Blanco	12	6	0	\$22,566.51	\$5,944.31
Borden	0	0	0	\$1,120.50	\$989.59
Bosque	12	8	0	\$49,081.13	\$26,910.33
Bowie	76	59	1	\$256,307.74	\$151,636.72
Brazoria	222	180	22	\$872,278.84	\$224,249.91
Brazos	168	115	19	\$789,785.38	\$127,609.47
Brewster	9	3	1	\$23,313.21	\$0
Briscoe	0	1	0	\$13,084.60	\$27,128.10
Brooks	7	6	1	\$84,311.40	\$77,837.20
Brown	26	24	6	\$134,085.23	\$66,017.40
Burleson	11	6	0	\$66,747.56	\$23,275.91
Burnet	48	36	5	\$142,038.31	\$96,050.31
Caldwell	26	17	3	\$138,513.80	\$23,110.22
Calhoun	18	19	0	\$76,161.52	\$46,763.94
Callahan	1	2	1	\$90,444.42	\$14,702.66
Cameron	480	271	66	\$1,145,703.10	\$395,125.17

COUNTY	RCVD	APPROVED	DENIED	CONTRIBUTED	PAID
Camp	16	7	0	\$29,394.74	\$36,950.63
Carson	5	3	1	\$60,634.20	\$4,804.46
Cass	21	12	0	\$93,989.96	\$108,144.35
Castro	3	1	1	\$36,156.41	\$5,546.73
Chambers	20	17	2	\$136,750.61	\$23,247.16
Cherokee	33	25	3	\$166,567.71	\$102,502.76
Childress	6	4	0	\$93,815.66	\$0
Clay	0	1	0	\$36,463.01	\$8,541.90
Cochran	0	0	1	\$5,285.37	\$3,563.13
Coke	1	1	0	\$13,106.14	\$1,881.21
Coleman	2	1	1	\$23,426.58	\$0
Collin	215	149	28	\$1,602,669.65	\$376,431.55
Collingsworth	2	2	1	\$13,104.46	\$1,083.10
Colorado	6	7	1	\$108,331.60	\$13,515.01
Comal	63	43	15	\$339,936.69	\$94,025.69
Comanche	12	8	1	\$34,841.53	\$13,258.98
Concho	2	0	0	\$37,386.39	\$3,159.35
Cooke	13	10	0	\$143,094.05	\$13,341.91
Coryell	59	43	2	\$230,944.56	\$79,653.05
Cottle	1	1	0	\$6,926.46	\$4,500.00
Crane	6	4	0	\$21,072.36	\$1,910.72
Crockett	2	2	0	\$64,908.68	\$0
Crosby	5	4	0	\$25,670.49	\$5,653.73
Culberson	0	3	1	\$63,930.19	\$127.20
Dallam	5	3	2	\$36,173.74	\$24,721.95
Dallas	2663	1878	495	\$8,498,297.75	\$7,612,231.99
Dawson	31	15	5	\$47,790.89	\$15,365.33
Deaf Smith	28	19	9	\$96,345.63	\$22,465.26
Delta	2	1	0	\$12,465.15	\$1,900.00
Denton	240	153	39	\$1,420,357.93	\$352,542.10
Dewitt	11	11	1	\$63,842.95	\$3,404.19
Dickens	1	0	0	\$15,540.08	\$0
Dimmit	5	3	0	\$13,787.10	\$5,830.75
Donley	4	1	1	\$46,087.80	\$0
Duval	24	16	3	\$59,251.50	\$86,085.84
Eastland	14	5	3	\$129,886.52	\$13,285.33
Ector	148	90	15	\$521,173.13	\$197,869.05
Edwards	0	0	0	\$11,134.61	\$0
Ellis	81	49	9	\$485,625.32	\$80,709.34
El Paso	1365	938	237	\$2,660,822.18	\$1,470,981.26
Erath	25	20	3	\$96,768.12	\$45,400.26
Falls	25	15	0	\$81,338.40	\$18,775.62
Fannin	60	43	6	\$92,949.67	\$103,176.76
Fayette	7	4	0	\$203,286.94	\$7,474.60
Fisher	2	2	0	\$12,709.80	\$413.50
Floyd	3	3	0	\$19,217.96	\$9,688.42
Foard	5	1	2	\$4,806.48	\$4,500.00
Fort Bend	244	195	26	\$870,864.69	\$332,653.85
Franklin	9	4	0	\$28,725.19	\$118,714.51
Freestone	16	15	1	\$122,883.14	\$37,607.92
Frio	28	16	1	\$133,244.07	\$28,234.89
Gaines	6	3	1	\$66,408.90	\$31,032.66
Galveston	296	183	50	\$1,018,181.97	\$475,518.87
Garza	7	12	0	\$48,433.59	\$17,382.60
Gillespie	9	6	1	\$79,259.24	\$1,285.58
Glasscock	0	0	0	\$4,635.00	\$0

COUNTY	RCVD	APPROVED	DENIED	CONTRIBUTED	PAID
Goliad	1	2	0	\$37,008.97	\$150.00
Gonzales	16	21	1	\$80,016.07	\$67,545.77
Gray	38	28	6	\$86,749.65	\$103,815.93
Grayson	105	98	19	\$348,825.95	\$248,686.50
Gregg	130	79	20	\$411,163.94	\$344,344.16
Grimes	8	10	2	\$91,378.90	\$30,249.50
Guadalupe	94	72	9	\$386,475.36	\$119,034.53
Hale	23	17	2	\$137,278.69	\$36,785.83
Hall	2	0	0	\$85,794.56	\$2,148.00
Hamilton	3	5	1	\$16,751.95	\$24,036.10
Hansford	4	1	0	\$14,068.17	\$11,960.67
Hardeman	2	2	0	\$60,442.48	\$0
Hardin	144	98	22	\$179,688.27	\$82,466.61
Harris	3448	2380	561	\$11,497,552.20	\$8,146,626.21
Harrison	58	34	2	\$228,789.01	\$113,709.99
Hartley	1	4	0	\$31,233.42	\$19,547.15
Haskell	3	6	0	\$24,564.32	\$2,823.59
Hays	101	65	11	\$439,511.51	\$89,855.74
Hemphill	5	3	1	\$16,502.75	\$8,800.85
Henderson	67	55	5	\$254,419.89	\$221,676.79
Hidalgo	290	162	50	\$1,532,714.71	\$445,672.09
Hill	23	19	3	\$121,337.47	\$62,022.86
Hockley	8	7	0	\$95,688.65	\$40,927.53
Hood	46	32	9	\$152,801.07	\$44,526.21
Hopkins	39	30	3	\$101,299.32	\$70,461.71
Houston	15	10	2	\$61,184.09	\$23,477.58
Howard	29	32	8	\$131,493.99	\$42,504.41
Hudspeth	9	2	1	\$37,747.21	\$0
Hunt	32	21	10	\$317,991.34	\$80,383.87
Hutchison	16	8	2	\$71,498.67	\$3,603.40
Irion	3	2	0	\$16,224.21	\$0
Jack	4	2	0	\$56,008.31	\$1,145.88
Jackson	5	3	0	\$98,418.53	\$3,399.00
Jasper	28	14	4	\$142,819.80	\$33,176.50
Jeff Davis	1	0	0	\$6,223.46	\$48.00
Jefferson	397	237	62	\$907,439.94	\$656,041.66
Jim Hogg	2	1	1	\$28,499.62	\$0
Jim Wells	46	34	2	\$150,602.95	\$155,678.79
Johnson	110	63	11	\$383,469.51	\$114,248.94
Jones	13	13	1	\$41,949.27	\$15,152.51
Karnes	8	2	0	\$52,834.70	\$24,152.32
Kaufman	56	22	16	\$280,459.03	\$116,045.86
Kendall	8	5	0	\$104,280.19	\$42,845.20
Kenedy	1	1	0	\$36,643.59	\$125.00
Kent	0	0	0	\$1,210.20	\$0
Kerr	22	13	2	\$126,789.99	\$36,423.05
Kimble	3	1	2	\$111,442.54	\$0
King	0	0	0	\$5,409.56	\$0
Kinney	1	0	1	\$54,186.52	\$0
Kleberg	15	10	5	\$224,462.59	\$69,670.27
Knox	2	1	0	\$12,316.00	\$0
Lamar	29	25	4	\$154,997.76	\$58,671.94
Lamb	22	14	1	\$40,857.42	\$57,537.37
Lampasas	10	13	1	\$71,535.64	\$9,097.65
La Salle	2	1	1	\$50,674.25	\$14,583.43
Lavaca	9	8	0	\$55,371.09	\$1,221.23

COUNTY	RCVD	APPROVED	DENIED	CONTRIBUTED	PAID
Lee	9	5	0	\$84,120.16	\$5,633.70
Leon	7	6	1	\$72,659.48	\$8,857.27
Liberty	53	32	2	\$142,955.78	\$144,874.53
Limestone	16	14	5	\$46,502.08	\$31,028.47
Lipscomb	2	1	0	\$5,830.13	\$153.97
Live Oak	6	5	0	\$155,983.05	\$98,956.18
Llano	18	22	4	\$49,641.93	\$19,012.02
Loving	1	1	0	\$324.00	\$48,187.20
Lubbock	253	183	34	\$1,005,455.54	\$455,089.22
Lynn	18	11	11	\$46,848.97	\$7,720.80
Madison	9	8	2	\$63,264.69	\$14,720.42
Marion	15	4	1	\$35,059.50	\$6,414.57
Martin	14	1	0	\$44,261.99	\$0
Mason	2	2	0	\$12,690.05	\$1,493.56
Matagorda	43	30	4	\$112,313.80	\$76,218.02
Maverick	13	12	2	\$129,529.68	\$24,361.11
McCulloch	2	5	0	\$38,389.17	\$2,356.21
McLennan	213	174	44	\$808,177.69	\$442,689.42
McMullen	0	0	0	\$3,033.00	\$0
Medina	29	20	5	\$221,984.91	\$30,453.56
Menard	0	0	0	\$29,461.50	\$0
Midland	84	48	10	\$386,854.33	\$86,326.81
Milam	23	16	1	\$72,437.02	\$63,211.63
Mills	0	0	2	\$22,537.79	\$0.00
Mitchell	11	6	1	\$52,315.68	\$2,919.74
Montague	8	5	0	\$101,293.20	\$13,815.11
Montgomery	217	169	29	\$935,766.74	\$424,303.75
Mooore	23	15	3	\$89,431.72	\$23,184.67
Morris	19	11	0	\$36,037.17	\$6,887.60
Motley	0	0	0	\$5,805.00	\$0
Nacogdoches	21	15	5	\$206,150.59	\$105,825.93
Navarro	17	9	3	\$225,307.80	\$42,396.50
Newton	18	9	1	\$40,497.20	\$9,176.37
Nolan	21	12	2	\$68,078.29	\$25,657.33
Nueces	543	384	96	\$907,159.29	\$1,009,632.73
Ochiltree	4	3	0	\$32,116.96	\$0
Oldham	1	2	0	\$36,636.03	\$5,871.18
Orange	77	41	8	\$287,429.98	\$82,834.38
Palo Pinto	25	18	2	\$108,814.13	\$37,348.85
Panola	14	10	0	\$73,406.13	\$10,910.39
Parker	69	39	6	\$325,200.11	\$70,135.70
Parmer	4	3	0	\$97,791.89	\$8,664.20
Pecos	11	10	0	\$114,511.79	\$23,679.62
Polk	14	6	1	\$118,830.46	\$40,656.11
Potter	522	426	73	\$653,173.55	\$776,790.24
Presidio	6	7	0	\$55,696.54	\$0
Rains	13	10	2	\$30,118.69	\$26,202.09
Randall	36	34	3	\$187,909.96	\$54,750.44
Reagan	4	3	1	\$13,810.06	\$375.00
Real	5	2	2	\$10,476.00	\$0
Red River	8	6	0	\$27,708.53	\$3,154.00
Reeves	15	16	0	\$67,421.04	\$25,701.61
Refugio	3	1	1	\$76,810.71	\$6,340.96
Roberts	1	0	0	\$7,099.00	\$0
Robertson	13	7	1	\$102,504.14	\$25,809.53
Rockwall	11	4	0	\$194,022.16	\$7,903.82
Runnels	5	5	1	\$32,232.62	\$4,906.97

COUNTY	RCVD	APPROVED	DENIED	CONTRIBUTED	PAID
Rusk	32	27	4	\$154,652.15	\$79,201.56
Sabine	6	0	1	\$29,471.19	
San Augustine	1	0	0	\$24,886.15	\$25,000.00
San Jacinto	21	18	3	\$60,798.17	\$51,784.10
San Patricio	60	38	9	\$271,842.31	\$140,343.91
San Saba	5	4	0	\$11,337.90	\$17,773.65
Schleicher	0	0	0	\$32,056.05	\$0
Scurry	13	11	3	\$122,756.53	\$16,187.84
Shackelford	0	1	0	\$17,334.58	\$680.00
Shelby	11	9	2	\$116,028.06	\$22,003.19
Sherman	3	2	0	\$14,376.71	\$4,654.76
Smith	160	119	15	\$828,762.22	\$368,586.82
Somervell	5	3	0	\$21,892.41	\$28,854.13
Starr	52	34	14	\$68,476.53	\$67,604.65
Stephens	3	1	1	\$28,147.51	\$1,118.00
Sterling	0	0	0	\$36,364.70	\$0
Stonewall	0	0	0	\$7,609.50	\$0
Sutton	1	2	0	\$99,756.60	\$0
Swisher	12	6	0	\$54,944.62	\$0
Tarrant	2114	1398	325	\$5,924,907.12	\$3,509,041.53
Taylor	99	70	12	\$357,931.31	\$189,646.63
Terrell	1	0	0	\$3,121.20	\$8,432.14
Terry	12	10	1	\$101,259.12	\$28,753.07
Throckmorton	1	1	0	\$12,150.00	\$3,324.05
Titus	23	19	3	\$145,336.27	\$17,928.92
Tom Green	128	77	13	\$447,557.97	\$87,450.26
Travis	1186	802	170	\$2,991,607.55	\$1,999,024.56
Trinity	9	1	1	\$31,323.81	\$17,607.60
Tyler	9	7	1	\$45,748.85	\$37,319.73
Upshur	23	15	1	\$93,874.92	\$21,865.48
Upton	0	1	0	\$16,516.84	\$0
Uvalde	22	16	4	\$76,345.91	\$31,487.30
Val Verde	27	19	9	\$135,928.84	\$88,139.98
Van Zandt	51	38	7	\$164,005.34	\$110,180.90
Victoria	83	55	14	\$254,425.01	\$151,355.42
Walker	33	18	6	\$205,396.49	\$71,959.26
Waller	21	14	5	\$194,966.64	\$35,960.72
Ward	11	6	1	\$93,343.20	\$44,196.19
Washington	15	12	1	\$144,751.79	\$12,971.92
Webb	316	174	59	\$531,067.13	\$155,051.27
Wharton	56	48	10	\$152,948.97	\$78,857.97
Wheeler	4	1	0	\$50,071.82	\$4,339.75
Wichita	119	66	20	\$300,359.90	\$211,439.69
Wilbarger	8	3	2	\$52,554.74	\$193.47
Willacy	16	9	1	\$33,980.54	\$6,642.03
Williamson	148	85	16	\$728,724.51	\$265,350.05
Wilson	19	8	4	\$100,804.35	\$7,430.77
Winkler	8	4	1	\$18,632.37	\$700.00
Wise	33	24	6	\$279,446.45	\$105,069.18
Wood	43	34	5	\$125,332.78	\$43,895.87
Yoakum	4	1	0	\$39,194.10	\$2,005.38
Young	10	9	0	\$78,537.99	\$15,005.85
Zapata	35	14	0	\$28,966.50	\$5,321.27
Zavala	13	6	1	\$32,143.50	\$3,372.33
State of Texas	1	0	0	\$0	\$0
Total	23986	15645	3918	\$74,694,742.84	\$41,780,883.25

1925 - 2000

Nell Myers

*Deep in the Heart
of this Texan*

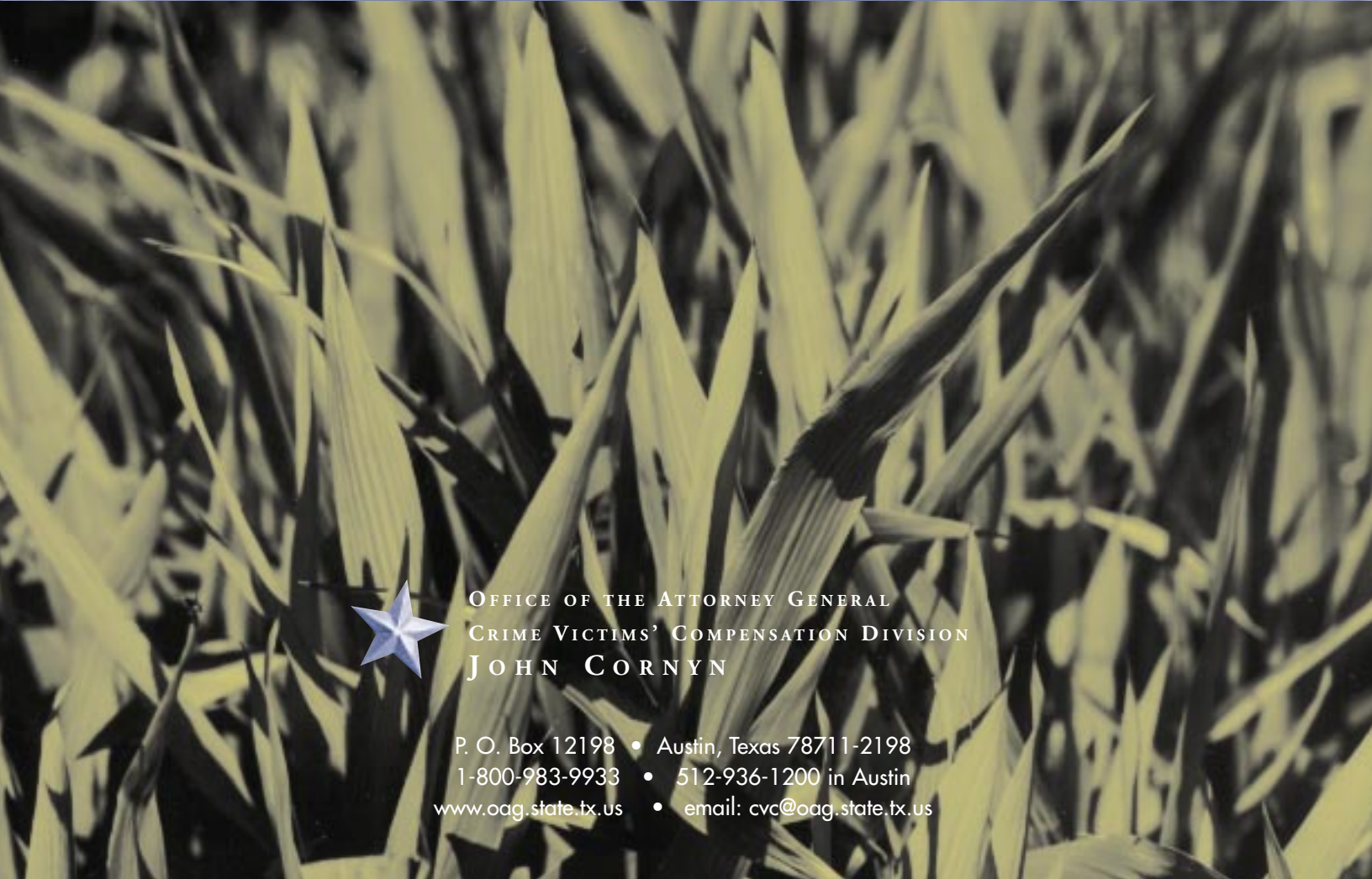
This page recognizes and acknowledges Nell Myers' commitment and determination, particularly her committed assistance in establishing and preserving the Crime Victims' Compensation Fund. In the year since she passed away, many powerful articles have been written, numerous accolades have been given, and awards have been presented to Nell's family, and those were well earned and deserved. This is about a strong woman who was able to laugh at herself when mistakes were made and make decisions instantly, right or wrong. Nell was a wonderful friend. But she could also be a formidable opponent.

The dictionary defines commitment as an act or course of action that is demanded of one. Nell's initial response to the horrible murder of her daughter, Cydney, on June 26, 1979, was one of understandable rage. As Nell healed, the course of action that was demanded of her during the next 20 years was one that would benefit all victims in Texas. Nell's determination for the rest of her life was that crime victims in Texas would have rights and financial assistance when needed. She was determined that other victims' families would never have to go to a bank and borrow enough money to bury their loved one, as she did, and that they would understand that the offender was not the only person with rights in the criminal justice system.

Nell's dedication was never questioned, and she acquired a larger-than-life reputation for getting things accomplished. She was known by both victim advocates and the general public as one of the pioneers in the victim's movement. She was also on a first-name basis with the majority of legislators and state and national officials. But if you had asked her about her life, she was quick to say that her family was her main priority, that she sold cosmetics, that she was a pretty fair cook, and that she loved the color red.

In November 1997, an off-year election was held that gave voters an opportunity to approve several constitutional amendments. One of these amendments was to dedicate the Crime Victims' Compensation Fund so that these monies could only be used for direct service to victims and their families. Nell was one of the people who lobbied long and hard for passage of that amendment, and she was ecstatic when it passed by 87 percent of the vote.

Considering that Nell wore a relatively small shoe, she left enormous footprints for the rest of us to try to fill. The course of action that is demanded of us is the same one that was demanded of Nell, to ensure that crime victims in Texas have rights under the Criminal Justice System and financial assistance when they need it.



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
CRIME VICTIMS' COMPENSATION DIVISION
JOHN CORNYN

P. O. Box 12198 • Austin, Texas 78711-2198
1-800-983-9933 • 512-936-1200 in Austin
www.oag.state.tx.us • email: cvc@oag.state.tx.us