

Arizona Criminal Justice Commission



Crime Victim Services

Crime Victim Compensation FY2013 Grant Overview

Our mission is to sustain and enhance the coordination, cohesiveness, productivity and effectiveness of the criminal justice system in Arizona

The Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC) pursuant to A.R.S. § 41-2407, authorizes the distribution of Crime Victim Compensation funds to designated operational units in each county throughout the state. In accordance with Arizona Administrative Code (A.A.C.) R10-4-101 through R10-4-111, Crime Victim Compensation funds are used to provide financial assistance to victims of crime for out-of-pocket expenses incurred as a direct result of the crime. For Fiscal Year (FY) 2013, the Commission designated the 15 county attorneys as the operational units for each county. Operational units are then responsible for making compensation awards to claimants using funding allocated to each county based on a formula approved by the Commission. In FY2013, the Commission awarded the 15 operational units a total of \$4,100,000 in state and federal funding to administer the Crime Victim Compensation Program. Programs received an additional \$464,480.15 in restitution, subrogation, and other revenue available for compensation benefits during FY2013. Throughout the year the operational units spent a total of \$4,189,460.15 with \$411,099.46 being used for administrative costs by the operational units. Operational units are required to track statistical data and report back to ACJC on a quarterly basis. This report summarizes the program activity and expenditure data reported by the 15 operational units during FY2013.

Claims Received by Crime Type and Type of Disposition

If a victimization occurs in Arizona or an Arizona resident is victimized abroad, and has incurred an economic loss as a result of the crime, the victim or surviving family may be eligible for compensation through the Crime Victim Compensation Program. In order to determine eligibility the victim submits an application with the appropriate county program. In Arizona, compensation applications are processed and paid at the county level. Once the application is received, the County Compensation Coordinator gathers all the necessary documents and prepares for a hearing before the County Compensation Board. The County Compensation Board hears all claims and makes all eligibility and payment decisions in compliance with Arizona Administrative Code (A.A.C.) R10-4-101 through R10-4-111.

Table 1: Claims Received by Type of Crime, FY2013

Crime Type	Number of Claims Received	% of Total
Assault	811	49.3%
Homicide	226	13.7%
Child Abuse (Physical and Sexual)	223	13.6%
Sexual Assault (Adults Only)	79	4.8%
Other Vehicular Crimes	61	3.7%
Robbery	51	3.1%
DWI / DUI	29	1.8%
Kidnapping	9	0.5%
Stalking	3	0.2%
Arson	2	0.1%
Terrorism	1	0.1%
Other Crimes	150	9.1%
TOTAL	1,645	100.0%

In FY2013 the Arizona Crime Victim Compensation Program received 1,645 claims (Table 1). Nearly half of the claims received were for those victimized by assault (811 claims). In addition, 226 claims were received for homicide (13.7 percent), 223 claims were received for child abuse (13.6 percent), and 79 were received for sexual assault (4.8 percent). While programs received 1,645 claims, they processed a total 1,694 claims in FY2013. Some of these claims may have been received in FY2012, but not processed until FY2013. Of the 1,694 claims processed, over 80 percent of claims were approved (1,360 claims). A smaller percentage were denied (261, 15.4 percent) and 73 claims were not processed (Table 2). Claims may be denied for various reasons including absence of a crime under state or federal law, the victim contributed substantially to their own victimization, failed to report the crime, or did not cooperate with law enforcement. A claim is considered as not processed if the victim withdraws the application or if the application is grossly incomplete, preventing any further processing of the application.

Table 2: Number of Claims by Type of Disposition, FY2013

Disposition	Number of Claims	% of Total
Approved	1,360	80.3%
Denied	261	15.4%
Not Processed	73	4.3%
TOTAL	1,694	100.0%

Amount Paid by Crime and Benefit Category

During the course of FY2013, the Arizona Crime Victim Compensation Program paid a total of \$3,778,360.69 in benefits to victims or providers on behalf of victims (Table 3). As the highest number of claims was received for assault victims, assault victims also received the highest amount of payouts receiving \$2,251,873.89. Claims submitted due to a homicide received \$672,913.29, victims of vehicular crimes other than DWI/DUI received \$226,857.89, and victims of child abuse received \$189,590.34. A total of \$706,722.52 was paid to victims for domestic violence related crime.

Compensation payments can be awarded in six different benefit categories: medical, funeral, mental health, work loss, transportation costs, and crime scene cleanup. Beginning in February of 2013, changes in the rules allowed victims to receive a maximum compensation award of \$25,000 per claim for eligible expenses. Specific categories also have the following sub-category maximums: \$10,000 maximum for funeral expenses, \$5,000 maximum for mental health expenses, \$1,500 maximum for transportation costs, and \$2,000 maximum for crime scene cleanup.

Medical expenses were the largest expense category paid by the Arizona Crime Victim Compensation in FY2013, paying a total of \$2,498,995.69 or 66.1 percent of the total amount paid (Table 4). Following awards for medical expenses, a total of \$501,469.17 was paid for funeral expenses; \$379,342.71 was paid for mental health expenses; \$367,649.82 was paid for work loss; \$28,485.09 was paid for transportation expenses; and \$2,718.21 was paid for crime scene clean up expenses.

Type of Transportation Costs

In February of 2013, changes in the compensation program rules created a separate category for transportation expenses and expanded the category to include reimbursement of travel expenses to court hearings, forensic exams, and relocation costs because of a substantiated safety threat. Transportation costs were already available to attend mental health appointments and medical appointments, and had previously been tracked as expenditures in the related benefit categories. From February 4, 2013 to June 30, 2013, the Arizona Crime Victim Compensation Program awarded a total of \$28,485.09 for transportation related expenses (Table 5). The majority was spent to reimburse transportation expenses to mental health appointments (\$20,199.63). An additional \$4,199.74 was awarded to reimburse expenses to attend court hearings related to the victimization and \$3,585.67 was awarded to reimburse expenses to attend medical appointments. Because transportation expenses associated with forensic exams and relocation costs were new benefits in FY2013, few awards were made for these categories.

Crime Type	Total Paid	% of Total
Assault	\$2,251,873.89	59.6%
Homicide	\$672,913.29	17.8%
Other Vehicular Crimes	\$226,857.89	6.0%
Child Abuse	\$189,590.34	5.0%
Sexual Assault	\$125,920.62	3.3%
Robbery	\$117,982.91	3.1%
DWI / DUI	\$70,263.67	1.9%
Kidnapping	\$20,939.43	0.6%
Arson	\$3,650.00	0.1%
Stalking	\$1,938.32	0.1%
Terrorism	\$0.00	0.0%
Other Crimes	\$96,430.33	2.6%
TOTAL	\$ 3,778,360.69	100.0%

Benefit Category	Total Paid	% of Total
Medical	\$2,498,995.69	66.1%
Funeral	\$501,469.17	13.3%
Mental Health	\$379,342.71	10.0%
Work Loss	\$367,349.82	9.7%
Transportation	\$28,485.09	0.8%
Crime Scene Cleanup	\$2,718.21	0.1%
TOTAL	\$3,778,360.69	100.0%

Transportation Cost Type*	Total Paid	% of Total
Mental Health Appointment	\$20,199.63	70.9%
Court Hearing	\$4,199.74	14.7%
Medical Appointment	\$3,585.67	12.6%
Forensic Exam	\$296.47	1.0%
Safety Threat	\$203.58	0.7%
TOTAL	\$28,485.09	100.0%

*Since 2/4/13

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