

History of Crime Victim Services Division Programs

For a more complete history of CVSD programs, see the latest Crime Victim Services Division Annual Report

1979

January 1, 1980 - The Texas Crime Victims' Compensation Act established the Compensation to Victims of Crime Fund (CVC Fund) and the Crime Victims' Compensation (CVC) Program to compensate victims of violent crime for their crime-related losses. Revenues for the CVC Fund came from court costs assessed on felonies and certain misdemeanors.

1984

October 12, 1984 - The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) was signed into federal law.

1985

The Legislature extended the collection of Class C misdemeanor court costs to include all traffic violations except those relating to parking or pedestrians.

1986

The CVC Fund received the first VOCA grant totaling \$1.47 million.

1987

The need for financial stress as a requirement to receive compensation was removed.

1990

After only ten years of the program's existence, the number of CVC applications received had increased from 1,060 in 1980 to 10,273 in 1990.

1991

September 1, 1991 - Administrative authority of the CVC program was transferred to the Office of the Attorney General (OAG).

1993

August 30, 1993 - Several fees which were deposited towards the CVC Fund were changed, and money received from gifts, grants, and donations could now be deposited into the CVC Fund.

1995

The maximum award on a CVC application for catastrophic injuries was increased from \$25,000 to \$50,000.

1997

In 1997, the Fund became a constitutionally-dedicated account that can be used only for the purpose of providing victim-related compensation or assistance. Also, the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure was amended to authorize the appropriation of monies from the CVC Fund for grants and contracts supporting victim-related services or assistance. That same Legislature appropriated dollars for the first such grants and contracts supporting victim-related services or assistance.

The maximum award on a CVC application increased from \$25,000 to \$50,000 and the maximum on catastrophic cases increased from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

2001

CVC began to provide reimbursements to law enforcement agencies for forensic sexual assault exams. Disabled Peace Officer benefits –an additional \$200,000 – was added to the CVCA, and the maximum award on a CVC application for catastrophic injuries increased from \$100,000 to \$125,000.

2007

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice was required to contract with a private vendor to provide pay telephone services to inmates. From that service, the CVC Fund receives the first \$10 million in revenue and 50 percent of revenue beyond \$10 million.

A \$5 fee was placed on patrons of sexually oriented businesses, of which, up to \$25 million in revenue per biennium would be transferred into the Sexual Assault Program Fund to be used for awarding grants to sexual assault programs and rape crisis centers across the state.

2008

June 1, 2008 - The OAG established the Address Confidentiality Program to provide a substitute post office box with mail forwarding for victims of family violence, stalking, and sexual assault.

2009

The Legislature authorized the OAG to transfer up to 50 percent of any remaining money more than \$5 million into the CVC Fund to be used for compensation payments.

Adult victims of sexual assault who had not filed a police report could obtain a sexual assault exam. CVC began reimbursing the Department of Public Safety for the cost of the exam.

2013

Victims of human trafficking were added to the list of eligible participants in the Address Confidentiality Program.

2015

CVC began to reimburse victims of sexual assault for certain costs associated with the initial visit to a hospital following a sexual assault (e.g. emergency medical care, prescription drugs prescribed during the initial visit, transportation to the hospital) even if those victims choose not to report the crime or are otherwise ineligible for CVC.

2016

The CVC Program increased the amount of financial assistance a victim of violent crime may receive.

2017

The Legislature temporarily halted the annual transfer of excess funds from the Compensation to Victims of Crime Auxiliary Fund to the CVC Fund for the 2018-2019 biennium. Pending future legislation, the transfer will resume beginning again in September 2019.