

Crime Victims' Reparations (CVR)

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated 4-5-2023

Q: What is the Crime Victim's Reparations Program?

A: The CVR program assists eligible victims of crime who suffer bodily harm and have incurred a financial loss as a direct result of a criminal act.

Q: Who is eligible?

- A: An innocent victim who suffers bodily injury from a crime.
 - A dependent or legal representative of an innocent victim who has been killed as a result of a crime.
 - A parent or guardian who is responsible for medical expenses of a minor.
 - A person who is injured while aiding a crime victim or assisting a police officer.

Q: Who is not eligible?

- **A:** Anyone injured in a motor vehicle accident, unless the injury was intentionally inflicted by the operator of the motor vehicle or the offender was charged with D.U.I.
 - Anyone whose conduct contributed to his or her injuries.
 - Anyone who aided and abetted the offender in the commission of an unlawful act.
 - Anyone who is injured or killed while violating a law.

Q: What may be paid?

- **A:** Medical expenses (hospital, doctor, dental, prescriptions, etc.) incurred as a direct result of the crime.
 - Loss of wages while under a doctor's care as a direct result of the crime.
 - Funeral expenses as a direct result of the crime (maximum of \$5,000).
 - Loss of earning power as a direct result of the crime.
 - Counseling expenses as a direct result of the crime (maximum of \$2,000).
 - Maximum award is \$25,000 per incident.
 - Eligible claims are reduced by any insurance, sick leave, workers' compensation, unemployment benefits, etc. received.

Q: What is not covered?

- A: Loss of PROPERTY.
 - Payment for PAIN and SUFFERING.
 - Expenses not directly related to the crime.
 - Expenses paid by a private or group insurance plan, public funds, the offender or other sources.

Q: What must I do to be eligible?

A: You must report the crime to a law enforcement agency within 3 days of the incident.

- Effective August 28, 2021, an application submitted by or for a victim of sexual assault, domestic violence, child abuse, or sex trafficking is not subject to the three-day reporting requirement if prior to submitting the application the applicant/victim has reported such crime to the police, has obtained a protection order related to the incident, or has presented for a forensic medical exam.
- You must file a claim with the CVR program within 2 years of the date of the crime.
- You must cooperate with criminal justice officials in the investigation of the crime and the prosecution of the offender.

Q: What must I do to apply for compensation?

A: Submit a completed compensation form.

- Submit itemized copies of all medical bills relating to the incident.
- If requesting loss of wages, submit:
 - o Copies of 3 payroll stubs covering the period just prior to the incident.
 - o A statement from your employer verifying hours of work missed and hourly wages.
 - A copy of the doctor's release stating the exact day you could return to work.
 - o Submit any other information requested.

Q: How will my claim be considered?

A: After all the required information is received and an investigation is completed, your claim will be presented to a Hearing Officer for a decision.

- A copy of the Hearing Officer's decision will be sent to you.
- If you are dissatisfied with the decision, you have the right to appeal the decision of the Hearing Officer.
- To appeal the decision of the Hearing Officer, the request must be made by phone within seven days of receipt of the Hearing Officer's decision letter, and a follow-up written request must be received within 30 days of notice of the verbal request for Hearing.
- If the CVR Committee upholds the Hearing Officer's decision, you may appeal in district court within 30 days of the CVR Committee's action.

Q: Do I need an attorney to file a claim?

A: <u>No</u>, you do <u>not</u> need an attorney to file a claim. If you do choose to hire an attorney, the Hearing Officer or Crime Victim's Reparations Committee may allow reasonable attorney fees not to exceed 5 percent of any compensation awarded.