



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 18, 2010
Contact: Janice Mackey, (916) 491-3598

JULIE NAUMAN
Executive Officer

State Reaches \$2 Billion Milestone in Helping Victims of Violent Crime

For 45 Years CalVCP Serves as Model for Entire Nation

SACRAMENTO – Today, the Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board (VCGCB) announced that the California Victim Compensation Program (CalVCP) celebrates 45 years of service, marking a significant milestone with \$2billion in compensation payouts to victims of violent crimes.

“This is a significant moment for CalVCP and calls attention to the thousands of victims whose lives were permanently altered by violence,” said Julie Nauman, Executive Officer at the Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board. “Besides paying for the expenditures associated with crime, which often leaves families financially devastated, our program plays an important role in the healing process, allowing many victims to pick up the pieces and move on with their lives in some shape or form.”

Established in 1965 as the California Victims of Crime Program (now CalVCP) the organization was the first of its kind in the United States and third in the world. Superior Court Judge Francis McCarty pushed the California Victims of Crime Program by proposing Senate Bill (SB) 1057 to aid victims of violent crimes. SB 1057 was subsequently authored by Senator McAteer and co-authored by Assemblyman Milias. Edmund “Pat” Brown Sr. was the first Governor to oversee the program which was initially run by the Department of Social Welfare. In the first 12 months, six cases were addressed and \$4,621 was paid out. Today, the program receives around 55,000 applications annually with a maximum benefit amount of \$70,000.

From the start, the goal of the program is to provide reimbursement to victims for certain out of pocket losses sustained as a result of a violent crime. Primary funding for the program was always comprised of monies collected through fines and penalties imposed by judges to persons convicted of crimes in California.

These collections were then matched by Federal grants and incorporated into the Restitution Fund. As victims' rights evolved, so did the program, eventually amending the definition of "injury" to include emotional damages and as a result, expanding coverage for psychological expenses. In the beginning, the program just paid for medical, dental and lost wages. Today it has expanded to include mental health, funeral and relocation coverage.

The program is still going strong and expanding its reach by growing support for and services to crime victims either through legislation or by maintaining partnerships with district attorneys, victim witness centers as well as other stakeholders at both state and local agencies.

For more information, visit www.calvcp.com.

###

About the Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board (VCGCB)

The Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board governs two distinct programs: The California Victim Compensation Program (CalVCP) provides compensation for victims of violent crime who are injured or threatened with injury. The CA Government Claims Program (GCP) helps resolve claims against State agencies and employees for money or damages. For more information on either program, visit www.vcgcb.ca.gov.