

Community Compensation Fund Workgroup Meeting

Co-Chairs: jd Nielsen and Heidi Sadri
March 14, 2024 | 3 PM | Microsoft Teams

This meeting will be recorded.

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Agenda

- 3:00 PM – Welcome, January Recap, Timeline Review
- 3:15 PM – Input from Youth & Service Providers
- 3:30 PM – Program Eligibility Best Practices & Discussion
- 4:15 PM – Next Steps
- 4:30 PM – Conclude



Workgroup Timeline

3/14 Workgroup Meeting	Decide eligibility & expense recommendations
5/9 Workgroup Meeting	Decide application & program administration recommendations
5/14-5/30	Workgroup review of recommendations outline
5/23 Presentation to PCJJ	Workgroup members invited to join presentation for Partnership Council on Juvenile Justice (PCJJ)
5/30	Deadline for feedback on recommendations outline
6/14-6/21	Workgroup review of first full draft
6/21	Deadline for feedback on first full draft
7/11 Workgroup Meeting	Approve final draft
Late July through October	Reviews by PCJJ and DCYF



Input from CHOOSE 180 Youth & Young Adult Advocacy Program

What is unfair about the current system?

- Delay and uncertainty for the person who was harmed to receive restitution. They have urgent needs and suffering and need help.
- It's not fair to either party to put the expense on someone who can't pay it.
- Systemic problems and underinvestment is an issue. The harm and its impact are associated with systemic problems and lack of resources.
- Lack of restoration: "Arresting my classmate makes things harder, not easier, for me. I can't talk to them, learn the context, or work on solutions with them. That could reduce costs for both of us."

If a Community Compensation Program existed, who should tell you about it? Where would you go to find out?

- Government figures (police, judges), online/Google, a community leader or neighborhood organization



If the program doesn't have enough money to distribute to everyone who needs it, how should we prioritize who to give money to?

- Prioritize by impact, urgency, and severity of the harm. Prioritize people with limited finances, physical harm, medical bills, most serious loss/harm, things that diminish quality of life.
- It should be very well-funded so all harm can be covered. It should cover the total dollar amount of the loss.
- There should be an appeal process for people who are initially ineligible.

How could the program ensure that people who apply and their expenses for are eligible?

- Don't ask for a lot of documentation. Paperwork is a barrier.
- Verification is important because it hurts others if people scam the fund. Receipts, medical bills, doctors' notes, incident reports, court documents, paystubs are good ways to verify harm or expenses.
- Undocumented people and noncitizens should be able to access the program.

What should be the main idea/goal that we are keeping in mind when we are designing a program like this?

- Help people: relieve financial burden, make people whole.
- Application should be accessible: Option to call in, options for non-English speakers.
- Well-funded: Should be well-funded so there is enough for everyone who needs it, should be safe from budget cuts.
- The people who run the program should be understanding and care about helping people.

Input from Sexual Assault Service Provider Working Group

- Concern about creating another system where people are told they don't qualify for help.
- Regarding restitution
 - Restitution links the person who caused harm to the person who experienced the harm in a way that isn't present in much of the court process otherwise.
 - Concern about shifting burden on to the person who experienced harm to apply.
 - Unique experiences of sexual assault victims and survivors: usually have personal relationship to person who hurt them, restitution is usually smaller amounts, acknowledges harm.
 - Replacing restitution with a state-funded program is not restorative justice, but neither is burdening youth with debt.
- Challenges with accessing/using existing Crime Victims Compensation
 - Difficult process to navigate even with an advocate's help, hard to follow through
 - Challenges billing/being reimbursed for certain medical expenses



Best Practices & Recommendation Development: Program Eligibility & Expenses

Robert Hamill, Council of State Governments Justice Center



Next Steps

- Extend remaining meetings to 2 hours
- 5/9 meeting:
 - Input from youth at Echo Glen
 - Best practices & recommendation development for program administration



Next Meeting:
Thursday, May 9, 2024 | 3 PM

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