

# Workers' Assistance Bulletin:

## CRIME VICTIMS COMPENSATION

Union members, their families and other workers who suffered losses due to the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center may be eligible for compensation for unreimbursed out of pocket expenses related to this crime from the New York State Crime Victims Board. Governor Pataki issued an Executive Order that removed the limit on the size of emergency financial awards that can be made from the State's Crime Victims Assistance Fund to victims of the attacks on the World Trade Center buildings in New York City.

### Benefits Specific to World Trade Center:

- **Medical Expenses** – no maximum – for all victims who sustain personal injury as a direct result of the crime
- **Counseling** - no maximum - for all victims of or witnesses to the crime – witnesses to the crime include those present at the scene or immediate vicinity who personally witnessed the crime, or the immediate aftermath or recovery workers at the scene. Family members (spouse, grandparents, parents, stepparents, guardians, siblings, stepsiblings, children or stepchildren) of homicide victims and victims who sustained a personal physical injury and their spouses, children or stepchildren.
- **Burial Expenses** – reasonable expenses – no maximum
- **Essential Personal Property** – items of personal property essential to the health, welfare or safety of the victim to a \$500 maximum (of which a maximum of \$100 can be for currency losses) Property losses are limited to victims who sustained a personal physical injury or those over the age of 60 under the age of 18 or disabled, without regard to physical injury.
- **Loss of Earnings or Support** – To a maximum of \$600 weekly and a lifetime maximum of \$30,000.

Loss of earnings is paid to victims who have sustained a personal physical injury as a direct result of the crime and are unable to work due to crime related disability. Loss of support is paid to a surviving spouse, child or person dependent upon a homicide victim for his or her principal support.

The Board can issue emergency awards for any of the above categories of compensation.

Rehabilitative occupational training for the purpose of job retraining or similar employment-oriented rehabilitative services to a victim or a family member of a victim.

The Board cannot compensate for transportation expenses for family members of victims or for housing.