

OFFICE OF WELFARE INSPECTOR GENERAL

MISSION

The Office of Welfare Inspector General was established in 1992 to prevent, investigate, and prosecute public assistance fraud. The agency acts on allegations that welfare recipients are dishonestly receiving benefits for which they are not eligible, or that Medicaid, day care or other providers or administrators of services are accepting payments fraudulently.

In carrying out its responsibilities, the Office works closely with the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, local social services offices, the Office of Children and Family Services, the Department of Health and the Department of Law.

ORGANIZATION AND STAFFING

The Office is headed by the Welfare Inspector General who is appointed for a five year term by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. In addition to the Inspector General, personnel include fraud investigators, legal counsel and administrative support staff. The Welfare Inspector General's statewide operations are administered from New York City, and a field office in Albany.

The Office will have a workforce of 12 for SFY 2000-2001, which is consistent with SFY 1999-2000 staffing levels.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The SFY 2000-2001 General Fund support for the Office of Welfare Inspector General is \$522,000. This represents an increase of \$166,000 compared with SFY 1999-00 levels. The increase is largely due to costs associated with moving to a new location in New York City. Approximately 56 percent of the Office's operations are supported by the General Fund and the remaining 44 percent are supported by funds the agency receives from the Federal government for fraud investigations related to welfare, Food Stamps and Medicaid. The All Funds appropriation for the Office will increase by \$202,000 in SFY 2000-2001, including funding to support scheduled increases in staffing costs.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

In the current year, the number of complaints of alleged fraud and abuse within the welfare system reported to the Office of Welfare Inspector General remained consistently high as the agency continued its aggressive anti-fraud effort. In addition, 1997 Welfare Reform legislation provides effective tools to prevent and prosecute welfare fraud including increased penalties for fraudulent activities, such as applying for welfare benefits in more than one state.

In 1999, the Office received approximately 600 complaints about alleged welfare fraud originating from citizens, government agencies, or the Office's own related investigations. Fraud investigations generate savings for the State, local and Federal governments by uncovering unreported income or inappropriate claiming practices by those who provide day care, employment, health care or other services to welfare recipients. The Office of Welfare Inspector General completes hundreds of new investigations each year which substantiate allegations of some form of fraudulent activity by a member of a household receiving welfare.

In addition to these investigations of individual welfare recipients, the Office completes investigations to uncover patterns of abuse within the welfare system including investigation of internal corruption within social services offices. The Office works with the Department of Law to strengthen welfare fraud prosecution and also acts directly through its prosecutions

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unit. In addition to fraud investigations, the Office's activities include making recommendations to the Department of Family Assistance and county and New York City social services offices so that welfare programs and services are more effectively administered throughout the State.

ALL FUNDS APPROPRIATIONS

<u>Category</u>	<u>Available 1999-00</u>	<u>Appropriations Recommended 2000-01</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Reappropriations Recommended 2000-01</u>
State Operations	\$690,000	\$892,000	+\$202,000	....
Aid To Localities .....	....	....	....	....
Capital Projects .....	....	....	....	....
Total	\$690,000	\$892,000	+\$202,000	....

ALL FUND TYPES LEVELS OF EMPLOYMENT BY PROGRAM ANNUAL SALARIED POSITIONS

<u>Program</u>	<u>Available 1999-00</u>	2000-01 Recommended Average Fill Level			<u>Change</u>
		<u>Personal Service (Regular)</u>	<u>Maintenance Undistributed</u>	<u>Total Recommended 2000-01</u>	
Welfare Inspector General, Office of the General Fund	12	12	....	12	....
Total	12	12	....	12	....

STATE OPERATIONS ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY FUND TYPE APPROPRIATIONS

<u>Fund Type</u>	<u>Available 1999-00</u>	<u>Recommended 2000-01</u>	<u>Change</u>
General Fund	\$356,000	\$522,000	+\$166,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	334,000	370,000	+36,000
Total	\$690,000	\$892,000	+\$202,000

STATE OPERATIONS ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAM APPROPRIATIONS

<u>Program</u>	<u>Available 1999-00</u>	<u>Recommended 2000-01</u>	<u>Change</u>
Welfare Inspector General, Office of the General Fund	\$356,000	\$522,000	+\$166,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	334,000	370,000	+36,000
Total	\$690,000	\$892,000	+\$202,000

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STATE OPERATIONS — GENERAL AND OFFSET FUNDS SUMMARY OF PERSONAL SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES 2000-01 RECOMMENDED

Program	Total Personal Service		Personal Service Regular (Annual Salaried)	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Welfare Inspector General, Office of the	\$688,000	+\$47,000	\$688,000	+\$47,000
Total	<u>\$688,000</u>	<u>+\$47,000</u>	<u>\$688,000</u>	<u>+\$47,000</u>

STATE OPERATIONS — GENERAL AND OFFSET FUNDS SUMMARY OF NONPERSONAL SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE UNDISTRIBUTED APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES 2000-01 RECOMMENDED

Program	Total		Supplies and Materials	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Welfare Inspector General, Office of the	\$204,000	+\$155,000	\$60,000	+\$50,000
Total	<u>\$204,000</u>	<u>+\$155,000</u>	<u>\$60,000</u>	<u>+\$50,000</u>

Program	Travel		Contractual Services	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Welfare Inspector General, Office of the	\$14,000	....	\$128,000	+\$105,000
Total	<u>\$14,000</u>	<u>....</u>	<u>\$128,000</u>	<u>+\$105,000</u>

Program	Equipment	
	Amount	Change
Welfare Inspector General, Office of the	\$2,000	....
Total	<u>\$2,000</u>	<u>....</u>

