

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 districts, 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 a Deputy Inspector General, a Chief Investigator, staff attorney, fraud investigators 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 11 full-time equivalent positions for 2002-03, which is consistent with 2001-02 staffing levels.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The 2002-03 General Fund support for the Office of Welfare Inspector General is \$713,000. Approximately 65 percent of the Office's operations are supported by the General Fund and the remaining 35 percent are supported by funds the Agency receives from the Federal government for fraud investigations related to welfare, Food Stamps and Medicaid.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Office of Welfare Inspector General is pursuing an aggressive anti-fraud campaign supported, in part, by provisions of the State Welfare Reform Act of 1997 which provided more effective tools to combat welfare fraud.

The Office annually receives hundreds of 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 investigations of internal corruption within social services districts and welfare contractors. The Office works with the Department of Law to strengthen welfare fraud prosecution and also acts directly through its prosecutions 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.

WELFARE INSPECTOR GENERAL

ALL FUNDS APPROPRIATIONS (dollars)

Category	Available	Appropriations	Change	Reappropriations
	2001-02	Recommended 2002-03		Recommended 2002-03
State Operations	992,000	1,083,000	91,000	0
Aid To Localities	0	0	0	0
Capital Projects	0	0	0	0
Total	992,000	1,083,000	91,000	0

ALL FUND TYPES PROJECTED LEVELS OF EMPLOYMENT BY PROGRAM FILLED ANNUAL SALARIED POSITIONS

Full-Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)

Program	2001-02	2002-03	FTE Change
	Estimated FTEs 03/31/02	Estimated FTEs 03/31/03	
Welfare Inspector General, Office of the General Fund	11	11	0
Total	11	11	0

STATE OPERATIONS ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY FUND TYPE APPROPRIATIONS (dollars)

Fund Type	Available	Recommended	Change
	2001-02	2002-03	
General Fund	622,000	713,000	91,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	370,000	370,000	0
Total	992,000	1,083,000	91,000

STATE OPERATIONS ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAM APPROPRIATIONS (dollars)

Program	Available	Recommended	Change
	2001-02	2002-03	
Welfare Inspector General, Office of the General Fund	622,000	713,000	91,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	370,000	370,000	0
Total	992,000	1,083,000	91,000

STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL AND OFFSET FUNDS SUMMARY OF PERSONAL SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES 2002-03 RECOMMENDED (dollars)

Program	Total		Personal Service Regular (Annual Salaried)	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Welfare Inspector General, Office of the Total	770,000	(18,000)	770,000	(18,000)
	770,000	(18,000)	770,000	(18,000)

WELFARE INSPECTOR GENERAL

STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL AND OFFSET FUNDS
 SUMMARY OF NONPERSONAL SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE UNDISTRIBUTED
 APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES
 2002-03 RECOMMENDED
 (dollars)

Program	Total		Supplies and Materials	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Welfare Inspector General, Office of the	313,000	109,000	31,000	0
Total	<u>313,000</u>	<u>109,000</u>	<u>31,000</u>	<u>0</u>

Program	Travel		Contractual Services	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Welfare Inspector General, Office of the	14,000	0	266,000	109,000
Total	<u>14,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>266,000</u>	<u>109,000</u>

Program	Equipment	
	Amount	Change
Welfare Inspector General, Office of the	2,000	0
Total	<u>2,000</u>	<u>0</u>