

Budget Unit Brief

FY 2017



Civil Reparations Trust Fund

Purpose and History

In a trial involving the request for punitive or exemplary damages, the court will instruct the jury to answer special interrogatories or in the case when there is no jury, the judge will make the following findings:

- Was there willful and wanton disregard for the rights or safety of another as presented through clear, convincing, and satisfactory evidence?
- Was the conduct of the defendant directed specifically at the claimant, or at the person from whom the claimant's claim was derived?

If the answer to the first bullet is yes but the answer to the second bullet is no, after payment of all applicable costs and fees, an amount not to exceed 25.0% of the punitive or exemplary damages awarded may be ordered paid to the claimant, with the remainder of the award to be ordered paid to the Civil Reparations Trust Fund. The Fund is administered by the State Court Administrator and under the control of the Executive Council. Money is disbursed from the Fund only for indigent civil litigation programs or insurance assistance programs.

Funding

The Executive Council publishes a notice of the balance in the Fund in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin semiannually in January and July of each year and within 30 days of the deposit of any amount into the Fund exceeding \$10,000. Applications are available in the State Treasurer's Office. When deciding on an application, the Executive Council considers how the money will be utilized; how many people will be served; the availability of alternative resources; and, if the person had a prior application, how the person complied with the legal restrictions on that prior application. The Executive Council is permitted to bill the costs for administering the Fund, such as postage and copying costs, to the Fund as well.

The State Court Administrator's Office is responsible for submitting an annual report on June 30 to the General Assembly.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapter [668A](#)
[361](#) Iowa Administrative Code chapter [12](#)

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More Information

[Judicial Branch](#)

Iowa General Assembly: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/>

LSA Staff Contact: Laura Book (515-725-0509) laura.book@legis.iowa.gov