

HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:

Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner

UPDATE

July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008

Background

The Office of the Insurance Commissioner's Holocaust Survivors Assistance Program served as an intermediary between Holocaust survivors and/or the families and heirs of Holocaust victims and the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims (ICHEIC). The program helped claimants resolve their Holocaust-era insurance claims and collect awards.

After more than eight years in operation, ICHEIC finished its work and officially shut its doors on March 30, 2007. According to its final report, ICHEIC received more than 90,000 claims and made 48,000. In total, it paid more than \$306 million to claimants.

ICHEIC reported the following information about Washington state claimants:

- 860 claims from Washington State were filed with ICHEIC.
- 277 Washington claimants received offers. (203 of these claimants filed through our Holocaust Survivors Assistance Program.)
- 148 claimants received \$1,000 humanitarian awards. (115 of these claimants filed through our Holocaust Survivors Assistance Program.)
- A grand total of \$2,391,696.46 was paid to all Washington claimants. (Out of this amount, \$1,054,930.68 went to claimants receiving assistance from the Holocaust Survivors Assistance Program.)
- 9 claimants had claims transferred to the Austrian General Settlement Fund for review and handling.

Despite the end of ICHEIC, consumers can still obtain information on the Commission and its past activities by visiting its Web site at www.icheic.org. Also, key documents from the Commission, including decision memoranda and meeting minutes, are maintained by the [U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum](http://www.ushmm.org).

Ongoing efforts to assist claimants (July 1, 2007-June 30, 2008)

After the closing of ICHEIC, our office contacted the nine Washington claimants who were transferred to the Austrian Settlement Fund (GSF) to see if they needed further assistance. Five claimants requested help. We sent a letter to the GSF in September, requesting the status of their claims. Since then, three have received payment offers totaling \$41,910.32.

The Holocaust Survivors Assistance Program will continue to provide information and assistance to Washington claimants who need further help with claims being processed through the GSF, or who may still be eligible to file Holocaust era claims directly with insurance companies.

Anyone who has concerns or questions about their Holocaust era insurance claims should contact our office toll-free at 1-800-562-6900 and ask for either Chris Bauer or Julia Hinrichs, or e-mail them at chrisb@oic.wa.gov or juliah@oic.wa.gov.



www.insurance.wa.gov

Mike Kreidler - *State Insurance Commissioner*