

HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:

Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner

UPDATE

July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009

Background

The Washington State Legislature passed the Holocaust Victims Insurance Relief Act in 1999. The law created the Holocaust Survivors Assistance Program and charged the Office of the Insurance Commissioner with helping claimants resolve their Holocaust-era insurance claims. Since its inception, the program assisted in collecting over \$1 million in awards for Washington claimants from the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims (ICHEIC) until its closure in 2007. Despite the official closure of ICHEIC, the program has continued to assist claimants with their outstanding claims.

Ongoing efforts to assist claimants (July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009)

After the closure of ICHEIC, the Holocaust Survivors Assistance Program has continued to help claimants, focusing its attention on outstanding monies owed Washington claimants by the Austrian Settlement Fund. We sent a letter requesting the status of outstanding Washington claims and helped recover \$41,910 for our claimants during 2007-2008. Since then, we have assisted in collecting two additional claims totaling \$109,827. Overall, our work with the fund has resulted in additional payments of \$152,007. Additional money could be coming to these claimants if the fund has monies left over after all claimants have been paid. We are maintaining communications with the fund on the status of their claims processing to determine if additional monies will be forthcoming.

The Holocaust Survivors Assistance Program will continue providing information and assistance to Washington claimants needing help with claims to the Austrian Settlement Fund or who may be eligible to file Holocaust-era claims directly with insurance companies.

Anyone with 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.

In addition, information about ICHEIC and its past activities can be found at <http://www.icheic.org/>. Key ICHEIC documents, including decision memoranda and meeting minutes are maintained by the [U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum](#).



www.insurance.wa.gov

Mike Kreidler - *State Insurance Commissioner*