

Discussion Group 1: September 11th Victim's Compensation Fund Case Study

Objective

The goal of this discussion is to apply the concepts of *Policy Paradox* to a real-world controversial policy in the US, evaluating the equity and efficiency of the policy decision. The September 11th Victim's Compensation Fund will serve as the case study to explore Stone's different concepts of membership, which is necessary before making decisions on the allocation of resources.

Assignment

Re-read Chapters 2 and 3 of *Policy Paradox* that cover "Equity" and "Efficiency." Also read the provided press releases "September 11th Compensation Fund Regulations Announced" and "Spitzer Criticizes DOJ Regulations on September 11th Victim Compensation Fund," as well as sections I – III (pages 5 to 13) of the paper "An Unprecedented Experiment in American Democracy." The purpose of these readings is to familiarize you with the procedure for allocating funds through the Victim's Compensation Fund. You should spend more time concentrating on how the funds were allocated and how that decision was made, rather than focus on specifics of the American legal system. If you feel that you need more background information, there are several websites that might be helpful, including:

http://www.voicesofsept11.org/victims_comp_fund.php

Be prepared to discuss the current method of distributing victim compensation, as well as other methods of allocating funds that might have met the goals of equity and efficiency differently.

Deliverables

Write one (1) paragraph (less than half a page) summarizing the September 11th Victim's Compensation Fund, specifically focusing on how funds were allocated to victims. Your response should be typed and will be due at the conclusion of your discussion session. The responses will be graded on a pass-fail metric. While grammar and spelling error will not count against you, please use complete and clear sentences to structure your thoughts and ideas.

In addition, bring a printed out copy of Homework #1, which was your list of alternative compensation policies for the victims of September 11th defined by differing levels of membership, a concept presented by Stone in Chapter 2.