



**ALEX SINK
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
STATE OF FLORIDA**

Florida Department of Financial Services

**BUREAU OF UNCLAIMED PROPERTY
FACT SHEET
MARCH 31, 2008**

Program Inception – 1961

Governing Statute – Chapter 717, Florida Statutes

Unclaimed Property Received

- Fiscal Year 02/03 – \$ 174,036,992
- Fiscal Year 03/04 – \$ 254,385,169
- Fiscal Year 04/05 – \$ 208,085,364
- Fiscal Year 05/06 – \$ 354,695,271
- Fiscal Year 06/07 – \$ 271,144,057
- **Since Program Inception - \$ 2.7 Billion**

Number of Claims Paid

- Fiscal Year 02/03 – 100,437
- Fiscal Year 03/04 – 163,802
- Fiscal Year 04/05 – 169,388
- Fiscal Year 05/06 – 226,983
- Fiscal Year 06/07 – 254,812
- Fiscal Year 07/08 – 168,820*
- **Since Program Inception - 1.5 Million**

Net \$ Transferred to FL Dept of Education

- Fiscal Year 02/03 – \$ 80,543,136
- Fiscal Year 03/04 – \$153,831,007
- Fiscal Year 04/05 – \$105,322,907
- Fiscal Year 05/06 – \$245,095,187
- Fiscal Year 06/07 – \$ 97,000,000
- **Since Program Inception - \$1.6 Billion**

Amount (in Dollars) of Claims Paid

- Fiscal Year 02/03 – \$ 78,618,118
- Fiscal Year 03/04 – \$ 99,272,882
- Fiscal Year 04/05 – \$ 95,663,060
- Fiscal Year 05/06 – \$ 101,490,902
- Fiscal Year 06/07 – \$ 171,423,352
- Fiscal Year 07/08 – \$ 111,202,154*
- **Since Program Inception - \$1 Billion**

Total Accounts in Unclaimed Property Database – 8 million

*Note: Fiscal Year 07/08 began July 1, 2007 and ends June 30, 2008.

Unclaimed Property is a financial asset that has been left inactive, unclaimed or abandoned by its owner. The most common types of unclaimed property are dormant bank accounts, unclaimed insurance proceeds, stocks, dividends, uncashed checks, deposits, credit balances and refunds. Unclaimed property also includes contents from abandoned safe deposit boxes left in financial institutions. These unclaimed assets are held by the reporting entity (holder) for a set period of time, usually five years. If the holder is unable to locate and re-establish contact with the owner, the asset is reported and remitted to the Florida Department of Financial Services, Bureau of Unclaimed Property.

The Bureau keeps a record of all information provided by the holder, including the owner name, last known address, Social Security number, dollar amount and any beneficiaries or joint owners. Receipts are deposited into the State School Trust Fund, where the funds are used for public education, until being claimed by the owners or owners' heirs. The interest earned from this fund is also used to benefit the Florida public school system. The original reported amount of each account, however, may always be claimed by the rightful owner.

There is no statute of limitations on unclaimed property in Florida. Account owners, or their heirs, can claim their funds indefinitely, free of charge.

The Bureau uses various methods to proactively attempt to notify apparent owners of their unclaimed property. These methods include using the services of various official and private databases, direct mail, media coverage and activities, and by participating in community events, such as fairs, festivals, seminars and conferences.

The official website, www.FLtreasurehunt.org, includes a searchable, interactive database of unclaimed property accounts. The database is available, free of charge, 24 hours a day, and allows claimants to print, from their own computers, claim forms (with instructions) for accounts they believe they are entitled to claim.

Our toll-free telephone number is **1- 88-VALUABLE (1- 888-258-2253)**, and is available each workday for citizens within Florida. Callers outside Florida can reach the Bureau by calling **(850) 413-5555**.

Department of Financial Services
Bureau of Unclaimed Property
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www.FLtreasurehunt.org