FORMER OPERATORS of a notorious Canarsie adult home will finally be required to compensate — if only trivially — former residents who were forced to live there under horrific conditions.

State officials yesterday announced a settlement with Seaport Manor operators Martin Rosenberg and Baruch Mappa.

The state closed Seaport Manor in 2003 after residents died while receiving negligent care. Some residents committed suicide. Reports of residents prostituting themselves for spending money also caused alarm.

The former operators will pay a grand total of $149,000, according to an announcement by Attorney General Eliot Spitzer and Health Commissioner Antonia Novella.

"We're pleased to be able to provide some compensation to the former residents of Seaport Manor," said Spitzer spokesman Brad Maiono.

Each person who lived at Seaport Manor in 2002 will receive about $300.

Residents who suffered get small sum

BY RACHEL MONAHAN
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

The Health Department will receive $49,000.

"We're just thrilled that the residents who suffered there are getting some restitution," said Jean Phillips, an attorney with MFY Legal Services, a non-profit that at one time represented Seaport Manor residents.

"It sends a message to other operators that they will be held accountable," Phillips said.

 Residents could only receive a small sum because legal technicalities limited the time period for which the residents could be compensated.

She praised state officials for creating a model for future action.

"They're looking at ways to give some recognition to the residents. It opens the door to that kind of thinking," Phillips added.

Rosenberg and Mappa also are forbidden to operate or own adult homes in the future.

However, neither Rosenberg nor Mappa is now licensed to operate with the state.

The decision also will not affect the ability of Mappa's construction company to collect rent from another Canarsie adult home, New South Shore Manor, which his family operates.

Jeffrey Sherrin, attorney for the Seaport Manor operators, dismissed any of the state officials' claims of success.

"The operators ended up deciding to pay less than half of what it would have cost to try the case," he said.

He also noted that Mappa and Rosenberg had retired and had "no interest in running a home anyway."