

AMERICAN SAMOA



DEATH BENEFITS AVAILABLE TO THE SURVIVING FAMILIES
OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS WHO HAVE DIED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

STATE DEATH BENEFITS

Currently, there is not a one-time benefit available.

EDUCATION BENEFITS

CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS – provides financial assistance of up to \$2,000.00 per semester with a maximum lifetime amount of \$16,000 to surviving children and surviving spouses of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty, according to C.O.P.S. criteria, who wish to pursue a course of study beyond high school. Since there is a tuition-free education benefit available in your state, you must first apply for and be denied by the state or the institution to be eligible for the C.O.P.S. scholarship.

How to Apply: <https://www.concernsofpolicesurvivors.org/scholarship>

The **Public Safety Officers' Education Assistance** (PSOEA) Program provides financial assistance, for the purpose of seeking higher education, to the spouses and eligible children of local police, fire, and emergency public safety officers who have been killed or permanently disabled in the line of duty.

Educational assistance through the PSOEA Program is available after the Public Safety Officers' Benefit (PSOB) death or disability claim process has been completed and benefits have been awarded. Call (888) 744-6513 or visit <https://psob.bja.ojp.gov/benefits/> or more information.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Workers' Compensation Act A.S.C.A 32.0617 Death benefits.

(a) If an injury causes death, the compensation shall be known as a death benefit and shall be payable in the amounts, and to or for the benefit of the individuals following:

(1) Reasonable funeral expenses not exceeding \$1,000;

Surviving/Dependent Spouse: 35% of the decedent's average wage to the surviving/dependent spouse until re-marriage or death, and with 2 years compensation in on sum upon re-marriage

Surviving Child: 15% of decedent's average wages to each of the decedent's surviving child under the ages of 18 years old (only when there's a surviving spouse)

35% of the decedent's average wages in case spouse died or remarried (only when there is one child); if there is more than one surviving child, then to such children

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in equal parts 35% of such wages increased by 15% of such wages for each child in excess of one

(b) In computing death benefits, the average weekly wages of the deceased may not be considered to be more than \$205 nor less than \$40, but the total weekly compensation may not exceed the weekly wages of the deceased.

For more information contact the Workers' Compensation Commission division in the Human Resources Department at 684-633-4447 or visit <https://www.aswcc-gov.net/benefits/death-benefits>

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS' BENEFITS (PSOB) PROGRAM

A unique effort of the U.S. Department of Justice; local, state, tribal, and federal public safety agencies; and national organizations, the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Program provides death and education benefits to survivors of fallen law enforcement officers, firefighters, and other first responders, and disability benefits to officers catastrophically injured in the line of duty. The claim has two parts (A&B) that require the agency and family to fill out online. Visit psob.gov for additional filing information. If you need assistance filing this claim, contact the National C.O.P.S. office at (573) 346-4911 or cops@nationalcops.org

STATE LIFE INSURANCE & RETIREMENT

To see if you are eligible for State Life Insurance or death benefits from the **American Samoa Government Employee's Retirement Fund**, please call 684-633-5456.

HEALTH BENEFITS

Health benefits vary depending upon police department benefits. Spouses of state and county officers may elect to continue to participate in the same benefit program in effect at the time of the officer's death. Contact the Benefits Coordinator at your agency.

FUNERAL BENEFITS

WORKERS' COMPENSATION provides a maximum \$1,000 burial expense payment. See Workers' Compensation section above.

DIGNITY MEMORIAL FUNERAL, CREMATION AND CEMETERY providers created the Public Servants Program for emergency service personnel. This program provides dignified and honorable tributes, at no cost, for career and volunteer law enforcement officers who fall in the line of duty. Visit their website for complete information at <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/> and look under Public Servants for details. You may also call 800-344-6489 and speak with a representative.

WILBERT FUNERAL SERVICES, INC. provides complimentary burial vaults and related services for fallen law enforcement officers. For more information visit <https://www.wilbert.com/> or call (888) WILBERT.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

PEER SUPPORT ORGANIZATION

CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS INC., (C.O.P.S.), is a national, non-profit organization that works with law enforcement agencies, police organizations, mental health professionals, and local peer-support organizations to provide assistance to surviving families of law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty. C.O.P.S. provides Hands-On Programs, training for law enforcement, National Police Week registration/accommodations, scholarships, counseling and so much more to surviving families and co-workers.

For complete information, visit concernsofpolicesurvivors.org; email cops@nationalcops.org or call (573) 346-4911. Office hours are Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. CST.

SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFIT

Spouses, children, or parents may be eligible for Social Security Benefits. To apply for benefits, call (800) 772-1213 or (855) 602-5033 to speak to a Social Security representative or visit your local Social Security Office at Centennial Building 3rd Floor, suite 302 Pago Pago, 96799. You cannot report a death or apply for survivors benefits online. Visit <https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/survivors/ifyou.html> for more information.

First Responders Children's Foundation provides financial support to children who have lost a parent in the line of duty as well as families enduring significant financial hardships due to tragic circumstances. They also provide annual education scholarships to children of fallen heroes. For more information, call (646) 822-4236 or visit <https://1strcf.org>

OTHER BENEFITS TO ASK YOUR AGENCY ABOUT:

Life insurance?
Private life insurance?
County & Local Jurisdiction Benefits?
Retirement benefits?
Real Estate Tax Relief?

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