

CALIFORNIA



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 no one time death benefit in California.

EDUCATION BENEFITS

CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS provides financial assistance of up to \$2000 per semester with a maximum lifetime amount of \$16,000 to surviving children and to 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.

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.

Visit <https://psob.bja.ojp.gov/> for more information and the application or call the PSOB Office toll-free at 1-888-744-6513 to discuss the requirements for receiving PSOEA benefits.

Dependents of California peace officers who have died in the line of duty are eligible to receive annual scholarships from the **California Peace Officers' Memorial Foundation**.

A. Scholarship recipients must be a survivor of a peace officer killed in the line of duty and enrolled on the California Peace Officers' Memorial Monument. Eligible survivors are:

- Spouses
- Children
- Stepchildren
- Adopted children

B. Students must be enrolled in, at a minimum, the fall semester of the forthcoming school year.

C. Students must carry a minimum of six (6) units per quarter or eight (8) units per semester.

D. Students must maintain a minimum grade point average of 2.0.

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- E.** Past CPOMF scholarship recipients must provide sealed copies of their most recent transcripts.
- F.** Scholarship funds shall be spent for educational needs and recipients shall return a signed Acceptance of Terms and Conditions statement to CPOMF upon receipt of funds.
- G.** Individuals may receive a maximum of six (6) scholarship awards.

For more information visit the California Peace Officer's Memorial Foundation – <https://camemorial.org/scholarship-program/>

The **Law Enforcement Personnel Dependents Grant Program** provides need-based educational grants to dependents and spouses of: California peace officers (Highway Patrol, marshals, sheriffs, police officers), Department of Corrections and California Youth Authority employees, and permanent/full-time firefighters employed by public entities who have been killed in the performance of duty or 100% disabled as a result of an accident or injury caused by external violence or physical force incurred in the performance of duty. Grant awards match the amount of a Cal Grant award and range from \$100 to \$12,192 for up to four years.

Applications are accepted throughout the academic year. For more information or to apply contact the California Student Aid Commission, Specialized Programs (888) 224-7268, <https://www.csac.ca.gov/>

KIDS CHANCE OF CALIFORNIA - To be eligible for a scholarship grant, applicants must have a parent who has been killed or seriously injured as a result of a work-related incident that meets the criteria of the California Workers' Compensation Act and that has resulted in demonstrated financial need. Applicants must be between the ages of 18-25.

For more information or to apply, visit <https://www.kidschanceca.org/>

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Death benefits are payments to a spouse, children or other dependents if an employee dies from a work-related injury or illness. **This includes reasonable burial expenses, not exceeding \$5,000 for injuries before Jan. 1, 2013 and \$10,000 for injuries on or after Jan. 1, 2013.** The amount of the death benefit depends on the number of total and/or partial dependents. In the case of one or more totally dependent minors, after payment of amounts specified below, death benefits will continue until youngest minor's 18th birthday (disabled minors receive benefits for life). Death benefits are paid at the total temporary disability rate, but not less than \$224.00 per week. The period within which to commence proceedings for the collection of death benefits is one year from death where death occurs within one year of date of injury (DOI); or one year from date of last furnishing of any benefits or one year from death where death occurs more than one year from DOI. No such proceedings may be commenced more than 240 weeks from the DOI.

Burial expenses- \$10,000

1 total dependents- \$250,000

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2 or more total dependents- \$290,000

3 or more total dependents- \$320,000

1 total plus 1 or more partial dependents- \$250,000 plus four times annual support for partial dependents not to exceed \$290,000

1 or more partial dependents- Eight times annual support not to exceed \$250,000

For more information contact California Department of Industrial Relations at

dwc@dir.ca.gov or visit <https://www.dir.ca.gov/>

<https://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/workerscompensationbenefits.htm>

Allan Pattee Scholarship was passed in 1970. Under this act, an eligible University of California student who is a surviving spouse or surviving child of a deceased person who meets all of the following requirements may be eligible for an exemption towards mandatory systemwide tuition fees and mandatory campus-based fees. Please note: this exemption extended to mandatory campus-based fees in 2020.

Visit <https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/tuition-financial-aid/types-of-aid/grants-and-scholarship/allen-pattee.html> for more information.

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 <https://psob.bja.ojp.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 <https://www.concernsofpolicesurvivors.org/>

STATE LIFE INSURANCE & RETIREMENT

To see if you are eligible for State Life Insurance or death benefits speak to your agency or visit:

California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS)

<https://www.calpers.ca.gov/page/employers/benefit-programs/retirement-benefits>

HEALTH BENEFITS

The state of California will provide the surviving spouse and children health insurance. The insurance will be what the officer had, nothing more and nothing less. The surviving spouse will receive for life-time and surviving children until 22 if not in school, 26 for those in school. Check with your agencies Human Resources Department.

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FUNERAL BENEFITS

Worker's Compensation offers a one-time funeral benefit up to \$10,000. This claim can be filed online at https://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/dwc_home_page.htm

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.

FEMA COVID-19 Funeral Assistance If you are covering the cost of a COVID-19 Funeral, FEMA may be able to help. You may qualify for up to \$9,000 for expenses. For more information visit <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance#eligible>.

The COVID-19 incident period ended on May 11, 2023. FEMA will continue to provide funeral assistance until September 30, 2025, to those who have lost loved ones due to the pandemic.

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.

Contact the C.O.P.S. National Office 573-346-4911, email cops@nationalcops.org or visit <https://www.concernsofpolicesurvivors.org/local-chapters> for information on a chapter in your area. 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 to speak to a Social Security representative or visit your local Social Security Office. You cannot report a death or apply for survivors benefits online. Visit <https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/survivors/ifyou.html#h6> for more information.

CALIFORNIA PEACE OFFICER'S MEMORIAL FOUNDATION Upon the death of a peace officer in the line of duty, CPOMF representatives personally deliver financial assistance to the primary survivor to help in their moment of need. Visit <https://camemorial.org/> for more information.

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CALIFORNIA NARCOTIC OFFICER'S ASSOCIATION has established a Survivors Memorial Fund that provides immediate financial assistance to the families of all California law enforcement officers who have surrendered their lives in the line of duty. For more information visit <https://www.cnoa.org/>

CALIFORNIA FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE Provides emergency benefits to California Fraternal Order of Police members, Law Enforcement employees and the members of their families in times of crisis. For more information visit <https://cafop.org/>.

The CALIFORNIA VICTIM COMPENSATION BOARD (CalVCB) can help victims of violent crime and their families deal with the emotional, physical, and financial aftermath of crime. Victims can apply for compensation by filing an application with CalVCB. Visit <http://victims.ca.gov/> or call (800) 777-9229 for more information.

CALIFORNIA TACTICAL OFFICERS ASSOCIATION <https://catotraining.org/>

CALIFORNIA NARCOTICS OFFICERS ASSOCIATION <https://www.cnoa.org/>

PEACE OFFICERS RESEARCH ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA (PORAC) <https://porac.org>

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>.

SANTA MONICA POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION CHARITY FUND assists police families with transportation, funeral services, and addresses specific survivor needs at a time of tragedy involving the death of a police officer. They also provide a one-time payment of \$1,500 to the beneficiary of any police officer in CA who suffers a line of duty death. <https://smpoacharityfund.org/>

OTHER BENEFITS TO ASK YOUR AGENCY ABOUT:

City life insurance?

Private life insurance?

County & Local Jurisdiction Benefits?

Real Estate Tax Relief?

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