

CONNECTICUT



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

STATE DEATH BENEFITS

On May 25, 2024 Gov. Ned Lamont signed the Fallen Officers Fund into law, [Public Act 24-27](#), through the fund, non-taxable benefits of up to \$100,000 will be provided to the families or beneficiaries of police officers who are killed while on duty, and those family members will be able to stay on that officer's health insurance for another five years after.

For more information, visit <https://www.osc.ct.gov/>, call (860) 702-3300 or email comptroller.lembo@ct.gov.

EDUCATION BENEFITS

Connecticut General Statutes CGS §§10a-77(d), 10a-99(d), and 10a-105(e).

The University of Connecticut, Connecticut State University, and the community-technical colleges must waive tuition for the dependent children of paid and volunteer police officers and fire fighters killed in the line of duty. Contact the Registrar's Office of the school you will be attending for application instructions.

CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS – provides financial assistance of up to \$2,000 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. 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.

KIDS CHANCE OF CONNECTICUT - 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 Connecticut Workers' Compensation Act and that has resulted

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in demonstrated financial need. For more information or to apply, visit <https://www.kidschanceofct.org>

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

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For more information, visit <https://www.osc.ct.gov/> or call (860) 702-3300.

Contact the State of Connecticut Workers' Compensation Commission at (800) 223-9675 or visit <https://wcc.state.ct.us/> 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 cops@nationalcops.org

STATE LIFE INSURANCE & RETIREMENT

Check with your agency to see if you are eligible for State Life Insurance or death benefits from a Retirement system. You can also visit:

Connecticut State Employees Retirement System

<https://www.osc.ct.gov/empret/tier1summ/tier1summ.htm#CONNECTICUT>

HEALTH BENEFITS

Connecticut provides health insurance coverage for the surviving spouse and dependent children of any law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty. Children's coverage terminates at age 18; remarriage will **not** terminate spousal coverage. The group medical plans offered to survivors are the same plans that are available to state retirees. Currently, available plans range from no cost to nominal cost.

For more information contact Office of State Comptroller, State of Connecticut, 55 Elm ST, Hartford, CT 06106. Office: (860) 702-3300. www.osc.ct.gov

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FUNERAL BENEFITS

WORKERS' COMPENSATION provides up to \$4,000 burial benefit to the dependents or to the person who paid the expenses. 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.

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.

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 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> for more information.

The HUNDRED CLUB OF CONNECTICUT A charitable, non-profit, tax exempt organization which provides financial assistance to families of police officers, correctional officers and firefighters who have died in the line of duty. When a line of duty death occurs, the spouse/family is given an initial grant of \$10,000. The Club provides computers to children as

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well as educational scholarships to colleges and other services the family might need. Visit <http://www.hundredclubofct.org/>

CONNECTICUT STATE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE <http://www.ctstatefop.org/>

The POLICE ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT <https://www.ctpac.com/>

CONNECTICUT POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION <https://www.cpcanet.org/>

SOUTHERN STATES POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION, INC www.sspba.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>.

OTHER BENEFITS TO ASK YOUR AGENCY ABOUT:

Life insurance?

Private life insurance?

County & Local Jurisdiction Benefits?

Retirement benefits?

Real Estate Tax Relief?