



# DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA (DC)

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

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## STATE DEATH BENEFITS

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**Code of District of Columbia 5-716-** If any member is survived by a survivor, parent, or sibling, lump-sum payment of \$50,000 shall be made to his survivor if the survivor received more than one half of his support from such member, or if such member is not survived by any survivor (including a survivor who did not receive more than one half of his support from such member), to his parent or sibling if the parent or sibling received more than one half of his support from such member.

For more information visit <https://code.dccouncil.gov/us/dc/council/code/sections/5-716.html>

## EDUCATION BENEFITS

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There currently are no state education benefits available.

**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 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.

**HEROES Inc.** offers assistance with tuition, room and board, books, supplies, and many incidental costs. Scholarship recipients may attend colleges, universities, or trade schools of their choice.

For more information visit <https://heroes.org/why-heroes-inc/> or call 202-638-6658.

**CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS (C.O.P.S.)** // (573) 346-4911 // [cops@nationalcops.org](mailto:cops@nationalcops.org)

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**The HERB BLOCK SCHOLARSHIP** provides financial assistance to high school graduates, community college students, and adult learners who wish to continue their studies at Washington, D.C. area community colleges. The scholarship will provide up to \$8,000 per academic year not to exceed \$16,000 over the life of the scholarship. The actual award amount for each recipient is determined in conjunction with the school's financial aid office and is based on a student's financial need after all other resources are considered. The award covers tuition, mandatory fees, books, and supplies, as well as limited transportation and on-campus childcare expenses.

For more information visit [www.herbblockfoundation.org/scholarships](http://www.herbblockfoundation.org/scholarships) or call 855-670-4787.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS' BENEFITS (PSOB) PROGRAM**

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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](http://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](mailto:cops@nationalcops.org)

## **WORKERS' COMPENSATION**

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Workers' Compensation coverage is compulsory for employers in the District of Columbia. A spouse can receive 50% of the employee's weekly wage and a spouse and child(ren) can receive 66 2/3% of the employee's weekly wage. There is also a maximum **burial allowance of \$5,000**. Widow(er) receives a two-year lump sum upon remarriage and weekly benefits cease. Children receive benefits until age 18, or beyond age 18 if physically or mentally disabled, or until age 23 if full-time students.

For information contact the **Office of Workers' Compensation, Department of Employment Services, Labor Standards Office:** (202) 671-1000. [www.does.dc.gov](http://www.does.dc.gov)

## **STATE LIFE INSURANCE & RETIREMENT**

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Contact the **District of Columbia Retirement Board** at (202) 343-3200 or <https://dcrb.dc.gov/page/summary-plans-faqs-retired-police-and-firefighters> for more information or to see if you are the beneficiary of an Optional Benefits Life Plan and/or Occupational Death Benefit.

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## HEALTH BENEFITS

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For more information, contact the Benefits Coordinator at your agency.

## FUNERAL BENEFITS

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**Workers' Compensation** provides a maximum \$5,000 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

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### 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](http://concernsofpolicesurvivors.org); email [cops@nationalcops.org](mailto: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.

**District of Columbia Crime Victim Compensation** If you are a victim of a crime in DC, you may be eligible to receive financial assistance.

To find out more, contact the **DC Crime Victims Compensation Program DC Superior Court**, Phone: (202) 879-4216 or visit <https://ovsjg.dc.gov/page/crime-victim-compensation>

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**HEROES, Inc.**, offers financial assistance to ensure that housing and other basic needs are met. They can be reached by calling 202-638- 6658 or visit <https://heroes.org/why-heroes-inc/>.

**Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Jerrard F. Young Lodge DC-1**- Officers who belong to this lodge are entitled to an accidental death benefit regardless of whether the incident occurred on or off duty;

**Accidental Death** benefit is 24 hour coverage — business or pleasure. This benefit pays when a member dies from a covered accidental bodily injury that is independent of all other causes. Benefit: \$2,500.

**Line of Duty** benefit is defined as a "covered activity" and will pay in addition to the Accidental Death benefit when a member is killed while performing law enforcement duties. Benefit: \$2,500.

**Felonious Assault** benefit is paid in addition to the Accidental Death and Line of Duty Benefits when a member's loss of life results from use of force equivalent to a felony under the jurisdiction in which the accident occurred. Benefit: \$2,500.

**Heart and Circulatory Malfunction** benefit pays in addition to other applicable benefits if a member under the age of 65 suffers a covered loss of life due to a heart or circulatory malfunction within 48 hours after participation in an emergency activity. The member must not have been diagnosed or received any treatment for any heart or circulatory system disease or illness within two years prior to the covered activity. Benefit: \$2,500.

For a list of other benefits or to contact the Lodge, visit <https://www.dc-fop.org/> or call 202-408-7767.

**VIRGINIA DIVISION, POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION, INC.** The PBA member's beneficiary will receive their base salary for one if year they are killed accidentally or intentionally while performing their law enforcement duties (maximum payout: \$70,000). The beneficiary will receive \$10,000 if it is not an occupational death or if you are a retired or reserve member. Any active Southern States PBA member in good standing and dues current will receive this benefit. Contact: **Southern States Police Benevolent Association Office:** (770) 389-5391. [www.sspba.org](http://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:**

City life insurance?

Private life insurance?

County & Local Jurisdiction Benefits?

Retirement Benefits?

Real estate tax relief?

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