

NEW MEXICO



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

STATE DEATH BENEFITS

A one-time state death benefit of \$500,000 is payable to the spouse, child(ren) or designated beneficiary if there is no spouse or children, of New Mexico Police Officers killed in the line-of-duty. This excludes federal officers.

If the officer is with Tribal Police the cases are different in every agency. For more information regarding Tribal Officers contact your agency.

For more information, contact the **New Mexico Department of Finance & Administration** at (505) 827-4980 or visit <http://www.nmdfa.state.nm.us/>

EDUCATION BENEFITS

"**Fire Fighter and Peace Officer Survivors Scholarship Act**" provides a college scholarship program administered by the Board of Educational Finance. Any spouse or natural or adopted child, twenty-one years of age or under at the time of the peace officers' death is eligible for educational assistance.

A survivor meeting an institution's entrance requirements shall be entitled to a scholarship to the eligible institution of his choice. The amount of the scholarship shall be equal to the amount of tuition charged by the institution attended. The scholarship shall continue for such time as the recipient remains a student in good standing at the institution, but in no event shall any survivor receive a scholarship for more than five years.

Contact the **Commission on Higher Education** (505) 476-8400. <https://hed.nm.gov/financial-aid/scholarships/fire-fighters-and-peace-officers-survivors>

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

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

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This information is compiled by National C.O.P.S.

Revised 2026

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 NEW MEXICO (TOBY WRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP FUND) - 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 Workers' Compensation Act and that has resulted in demonstrated financial need. Applicants must be between the ages of 16-25.

For more information or to apply, visit <https://www.wcaofnm.com/toby-wright-scholarship/>

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Death or survivor benefits are paid to the worker's dependents, up to the full compensation rate, for the maximum period of benefits. The maximum amount due is how much the worker would have received in temporary total disability benefits, up to 700 weeks.

For benefits information, contact the **New Mexico Workers' Compensation Administration** at (80) 255-7965 / (505) 841-6000 or visit [https://www.workerscomp.nm.gov/indemnity-benefits/#:~:text=Death%20or%20Survivor%20Benefits,is%20currently%20set%20at%20\\$7%2C500.](https://www.workerscomp.nm.gov/indemnity-benefits/#:~:text=Death%20or%20Survivor%20Benefits,is%20currently%20set%20at%20$7%2C500.)

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

For New Mexico Department of Public Safety employees, a life insurance policy is provided with a sum of \$50,000 with an additional \$25,000 for being a NMSP Officer. Contact **New Mexico Department of Public Safety** at (505) 827-3347 or visit <https://www.dps.nm.gov/> for more information.

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: **PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION OF NEW MEXICO (NMPERA)** <https://www.nmpera.org/>

HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS

Health benefits vary depending upon agencies. Contact the Benefits Coordinator at your agency.

FUNERAL BENEFITS

Workers' Compensation pays a portion of the worker's reasonable funeral and burial expenses up to \$7,500. 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.

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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> for more information.

Crime Victims Reparation Commission may provide benefits to family members that have lost their officer due to a crime. Awards up to a maximum of \$20,000.00 (or a maximum of \$50,000.00 may be granted for things such as mental health counseling, funeral expenses, etc. Call (800) 306-6262 or visit <https://www.cvrc.state.nm.us/>

NEW MEXICO SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION <http://nmsheriffs.org/>

ALBUQUERQUE POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION <https://nmapoa.com/>

American Police Hall of Fame Offers compassionate programs for law enforcement families, yearly birthday and Holiday gifts for children, scholarships, summer camp funds and so much more. <https://www.aphf.org/>

FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE or other labor/fraternal groups may provide a one-time death benefit to family members of a deceased member officer. Contact your local lodge for information.

NEW MEXICO FOP <https://fop.net/lodge/new-mexico-state-fop-lodge-2/>

The 100 Club of New Mexico <https://www.100clubnm.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?

Real estate tax relief?

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