

# PENNSYLVANIA



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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The State of Pennsylvania will pay a onetime payment of to the surviving spouse. The benefit amount for fiscal year 2024-2025 is \$161,314.39. If there is no spouse then payment goes to minor children, if any, then to parent or parents if there are no children. This amount is adjusted annually to reflect the annual percentage change in the Consumer Price Index. For July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026 the amount is \$165,992.50. Visit the link below for the updated amounts.

<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dgs/file-an-insurance-claim/line-of-duty-death-benefits.html>

Contact the **Bureau of Risk and Insurance Management, Department of General Services Office** at (717) 2492 for more information.

## EDUCATION BENEFITS

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**PA Postsecondary Educations Gratuity Program (PEGP)** provides a waiver for tuition, fees, and on-campus room and board costs charged by public postsecondary institutions. This waiver applies only to charges that remain after all other grants (federal, state, and outside scholarships) have been applied to your student account. Applicants must be a resident of Pennsylvania, a child of a public safety officer killed in the line of duty, be 25 years of age or younger when you apply, be enrolled at a Pennsylvania community college, state-owned institution, or state-related institution as a full-time undergraduate student pursuing an associate or bachelor's degree.

**For more information contact the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) Office** at (717) 720-2860 or visit <https://www.pheaa.org/funding-opportunities/other-educational-aid/postsecondary-educational-gratuity>

**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](mailto:cops@nationalcops.org)

CONCERNSOFPOLICESURVIVORS.ORG

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

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**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 1-888-744-6511 to discuss the requirements for receiving PSOEA benefits.

**KIDS CHANCE OF PENNSYLVANIA** - 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 under 25 years of age. For more information or to apply, visit <https://www.kidschancepa.org/>

## **WORKERS' COMPENSATION**

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Workers' Compensation coverage is compulsory for employers in Pennsylvania. Survivor's benefits are payable as follows if death results substantially from a work-related injury and if the death occurs within 300 weeks after the injury.

### **(1) Widow or Dependent Widower**

- (A) Widow or dependent widower with no child(ren) will receive 51% of employee's wages, but not in excess of Statewide Average Weekly Wage.
- (B) Widow or dependent widower and one child will receive 60% of employee's wages, but not in excess of Statewide Average Weekly Wage.
- (C) Widow or dependent widower and two or more children will receive 66 2/3% of employee's wages, but not in excess of Statewide Average Weekly Wage.
- (D) Widow will continue to receive benefits until death, or remarriage. Two-year lump sum payable to widows upon remarriage and weekly benefits cease.
- (E) Dependent widower will continue to receive benefits until death, remarriage, or until becoming self-supporting.

### **(2) Children**

- (A) If there is one dependent surviving child (s)he is entitled to receive 32% of employee's wage but not in excess of Statewide Average Weekly Wage.
- (B) If there are two children they are entitled to receive 42% of employee's wage but not in excess of Statewide Average Weekly Wage.
- (C) If there are three children they are entitled to receive 52% of employee's wage but not in excess of Statewide Average Weekly Wage.
- (D) If there are four children they are entitled to receive 62% of employee's wages but not in excess of Statewide Average Weekly Wage.

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To receive workers' compensation benefits the surviving spouse must take the initiative and file a workers' compensation claim through a workers' compensation attorney to receive any compensation. The determination as to whether the claim will be paid will be determined by the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board.

Contact the **Bureau of Workers' Compensation, State Labor and Industry Department, Office** at 1 (800) 482-2383. <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dli/programs-services/workers-compensation>

## **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 <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](mailto:cops@nationalcops.org)

## **STATE LIFE INSURANCE & RETIREMENT**

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Individual cities and municipalities are responsible for providing retirement and pension plans for law enforcement officers. Contact your local agency's Benefits Assistance Officer.

## **HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS**

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

## **FUNERAL BENEFITS**

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**Workers' Compensation** pays a maximum amount for funeral expenses of \$7,000. 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/>

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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.

Contact the C.O.P.S. National Office 573-346-4911, email [cops@nationalcops.org](mailto: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. – 5:00p.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.

**State Memorial for Law Enforcement** A granite memorial bearing the names of all State Police members killed in the line of duty is on display at the State Police Academy, Hershey, Pennsylvania.

**Pennsylvania State FOP** provides financial assistance and peer support. Contact the Pennsylvania FOP at (717) 236-6981 or visit <https://pafop.org/>

### **OTHER BENEFITS TO ASK YOUR AGENCY ABOUT:**

City life insurance?

Private life insurance?

County & Local Jurisdiction Benefits?

Real estate tax relief?