WASHINGTON

Death benefits available to the surviving families of law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty

STATE DEATH BENEFITS

Under Washington law, all full-time law enforcement officers and commissioned state troopers participate in the Law Enforcement Officers' and Fire Fighters' (LEOFF) or Washington State Patrol Retirement System (WSPRS) retirement systems. The survivor benefit amount is $266,192 (adjusted annually in July). The benefit will be paid to beneficiaries of members and duty-disability retirees of LEOFF and WSPRS “where death occurs as a result of injuries sustained in the course of employment.” This is a separate benefit that has no effect on any other benefits payable from LEOFF and WSPRS.

Contact Lisa Turner at WA Department of Retirement Systems at (360) 664-7341 or (800) 547-6657 or visit https://www.drs.wa.gov/ for more information.

EDUCATION BENEFITS

Washington State Benefit per Revised Code of Washington

Children and spouses shall be exempt from all tuition and service and activity fees at Washington state universities, regional universities, and The Evergreen State College.

Children must begin their course of study within ten years of their graduation from high school.

Contact the Financial Aid or Scholarship office of the university you plan to attend for more information.

CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS – provides financial assistance of up to $1,500 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

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.

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.
KIDS CHANCE OF WASHINGTON - 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 Washington Workers’ Compensation Act and that has resulted in demonstrated financial need.

For more information or to apply, visit https://kidschancewa.org/

WORKERS’ COMPENSATION

Workers’ Compensation pays a one time “immediate” payment plus:

Surviving spouse (where pension option does not apply.) For recent injuries, a surviving spouse receives 60 percent of the worker’s wage at the time of injury up to the maximum level allowed by law. If the worker had minor children, an additional 2 percent per child is paid, up to an additional maximum of 10 percent. Minor children of the worker living in another household are entitled to 5 percent of the total entitlement per child up to a maximum of 25 percent. The remainder of the benefit is paid to the surviving spouse and children residing in the deceased worker’s household. □ Children’s benefits (where there is not an eligible spouse and where pension options don’t apply). A monthly benefit of 35 percent of the worker’s wage is paid to the guardian of a minor dependent. Another 15 percent of the wage is paid for each additional child up to a maximum benefit equal to 65 percent of the wage at the time of injury. Where there is more than one child, benefits are divided equally among them. What is the maximum benefit? The maximum benefit is a percentage of the statewide average wage for the year prior to the pension award. The date of injury affects the percentage.

Applications should be submitted to the Washington Department of Labor and Industry within one year from the date of the worker’s death due to an injury, or within two years of receiving written notice from a physician that death was due to an occupational disease and that a claim may be filed. For application instructions, call (360) 902-5119 or visit https://lni.wa.gov/claims/

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 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

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**RETIREMENT & PENSION**

Benefits may vary by department. Check with your agencies benefits department.

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**HEALTH BENEFITS**

Check with your agencies Human Resources Department for available health benefit information.

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**FUNERAL BENEFITS**

**Washington State Department of Labor and Industries** pays a portion of the worker’s reasonable funeral and burial expenses (as of July 2019, up to $10,883.50).

**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/](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/](https://www.wilbert.com/) or call (888) WILBERT.

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**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 [concernsofpolicestations.org](http://concernsofpolicestations.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](https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/survivors/ifyou.html) for more information.

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Crime Victims Compensation Program (CVCP) may provide benefits to family members that have lost their officer due to a crime. Call the Washington State Department of Labor and Industry – Crime Victims at (360) 902-5355 or visit https://lni.wa.gov/claims/crime-victim-claims/apply-for-crime-victim-benefits/

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.apht.org/

The 100 Club https://the100club.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?