

WISCONSIN



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

STATE DEATH BENEFITS

Currently, there is not a one-time benefit available.

EDUCATION BENEFITS

In 1996 the Governor of Wisconsin signed the 1995 **Wisconsin Act 228** which waives tuition and fees for surviving children at the 16 campuses that are part of the university of Wisconsin System and at state-supported vocational/technical schools that are part of the Technical College System. As of March 1998, tuition and fees are also waived for surviving spouses. To receive the waiver, the surviving child of a law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty must have been under the age of 21 (or in utero) at the time of the death. For survivors enrolled in the university system, the waiver is in effect for up to five consecutive years. The student must be in good standing and enrolled in a program that leads to a bachelor's degree.

For survivors enrolled in the technical college system, the waiver is in effect for up to three consecutive years. The student must be in good standing and enrolled in a program leading to an associate of arts degree, a collegiate transfer program, or a vocational diploma program. Qualifying students should let the school know of their survivorship status at the time of application for admission. Students will need to provide the school with written documentation certifying their parent was killed in the line of duty.

If you need assistance or have questions, contact the **Wisconsin Chapter of C.O.P.S.** at (920) 851-3805.

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.

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

CONCERNSOFPOLICESURVIVORS.ORG

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

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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>

KIDS CHANCE OF WISCONSIN - 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 Missouri Workers' Compensation Act and that has resulted in demonstrated financial need. For more information or to apply, visit <https://kidschanceofwi.org/>

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

State Statute 102.475 Death benefit; law enforcement and correctional officers, fire fighters, rescue squad members, diving team members, national or state guard members and emergency management personnel.

1) SPECIAL BENEFIT- If the deceased employee is a law enforcement officer, correctional officer, fire fighter, rescue squad member, or diving team member, or if a deceased person is an employee or volunteer performing emergency management activities under Ch. 323 during a state of emergency or a circumstance described in s. 323.12 (2) (c), who sustained an accidental injury while performing services growing out of and incidental to that employment or volunteer activity so that benefits are payable under s. 102.46 or 102.47 (1), the department shall voucher and pay from the appropriation under s. 20.445 (1) (aa) a sum equal to 75 percent of the primary death benefit as of the date of death, but not less than \$50,000 to the persons wholly dependent upon the deceased.

2) PAYMENTS TO DEPENDENTS

a) If there are more than 4 persons who are wholly dependent upon the deceased employee an additional benefit of \$2,000 shall be paid for each dependent in excess of 4.

b) If there is more than one person who is wholly dependent upon the deceased employee, the benefits under this section shall be apportioned between such dependents on the same proportional basis as the primary death benefit.

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/102/475/8/b>

For more information call the **Wisconsin Workers Compensation Office** at 608-266-1340 or visit <https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/wc/>

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)

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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 the individual systems listed below.

Wisconsin Retirement System Benefit 1-877-533-020 or benefits guide at <https://etf.wi.gov/publications/et5103/direct>

HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS

2019 Wisconsin Act 19 – If a law enforcement officer is killed in the line-of-duty on or after January 1, 2019 the agency is responsible to continue* to provide the payment of premiums for hospital, surgical, and other health insurance plans for the surviving spouse and any dependent children under the age of 26 at the time of death. Coverage will cease at the time of remarriage or 65 years of age for the spouse and age 26 for any dependent children. Agencies shall report the amounts paid to the Department of Revenue by March 15th for the previous year for reimbursement.

*benefits will only continue if they were purchased prior to the death.

FUNERAL BENEFITS

Workers' Compensation In all cases in which the death of an employee proximately results from the injury, the employer or insurer shall pay the actual expense for burial, not exceeding \$10,000. 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/> 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.

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.

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>.

WISCONSIN FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE (FOP) <https://wifop.org/>

Wisconsin Professional Police Association - A \$5,000 death benefit is provided to the beneficiaries of its active members who are killed in the line of duty. For more information contact the Wisconsin Professional Police Association Office at 608-273-3840 or visit <https://wppa.com/death-benefit/>

WISCONSIN TROOPERS BENEVOLENT FOUNDATION <https://www.wisconsintrouper.org/>

WISCONSIN CHIEFS OF POLICE <https://www.wichiefs.org/>

WISCONSIN SHERIFFS & DEPUTY SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION <https://wsdsa.org/>

Wisconsin Law Enforcement Officers Memorial – Checks for \$2,500 will be sent to immediate family survivor of LODD. For more information contact **Wisconsin Law Enforcement Memorial** at (608) 846-9854 or visit <https://www.wlem.com/>

Wisconsin Chapter – FBINAA – Checks for \$1,500 will be sent to the immediate family survivor of LODD. One of the local board members will work with National to get a check cut and

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given to the survivor(s). Visit <https://www.fbinaa.org/chapters/chapter-locations/section-ii/wisconsin/> for more information.

Wisconsin Law Enforcement Death Response Team (LEDR)- Wisconsin has a unique organization that focuses specifically on a death of a current or retired law enforcement officer. This organization will work with the agency immediately following a line-of-duty death. LEDR will work alongside the agency with funeral prep, honor guard, debriefing/defusing, peer support and all benefits associated with the death. The team also assists with suicides, off duty deaths and retiree funerals. Visit <https://www.wiledr.org/> for more information.

OTHER BENEFITS TO ASK YOUR AGENCY ABOUT:

City life insurance?

Private life insurance?

County & Local Jurisdiction Benefits?

Retirement Benefits?

Real estate tax relief?