

# NEW YORK



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

State death benefits may be available through a retirement system. Please see the State Life Insurance & Retirement section below.

## EDUCATION BENEFITS

**The NYS Memorial Scholarship** provides financial aid to children, spouses and financial dependents of deceased firefighters, volunteer firefighters, police officers, peace officers (including NYS Correction Officers), and emergency medical service workers who have died as the result of injuries sustained in the line of duty in service to the State of New York. Recipients are entitled to payment for up to four years of full-time undergraduate study, or five years if enrolled in a bachelor degree program approved as a program normally requiring five years of study.

- **Tuition:** an amount equal to your actual tuition or the State University of New York's (SUNY) in-state tuition, whichever is less.
- **Non-tuition Costs:** such as room and board, books, supplies and transportation up to the non-tuition cost allowances at SUNY colleges.
  - o Type of housing affects the total amount, with an on-campus student receiving a higher room and board allowance than a commuter student; however, if housing is not available on campus, the student will receive the same allowance as students living on campus.

For more information or to apply, visit the Higher Education Services Corporation at <https://www.hesc.ny.gov/pay-for-college/financial-aid/types-of-financial-aid/nys-grantsscholarships-awards/nys-memorial-scholarship.html>

**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>

**The PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS' EDUCATION ASSISTANCE (PSOEA) Program** provides financial assistance, for the purpose of seeking higher education, to the spouses and eligible children

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

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Revised 2025

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 PSOE A 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 PSOE A benefits.

**KIDS CHANCE OF NEW YORK-** 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.kcnewyork.org/>

## **WORKERS' COMPENSATION**

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If the worker dies from a compensable injury, the surviving spouse and/or minor children, and lacking such, other dependents as defined by law, are entitled to weekly cash benefits. The amount is equal to two-thirds of the deceased worker's average weekly wage for 52 weeks before the accident. The weekly compensation may not exceed the weekly maximum, despite the number of dependents.

<https://www.wcb.ny.gov/content/main/Workers/ScheduleMaxWeeklyBenefit.jsp>

If there are no surviving children, spouse, grandchildren, grandparents, brothers or sisters, parents or grandparents entitled to compensation, the surviving parents or the estate of the deceased worker may be entitled to payment of a sum of \$50,000. Funeral expenses may also be paid. For all deaths on and after June 8, 2016, the maximum amount for funeral expenses is \$12,500 in Metropolitan New York counties, and \$10,500 in all other counties.

For more information call the New York State Workers' Compensation Board at (877) 632-4996 or visit <http://www.wcb.ny.gov/>

## **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)

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## STATE LIFE INSURANCE & RETIREMENT

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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:

### **NEW YORK STATE & LOCAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM (NYSLRS)**

<https://www.osc.state.ny.us/retirement/members/death-benefits>

## HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS

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Health benefits vary depending upon police department benefits. Spouses of state and county officers may elect to continue to participate in the same benefit program in effect at the time of the officer's death. Contact the Benefits Coordinator at your agency.

## FUNERAL BENEFITS

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**Workers' Compensation** pays a maximum amount for funeral expenses is \$12,500 in Metropolitan New York counties, and \$10,500 in all other counties. 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.

**FEMA COVID-19 Funeral Assistance** If you are covering the cost of a COVID-19 Funeral, FEMA may be able to help. You may qualify for up to \$9,000 for expenses. For more information visit <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance#eligible>.

**The COVID-19 incident period ended on May 11, 2023. FEMA will continue to provide funeral assistance until September 30, 2025, to those who have lost loved ones due to the pandemic.**

## 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.

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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. – 5:00 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.

**The September 11th Victim Compensation Fund (VCF)** provides compensation to individuals (or a personal representative of a deceased individual) who were present at the World Trade Center or the surrounding New York City Exposure Zone; the Pentagon crash site; and the Shanksville, Pennsylvania crash site, at some point between September 11, 2001, and May 30, 2002, and who have since died from a 9/11-related illness. For information or application instructions, call the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund at (855) 885-1555 or visit <https://www.vcf.gov/>. The New York Office of Victim Services may provide benefits to family members that have lost their officer due to a crime. Awards may be granted for things such as mental health counseling, funeral expenses, lost wages, etc. For application instructions, visit <https://ovs.ny.gov/victim-compensation>

**THE SILVER SHIELD FOUNDATION** provides financial assistance for prep school, college and university undergraduate and graduate school, and vocational and technical school for children and spouses, as well as academic tutoring services, college preparation services, counseling and bereavement services, and an annual comprehensive medical exam for surviving spouses. <https://www.silvershieldfoundation.org/>

**NEW YORK SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION** <https://nysheriffs.org/>

**NEW YORK ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE** <https://www.nychiefs.org/>

**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/>

**NEW YORK POLICE OFFICERS MEMORIAL**

<https://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/ops/pomc/index.htm>

**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 YORK FOP** <http://www.nysfop.org/>

**The 100 Club** <https://the100club.org/>

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**The 100 Club of Buffalo** (716) 932-6489 <https://100clubbuffalo.org/>

**NYPD ANCHOR CLUB** Members of the Anchor Club have made it their goal to provide annual programs for all the widows and children of deceased members of the NYPD. (212) 473-2363 <https://www.nypdanchor.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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