AMERICAN SAMOA

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
Currently, there is not a state education benefit available.

CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS provides financial assistance of up to $1,500 per semester to surviving children and to 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.

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.

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.

HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS
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.

WORKERS’ COMPENSATION
Workers’ Compensation Act A.S.C.A 32.0617 Death benefits.
(a) If an injury causes death, the compensation shall be known as a death benefit and shall be payable in the amounts, and to or for the benefit of the individuals following:

CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS (C.O.P.S.)
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This information is compiled by National C.O.P.S.

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(1) Reasonable funeral expenses not exceeding $1,000;
(2) if there is a surviving wife or dependent husband and no child of the deceased, to such surviving wife or dependent husband, 35 percent of the average wages of the deceased, during widowhood, or dependent widowhood, with 2 years compensation in one sum upon remarriage; and if there is a surviving child or children of the deceased, the additional amount of 15 percent of such wages for each child;
(3) In the case of the death or remarriage of such surviving wife or dependent husband, if there is one surviving child of the deceased employee, such child shall have his compensation increased to 35 percent of such wages; and if there is more than one surviving child of the deceased employee, to such children, in equal parts, 35 percent of such wages increased by 15 percent of such wages for each child in excess of one; provided, that the total amount payable shall in no case exceed two-thirds of such wages;
(4) If there is one surviving child of the deceased, but no surviving wife or dependent husband, then for the support of such child, 35 percent of the wages of the deceased; if there is more than one surviving child of the deceased, but no widow or dependent husband, then for the support of such children, in equal parts, 35 percent of such wages increased by 15 percent of such wages for each child in excess of one; the total amount payable under this paragraph shall in no case exceed two-thirds of such wages:
(5) If there is no surviving wife or dependent husband or child, or if the amount payable to a surviving wife or dependent husband and to children shall be less in the aggregate than 66 2/3 percent of the average wages of the deceased, then for the support of grandchildren or brothers and sisters, if dependent upon the deceased at the time of injury, 15 percent of such wages for the support of each such individual, and for the support of each parent or grandparent of the deceased dependent upon him at the time of the injury, 25 percent of such wages during such dependency. In no case shall the aggregate amount payable under this paragraph exceed the difference between 66 2/3 percent of such wages and the amount payable as hereinbefore provided to a surviving wife or dependent husband and for the support of a surviving child or children.

(b) In computing death benefits, the average weekly wages of the deceased may not be considered to be more than $205 nor less than $40, but the total weekly compensation may not exceed the weekly wages of the deceased.
(c) All questions of dependency shall be determined as of the time of the injury.
(d) Compensation paid under this section to aliens not residents or about to become nonresidents of the United States, the Territory of American Samoa, Western Samoa or Canada shall be the same in amount as provided for residents. Dependents in any foreign country shall be limited to a surviving wife and child or children, or if there is no surviving wife or child or children, to a surviving father or mother whom the employee has supported, either wholly or in part, for the period of one year prior to the date of the injury. The Commission may, at its option or upon the application of any party in interest, commute all future installments of compensation to be paid to such aliens by paying or causing to be paid to
them a percentage or not less than one-half of the commuted amount of such future installments of compensation as determined by the Commission.

(e) The Commissioner may, in his discretion, require the appointment of a guardian for the purpose of receiving the compensation of a minor child. In the absence of such a requirement the appointment of a guardian for such purposes shall not be necessary.

For more information contact the Workers’ Compensation Commission division in the Human Resources Department at 684-633-4485 or visit https://www.americansamoa.gov/department-of-human-resources.

STATE LIFE INSURANCE – RETIREMENT
To see if you are eligible for State Life Insurance or death benefits from the American Samoa Government Employee’s Retirement Fund, please call 684-633-5456 or visit https://www.americansamoa.gov/retirement-fund-asg.

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 https://www.concernsofpolicesurvivors.org/

FUNERAL BENEFITS
WORKERS’ COMPENSATION provides a maximum $1,000 burial expense payment. 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.

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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.

Contact the C.O.P.S. National Office (800) 784-2611, 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 or (855) 602-5033 to speak to a Social Security representative or visit your local Social Security Office at Centennial Building 3rd Floor, suite 302 Pago Pago, 96799. You cannot report a death or apply for survivors benefits online. Visit https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/survivors/ifyou.html for more information.

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:
Life insurance?
Private life insurance?
County & Local Jurisdiction Benefits?
Retirement benefits?
Real Estate Tax Relief?