NEBRASKA

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 no one time state death benefit available.

EDUCATION BENEFITS

In the Line of Duty Dependent Education Benefit

An education benefit shall be provided only for full-time undergraduate students who are pursuing studies leading to a degree from an associate degree program or a baccalaureate degree program at a state university, state college or community college. The eligible child may receive the education benefit for up to five years if he or she otherwise continues to be eligible for participation. All education benefits received under the In the Line of Duty Dependent Education Act shall cease when the eligible child reaches twenty-six years of age.

A child becomes eligible for the education benefit after he or she has applied for federal financial aid grants and state scholarships and grants to cover tuition and fees. The child must provide a record of application for such financial aid to the state university, state college, or community college to which he or she is applying.

Contact the Financial Aid department of the college you wish to attend for more information and to apply.

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 // copsn@nationalcops.org
CONCERNSOFPOLICESURVIVORS.ORG
This information is compiled by National C.O.P.S.

Revised 2020
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.

KIDS CHANCE OF NEBRASKA - 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. Children must be between the ages of 16-25.

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

WORKERS’ COMPENSATION

The widow/widower is paid death benefits for his or her life or until remarriage. Upon remarriage, the widow/widower receives two years benefits in a lump sum. Benefits are calculated at 66 2/3 percent of the employee’s average weekly wage at the time of the injury if there are no children, and at 75 percent if there are children, subject to the maximum and minimum per week. Effective 2020, the maximum is $882 and minimum is $49. Children are entitled to a percentage of the death benefit until they reach age 19, or age 25 if enrolled full time at an accredited educational institution, or until the end of actual dependency. Additionally, burial expenses up to a maximum of $10,000.00 are paid.

For more information, call the Nebraska Workers’ Compensation Court at (800) 599-5155 or (402) 471-6468. You may also visit https://www.wcc.ne.gov/.

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 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: NEBRASKA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM (NPERS) https://npers.ne.gov/SelfService/

HEALTH 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.
FUNERAL BENEFITS

WORKERS' COMPENSATION A reasonable expense of the employee’s funeral and burial up to $10,000 will be paid. 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 (800) 784-2611, email cops@nationalcops.org or visit https://www.concernsofpolicestate.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 Nebraska Crime Victim's Reparations Act was created in 1979 with the passage of Legislative Bill (LB) 910. The Act provides compensation to innocent victims of a crime for certain expenses related to the criminal act. You might qualify to receive help with funeral expenses (up to $5,000), counseling services (up to $2,000) etc. with a max benefit of $25,000. Eligible claims are reduced by any insurance, sick leave, workers' compensation, unemployment benefits, etc. received.

You must file a claim with the CVR program within 2 years of the date of the crime. Call the Nebraska Crime Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice at (402) 471-2194 or visit https://ncc.nebraska.gov/crime-victim-reparations
NEBRASKA FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE [https://www.nefop.org/]

POLICE OFFICERS’ ASSOCIATION OF NEBRASKA [http://policeofficersassociationofnebraska.com/]

NEBRASKA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION [https://nebraskasheriffs.com/]

NEBRASKA LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL [https://www.nememorial.org/]

THE 100 CLUB [https://the100club.org/]

SOUTHERN STATES POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION [https://www.sspba.org/]

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.

NEBRASKA STATE PARTOL FOUNDATION [https://statepatrol.nebraska.gov/about/nsp-foundation]

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?
Retirement Benefits?
Real estate tax relief?