STATE DEATH BENEFITS

Currently there is no one time death benefit in Ohio.

EDUCATION BENEFITS

Ohio Safety Officers College Memorial Fund provides tuition assistance to the children and spouses of peace officers, fire fighters and certain other safety officers who are killed in the line-of-duty, anywhere in the United States. Recipients must be Ohio residents and may enroll for full time or part time study at any participating Ohio post-secondary institution.

For the 2020-2021 academic year, the Fund will provide benefits which cover 100% instructional and general fee charges at public colleges and universities and $8,451 per year at private and proprietary post-secondary institutions. Eligibility is for ten semesters or 15 quarters (up to five years or until a bachelor’s degree is obtained, whichever comes first). This includes terms that you use benefits and are not enrolled full-time.

Interested students should contact Ramah Church at (614) 752-9528 or rchurch@highered.ohio.gov. You can also visit https://www.ohiohighered.org/safety-officers-college-fund 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. Call (888) 744-6513 or visit https://psob.bja.ojp.gov/benefits/ or more information.
**KIDS CHANCE OF OHIO** - 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 under 25 years of age.

For more information or to apply, visit [https://www.kidschanceohio.org/](https://www.kidschanceohio.org/)

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**WORKERS’ COMPENSATION**

**Ohio Revised code 4123.59 – 4123.62**

To receive workers' compensation benefits the surviving spouse must take the initiative and file a workers' compensation claim through a workers' compensation attorney to receive any compensation. The determination as to whether the claim will be paid will be determined by the Workers’ Compensation Appeals Board. All cases of death where the dependents are a surviving spouse and one or more children, it is sufficient for the surviving spouse to apply to the administrator on behalf of the spouse and minor children. In cases where all the dependents are minors, a guardian or next friend of such minor dependents shall apply.

This benefit is payable to spouses until they remarry, in which case a lump sum payment equal to 2 years benefit will be paid. For children it is paid until age 18 or beyond if disabled, or until age 25 if the child is a full time student.

For more information, contact the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation by calling (800) 644-6292 or visit [https://info.bwc.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/bwc/home](https://info.bwc.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/bwc/home).

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**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](http://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](mailto:cops@nationalcops.org)

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**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:

**Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS)** [https://www.opers.org/index.shtml](https://www.opers.org/index.shtml)

**Ohio Police & Fire Pension Fund** [https://www.op-f.org/](https://www.op-f.org/)

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

CONCERNSOFPOLICE SURVIVORS.ORG

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

Revised 2020
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.

**HEALTH BENEFITS**

**FUNERAL BENEFITS**

**WORKERS’ COMPENSATION** pays a maximum amount for funeral expenses of $5,500. 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.

For complete information, visit concernsofpolicesurvivors.org; email 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 for more information.

**Ohio Crime Victims Compensation Program** - Ohio law provides a fund to help victims of violent crime recover financial losses. Through the fund, victims can be compensated for medical and counseling expenses, wage loss, replacement services, and funeral expenses. Victims may apply for up to $50,000 in reimbursement for out-of-pocket costs. The Attorney General’s Office will not pay victims for expenses that can be covered by any other available sources, such as insurance.
For more information or to apply, visit the Ohio Attorney General – Victims Compensation website at https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Individuals-and-Families/Victims/Apply-for-Victims-Compensation.

BUCKEYE STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION https://buckeyesheriffs.org/

GREATER CLEVELAND PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL SOCIETY https://www.policememorialsociety.org/

POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION www.sspba.org

OHIO PATRULMENS’ BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION https://www.opba.com/

OHIO ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE https://oacp.org/

OHIO STATE TROOPERS ASSOCIATION https://ohiotroopers.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.

OHIO FOP https://www.fopohio.org/

The 100 Club https://the100club.org/

BLUECOATS, INC (CUYAHOGA COUNTY) https://bluecoatsinc.org/

GEAUGA BLUECOATS, INC (GEAUGA COUNTY) http://geaugabluecoats.org/

BLUECOATS OF MEDINACOUNTY, INC http://bluecoatsofmedinacounty.org/

LAKE COUNTY BLUE COATS, INC (440) 946-4067

BLUECOATS, INC OF SUMMIT COUNTY (330) 882-5795

STARK COUNTY BLUECOATS (330) 498-9485

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 and private life insurance?
County & Local Jurisdiction Benefits?
Real Estate Tax Relief

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