WASHINGTON

Death benefits available to the surviving families of law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty

STATE DEATH BENEFITS

The state provides a one-time $150,000 death benefit to the survivors of law enforcement officers and fire fighters who die of injuries sustained in the performance of their duties.

EDUCATION BENEFITS

C.O.P.S. offers a scholarship to surviving spouses and children up to $1500 per semester. Visit https://www.concernsofpolicesurvivors.org/scholarship for the application.

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.

Subject to the limitations of RCW 28B.15.910, the governing boards of the state universities, the regional universities, and The Evergreen State College may exempt the following students from the payment of all or a portion of tuition fees and services and activities fees: Children of any law enforcement officer or fire fighter who lost his or her life or became totally disabled in the line of duty while employed by any public law enforcement agency or full time or volunteer fire department in this state: PROVIDED, That such persons may receive the exemption only if they begin their course of study at a state-supported college or university within ten years of their graduation from high school.
WORKERS’ COMPENSATION

☐ Surviving spouse (where pension option does not apply.) For recent injuries, a surviving spouse receives 60 percent of the worker’s wage at the time of injury up to the maximum level allowed by law. If the worker had minor children, an additional 2 percent per child is paid, up to an additional maximum of 10 percent. Minor children of the worker living in another household are entitled to 5 percent of the total entitlement per child up to a maximum of 25 percent. The remainder of the benefit is paid to the surviving spouse and children residing in the deceased worker’s household. ☐ Children’s benefits (where there is not an eligible spouse and where pension options don’t apply). A monthly benefit of 35 percent of the worker’s wage is paid to the guardian of a minor dependent. Another 15 percent of the wage is paid for each additional child up to a maximum benefit equal to 65 percent of the wage at the time of injury. Where there is more than one child, benefits are divided equally among them. What is the maximum benefit? The maximum benefit is a percentage of the statewide average wage for the year prior to the pension award. The date of injury affects the percentage. PH. 360-902-5119

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 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

RETIREMENT & PENSION

Benefits may vary by department. Check with your agencies benefits department.

HEALTH BENEFITS

Check with your agencies Human Resources Department for available health benefit information.
FUNERAL BENEFITS

Washington State Department of Labor and Industries pays a portion of the worker’s reasonable funeral and burial expenses (as of July 2019, up to $10,883.50). PH. 360-902-5119

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 @ 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 www.wilbert.com or call (888) WILBERT.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

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.

Crime Victims Compensation Program (CVCP) benefits that can be provided to family members of homicide victims. Payment of funeral costs up to a maximum of $5,750 for claims with a date of injury on or before July 22, 2017. For claims after that date, the maximum benefit is $6,170. Funeral expenses include such costs as burial, cremation, cemetery plot, headstone, and funeral service. As with other CVCP benefits, payment is secondary to other insurance benefits. However, the first $40,000 of life insurance proceeds are exempt from the provision. Immediate family members of homicide victims may receive up to 12 grief-counseling sessions. Insurance coverage for counseling must be used if available. The spouse, registered domestic partner, or dependent children of a deceased victim may be eligible to receive limited wage replacement benefits. Payments are based on a percentage of the victim’s wages. Crime Victims Application for Benefits - Homicide Claims or call 1-800-762-3716

Social Security Benefit: United States Social Security Administration Summary: One-time death benefit payment plus monthly death benefits. The surviving spouse must request the lump sum, one-time benefit and may be able to receive full benefits at age 65 if born on or
before January 1, 1940 (age gradually increasing to 67 for widows or widowers born January 2, 1940 or later). Reduced benefits may be available as early as age 60. Documents Required: Marriage Certificate; Certified Death Certificate Contact Information: Toll Free: (800) 772-1213 Website: www.ssa.gov

The Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation is committed to ensuring we never forget the events of 9/11 and the sacrifices that were made and continue to be made by our first responders in the line of duty. Through the Fallen First Responder Home Program, Tunnel to Towers aims to pay off the mortgages of fallen law enforcement officers and firefighters killed in the line of duty that leave behind young children. The Foundation’s goal is to ensure stability and security to these families facing sudden, tragic loss. https://tunnel2towers.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/

OTHER BENEFITS TO ASK YOUR AGENCY ABOUT:
City life insurance?
Private life insurance?