DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Death Benefits Available to the Surviving Families of Law Enforcement Officers Killed in the Line of Duty


STATE DEATH BENEFITS
Death benefits for Washington, D.C., officers are covered under the section detailing benefit information for Federal law enforcement officers.

EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS
Educational benefits for Washington, D.C., officers are covered under the section detailing benefit information for Federal law enforcement officers.

The Herb Block Scholarship provides financial assistance to students of all ages to attend community colleges in the DC Metro area. The Foundation awards scholarships to students who have demonstrated financial need and a commitment to learning. The Herb Block Scholarship will provide up to $8,000 per academic year and up to $16,000 over the life of the scholarship. This covers not only tuition, but also fees, books, and limited transportation and child care expenses. It is a “last dollar” scholarship, meaning that the calculation of a students’ need takes in to account all other financial aid awards the student receives. It is renewable for up to five years, provided that the students continues to meet all other eligibility criteria and has not reached the monetary cap. Students of any age are eligible if they are high school graduates, who meet the following criteria:

- Are US Citizens/Nationals, Permanent Resident Aliens, have been granted DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) by the US Customs and Immigration Service, or qualify for in-state tuition under the Maryland Dream Act.
- Are eligible for (but need not necessarily receive) federal financial assistance.
- Are a primary resident in Washington, DC, or Montgomery or Prince George’s Counties in Maryland, or the Cities of Alexandria or Falls Church, or the Counties of Arlington or Fairfax in Virginia.
- Are attending, or plan to attend, on a full time or part time basis, one of the participating community colleges, and have not yet earned more than 40 credits towards a degree.
- Can demonstrate financial need and, if eligible, apply for financial aid.

For more information, please visit the website www.herbblockfoundation.org
**WORKERS' COMPENSATION**
Workers' Compensation coverage is compulsory for employers in the District of Columbia. A spouse can receive 50% of the employee's weekly wage and a spouse and child(ren) can receive 66 2/3% of the employee's weekly wage, with a minimum benefit of $360.00 per week but not to exceed the maximum weekly benefit of $1,355.00. There is also a maximum burial allowance of $5,000. Widow(er) receives a two-year lump sum upon remarriage and weekly benefits cease. Children receive benefits until age 18, or beyond age 18 if physically or mentally disabled, or until age 23 if full-time students.


**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.

**RETIREMENT/PENSION**
Individual cities and municipalities are responsible for providing retirement and pension plans for law enforcement officers. Contact your local agency’s Benefits Assistance Officer.

**ADDITIONAL BENEFITS**
**PEER SUPPORT ORGANIZATION**
Established in 1984, 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 professional, and local peer-support organizations to provide assistance to surviving families of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. C.O.P.S. has become a “lifeline” to police survivors nationwide. Contact the C.O.P.S. National Office at (573) 346-4911 or visit [https://www.nationalcops.org/localchapters.html](https://www.nationalcops.org/localchapters.html) for information on a chapter in your area.

**HEROES, Inc.** was founded in 1964, as a totally nonprofit volunteer organization incorporated in the District of Columbia under Charitable Registration Certificate No. 6-07-398 to serve the surviving families of all officers within the Metropolitan Washington, DC, area (The District of Columbia, Prince George's County and Montgomery County in Maryland, and Arlington and Fairfax Counties in Virginia). Within 24 hours of an officer's death, a check in the amount of $3,500 is delivered to the family to be used for immediate emergency expenses.
At a later date, usually within two to four weeks, the surviving spouse will meet with the HEROES Executive Committee to identify other personal areas where financial assistance is needed. A comprehensive scholarship program is available to ensure that each child can receive an education of his or her choice.

HEROES never forgets or closes the books on a family. They are always available for counseling or assistance. The telephone number for HEROES, Inc. is (202) 638-6658. [http://heroes.org/](http://heroes.org/)

Officers who belong to the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Jerrard F. Young Lodge DC-1 are entitled to an accidental death benefit regardless of whether the incident occurred on or off duty; free television, flowers, or fruit basket while hospitalized; and legal services for lawsuits incurred in the performance of duty (subject to Legal aid Committee approval). For information, contact the Jerrard F. Young District of Columbia Lodge #1, 711 4th ST NW, Washington, DC 20001. Office: (202) 408-7767. [www.dc-fop.org](http://www.dc-fop.org)

**FUNERAL AND CREMATION BENEFITS**

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 their website: [www.dignitymemorial.com](http://www.dignitymemorial.com) and look under Public Servants for details. You may also call (800) 343-4464 and speak with a representative 24/7.

Wilbert Funeral Services, Inc. provides complimentary burial vaults and related services for fallen law enforcement officers. For more information, visit [www.wilbert.com](http://www.wilbert.com) or call (800) 323-7188.