

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS' BENEFITS PROGRAM

OVERVIEW



A unique partnership 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) Programs provide 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 PSOB Office at the Bureau of Justice Assistance reviews the nearly 700 claims submitted each year on behalf of America's fallen and catastrophically disabled public safety heroes and their loved ones.

As of May 2011, the PSOB Office has processed and paid over \$318,111 in claims in this fiscal year. This amount exceeds the total amount of benefits paid in all of 2009, which was \$311,810.

The PSOB Office works with national-level organizations to provide visibility and emotional support to the families and coworkers of officers killed in the line of duty. These organizations include:

- Concerns of Police Survivors (COPS), Inc., which provides services and assistance for families and coworkers of fallen law enforcement officers including regional training sessions, special seminars, and extended programs for survivors.
- Badge of Honor Memorial Foundation, which fulfills three major functions for families and departments of peace officers killed in the line of duty: (1) assists surviving families in obtaining all federal and state benefits available to them; (2) provides each family with a memorial statue as a lasting symbol of recognition for the life of service the officer courageously gave; and (3) helps educate police organizations in casualty assistance planning.

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▶ ELIGIBILITY

Beneficiaries of the PSOB Death Benefits Program must comply with the PSOB Office's administrative review process by producing sufficient evidence to show that the public safety officer died as the direct and proximate result of a personal injury sustained in the line of duty.

Additional information and step-by-step instructions for submitting claims for death benefits, disability benefits, and education benefits may be found at http://www.bja.gov/grant/psob/psob_main.html.

