

## CLARIFICATION

**Benefits outlined in this booklet are dependent upon qualification and considered by the sponsoring body or organization on a case-by-case basis**



Visit us online at  
[www.bluecoatsofmedinacounty.org](http://www.bluecoatsofmedinacounty.org)



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# SUPPORT SERVICES & DEATH BENEFITS

*Available to*

## **MEDINA COUNTY SAFETY FORCES**



### **Mission Statement**

*Bluecoats of Medina County, Inc. a non-profit organization, provides financial assistance and other services to family of police, firefighters (paid and volunteer), emergency medical personnel, sheriffs and corrections officers who lose their lives or become permanently and totally disabled in the line of duty serving the Medina County public. Bluecoats also serves as an information catalyst to federal, state and regional resources that provide help and support to families of fallen safety officers.*

# **MEDINA COUNTY SAFETY FORCES SUPPORT SERVICES AND SCHEDULE OF DEATH BENEFITS**

*Application/Qualification Criteria*

## **BLUECOATS OF MEDINA COUNTY:**

1819 KING ROAD

HINCKLEY, OH 44233

(330) 618-0801

[Barbara@bluecoatsofmedinacounty.org](mailto:Barbara@bluecoatsofmedinacounty.org)

Bluecoats of Medina County is organized to provide needed assistance to the surviving families of Safety Forces who lose their lives or become permanently and totally disabled in the line of duty. Should such a tragedy occur, Bluecoats at the outset will provide:

- \$2,000 for immediate expenses;
- financial assistance for housing for up to six months; and
- guidance and counsel in accessing local, state and federal programs presently available.

## **MEDINA COUNTY FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION:**

CHARITY FUND

C/O RACHEL FULLING - SECRETARY

4272 WEYMOUTH ROAD

MEDINA, OH 44256

(330) 723-0043

The Charity fund of Medina Coounty's Firemen's Association was established in 1987 for the purpose of providing death benefits to a spouse, children or family survivors of a deceased member in the event of his/her death while on duty as a firefighter and an active member of the Medina County Firemen's Association.

\$4,000 to member's family for immediate expenses

\$500 to Department for memorial expensed

If a police officer is feloniously killed in the line of duty and is a current member of the National Rifle Association, the surviving spouse/family is entitled to a \$25,000 death benefit. Must contact the NRA insurance carrier within 90 days of death.

#### **BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE:**

The (BJA) supports two nonprofit organizations that assist families of public safety officers killed in the line of duty. Concerns of Police Survivors (COPS) and The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF).

#### **CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS (COPS):**

COPS was organized in 1984 as a national networking organization to support law enforcement survivors emotionally, financially, and legally; assist law enforcement agencies to prepare for the trauma affiliated with the sudden loss of an officer in the line of duty; and to make the nation aware of the yearly loss of life by the law enforcement profession and the trauma that loss inflicts on the family, the agency, and the nation. COPS membership is comprised of spouses, parents, children, siblings, significant others, and co-workers who are effected by line-of-duty deaths. The COPS organization also has programs that assist families financially. COPS works closely with other police organizations to organize the annual National Police Week activities held annually in Washington, DC. COPS sponsors two days of grief seminars for family survivors and co-workers.

Contact Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc. P.O. Box 3199, Camdenton, MO 65020.  
Phone: (573) 346-4911 Fax: (573) 346-1414  
OHIO (COPS) (513) 367-2130 [www.ohiocops.com](http://www.ohiocops.com)

#### **THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS, INC.:**

A nationwide support group for bereaved parents and siblings.

National Office: PO Box 3696, Oak Brook, IL 60522-3696  
Phone: (312) 990-0010

#### **ASSOCIATION OF DEATH EDUCATION AND COUNSELING:**

Counseling referrals.

National Office: 638 Prospect Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105-4298  
Phone: (203) 232-4825

#### **NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR VICTIM ASSISTANCE:**

A nationwide clearinghouse for all victimization issues.

National Office: 1757 Park Road NW, Washington, DC 20010.  
Phone: (202) 232-6682

## **OHIO VICTIMS OF CRIME COMPENSATION PROGRAM:**

**1-800-824-8263**

Dependents of a deceased officer who dies from criminally injurious conduct or trying to apprehend a person engaged in criminally injurious conduct may seek an award of reparations. The completed application must be received within two years from the date of the criminal conduct. Although survivors must go to all other resources first, it is recommended that they file a claim to cover unforeseeable expenses, such as the cost of replacement services or other out-of-pocket expenses. Attorney fees are paid from the reparations fund.

## **OHIO BUREAU OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION:**

**CLAIMS SECTION**

**30 WEST SPRING STREET**

**COLUMBUS, OHIO 43266-0581**

**(614) 466-1000**

**1-800-644-6292**

Workers' Compensation benefits are payable to beneficiaries of all agency personnel providing the following criteria, as outlined in Section A are met:

- (A) Should death be caused by or related to an industrial injury or disease, workers' compensation will be paid to the spouse for life duration unless spouse remarries, and to dependent child(ren) until age 18 or beyond age 18 if disabled, or until age 25 if a full-time student.
- (B) If the spouse remarries, she/he will receive an amount equal to 2 years of compensation.
- (C) Rate payable: 2/3 of the officer's average weekly wage not to exceed 100% of the SAWW (State Average Weekly Wage).

Funeral expenses will be paid up to an amount of \$3,200.

## **LOCAL AND STATE FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS:**

For FOP members, the local organization will provide a benefit of \$1,000 and the state organization will provide a benefit of \$2,000.

## **PERSONAL LIFE INSURANCE:**

To expedite the handling of insurance claims, contact should be made with the local insurance agent or home office. A beneficiary of an insurance policy has several options for receiving the payment – lump sum, life annuity, or periodic payments. Insurance proceeds are not generally taxable nor are they considered income to the beneficiary.

The American Council of Life Insurance can locate life insurance policies the officer may have carried that the survivors may not be aware of. The search request must be in writing. Phone: (800) 942-4242.

## **NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION DEATH BENEFIT:**

**KIRKE VAN ORSDEL**

**INSURANCE ADMINISTRATION AND CLAIMS**

**(877) 672-3006**

## **VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS**

**DIVISION OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
8895 EAST MAIN STREET  
REYNOLDSBURG, OH 43068  
(614) 752-8200  
WEBSFM@COM.STATE.OH.US**

Survivors eligible for benefits under the Ohio Volunteer Firefighters Dependents Fund if the volunteer dies while discharging duties or from exposure or injury received while discharging duties. Spouse receives a lump sum of \$1000 plus \$300 per month. Benefits cease upon remarriage. Each child receives a monthly benefit of \$125 until age 18 or age 23 if the child is attending a post-secondary educational institution.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS' BENEFITS PROGRAM:**

**BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE  
810 SEVENTH STREET NW.  
WASHINGTON, DC 20531  
(202) 307-0635, 1-888-744-6513  
(202) 616-0314 Fax**

The PSOB Program provides a onetime financial benefit to the eligible survivors of public safety officers and police and fire chaplains whose deaths are the direct proximate result of a traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty. This act also provides the same benefit to a public safety officer who has been permanently and totally disabled as the direct result of a catastrophic personal injury sustained in the line of duty. The benefit has been adjusted each year on October 1, to reflect the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index: the current benefit is \$283,385 (effective 10/1/05).

This benefit is not subject to execution or attachment by creditors. Further, the IRS has ruled that it is not subject to federal income tax.

The HOMETOWN HEROES SURVIVORS BENEFITS ACT amends and expands the PSOB program. This new addition will cover public safety officers who die of heart attacks or strokes while engaged in non-routine stressful or strenuous physical activity including training exercise. The officers are covered while engaged in such activity, and as long as 24 hours after participating in such activity.

(signed into law DECEMBER 15, 2003 not retroactive)

Eligible survivors:

1. If no surviving child(ren), to the surviving spouse.
2. If surviving child(ren), one-half to the child(ren), and one-half to the surviving spouse.
3. If no surviving spouse, to the child(ren) in equal shares.
4. If no surviving spouse or child(ren), this benefit will be paid to the beneficiary of the officers life insurance policy.
5. If none of the above, to the parent(s) in equal shares.

#### **FEDERAL WORKERS' COMPENSATION BENEFITS FOR NON-FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS:**

**OFFICE OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION PROGRAMS**

**SPECIAL CLAIMS OFFICE**

**P.O. BOX 37117**

**WASHINGTON, DC 20013**

**(202) 565-9424**

Under certain circumstances, benefits may be provided to a non-Federal law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty as determined by the U.S. Department of Labor. These benefits are provided if a state or local officer is killed while engaged in the apprehension or attempted apprehension of a person who has committed a crime against the United States or who is being sought by a law enforcement authority of the U.S. The benefit is also extended to those killed while engaged in the lawful prevention of lawful attempt to prevent the commission of a crime against the United States. The program also encompasses those engaged in protecting or guarding a person held for the commission of a crime against the United States or as a material witness.

#### **VETERAN'S BENEFITS:**

**CLEVELAND REGIONAL OFFICE**

**1240 EAST 9TH STREET**

**CLEVELAND, OHIO**

**1-800-827-1000**

A number of survivor's benefits are available to the spouse and child(ren) of a deceased veteran. A death pension is payable to low-income widows and children of wartime veterans who have died of causes not related to their military service. The VA will pay up to \$300 towards many veterans' funeral expenses plus \$150 for interment or burial plot. Form 21-530 must be filed.

#### **SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION:**

**1-800-772-1213**

Monthly survivor benefits are available to eligible beneficiaries if the officer was insured by Social Security at the time of death. Each surviving dependent is entitled to a percentage of the officer's Primary Insurance Allowance, subject to the Family Maximum Benefit. Children's benefits are not affected by the remarriage of their mother or father.

In addition to monthly benefits survivors receive, the officer's eligible spouse is entitled to a one-time death payment of \$255. If no such spouse, this payment can be made only to a child entitled to survivors' benefits. Social Security benefits are based on earned credits the officer or spouse received while employed. The number of credits needed will vary with the type of benefit.

**OHIO PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS DEATH BENEFIT FUND:**

**140 EAST TOWN STREET  
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215  
(614) 228-2975 1-800-860-9599**

In 1976 the 111th General Assembly of the State of Ohio established the Ohio Public Safety Officers Death Benefit Fund. These special benefits are provided to the eligible survivors of public safety officers who are killed in the line of duty or who die of injuries or diseases incurred in the performance of official duty. Survivor may be eligible for benefit if the officer's death is attributable to:

1. Injury/disease incurred in the performance of duty.
2. Heart disease, with fatal attack while in the performance of duty.
3. Heart disease while off-duty, if the fatal attack can be attributed to an incident while in the performance of duty.

If the officer is not eligible for age and service retirement under OP&F, the eligible survivors shall receive the officer's base pay minus an amount equal to the benefits payable by OP&F. Whenever there is an increase in the base pay, the benefits payable to survivors are increased accordingly and the death fund benefits are reduced by the amount the normal survivor benefits are increased.

**EDUCATION BENEFITS:**

**OHIO STUDENT AID COMMISSION  
STATE GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS DEPARTMENT  
309 SOUTH 4TH STREET  
P.O. BOX 182452  
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43218  
(614) 752-9535**

Under Ohio Revised Code 333.26, a child(ren) of an officer who dies in the line of duty and who is admitted to any State university or college as defined in Division (A)(1) of O.R.C. 3345.12, community college, state community college, university branch or technical college, shall not be required to pay any tuition or any student fee for up to four (4) years of education, which shall be at an undergraduate level. Benefits are available to those under age 26 or age 30 with military service.

In addition, an amendment to O.R.C. 3333.26 effective 11/20/96 extends university tuition waivers to spouses and certain former spouses of peace officers killed in the line of duty. A "qualified former spouse" means the former spouse of a law enforcement officer who is the custodial parent of a minor child of that marriage pursuant to an order allocating the parental rights and responsibilities for care of the child pursuant to Section 3109.04.