
FISCAL TOPICS

Fiscal Services Division

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Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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Public Safety Survivor Benefits Fund

Purpose and History

Iowa Code section [80.47](#) establishes the Public Safety Survivor Benefits Fund to provide resources to assist surviving family members of eligible peace officers and fire fighters killed in the line of duty to pay for accident and/or health care coverage. The Fund was created in 2019 Iowa Acts, chapter [163](#) (FY 2019 Justice System Appropriations Act), and is under the purview of the Department of Public Safety (DPS).

Funding and Use of Funds

The Fund consists of moneys transferred from the Iowa Lottery Authority (ILA). Pursuant to Iowa Code section [99G.39\(4\)](#), the ILA is required to transfer a total of \$100,000 in lottery revenues to the Fund on an annual fiscal year basis. Of the total moneys appropriated to the Fund per fiscal year, 50.0% is distributed in the form of grants to nonprofit organizations that provide resources to assist surviving family members of eligible peace officers killed in the line of duty in paying costs associated with accident and/or health care coverage. When awarding these grants, the DPS is required to give first consideration of funding to Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc. (COPS), and similar nonprofit organizations.

The remaining 50.0% of the moneys in the Fund per fiscal year is granted to nonprofit organizations to assist surviving family members of eligible fire fighters killed in the line of duty to pay for accident and/or health care coverage. Iowa Code section [80.47](#) requires that when awarding these grants, the DPS must give first consideration of funding to Iowa Professional Fire Fighters, Inc., and similar nonprofit organizations.

Appropriations to and from the Fund

According to Iowa Code section [99G.39\(4\)](#), the ILA must transfer the total amount of \$100,000 to the Fund prior to the deposit of lottery revenues in the State General Fund. Lottery revenues are transferred to the State General Fund on a quarterly basis.

Since FY 2020, \$100,000 has been deposited each fiscal year from the ILA in late October. As of FY 2023, Iowa Concerns of Police Survivors (Iowa COPS) and Iowa Professional Fire Fighters have both received \$50,000 each year. The current balance as of September 2023 is \$1,500, which was accrued from interest.

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More Information

Public Safety Survivor Fund: dps.iowa.gov/divisions/commissioners-office/public-safety-survivor-fund
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