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## FISCAL TOPICS

Fiscal Services Division

October 8, 2020



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Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

## Public Safety Survivor Benefits Fund

### Purpose and History

Iowa Code section [80.47](#) establishes the Public Safety Survivor Benefits Fund with the purpose of providing resources to assist surviving family members of eligible peace officers and fire fighters killed in the line of duty in paying costs associated with 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) and any other moneys deposited therein. 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 distributed in the form of grants to nonprofit organizations that provide resources to assist surviving family members of eligible fire fighters killed in the line of duty in paying costs associated with 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 Firefighters, 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. It should be noted that only one deposit has been made to date, as the Fund became effective for FY 2020. The transfer of lottery revenue for FY 2021 has not yet occurred. Generally, proceeds are available annually in late October.

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### More Information

Public Safety Survivor Fund: [dps.iowa.gov/divisions/commissioners-office/public-safety-survivor-fund](https://dps.iowa.gov/divisions/commissioners-office/public-safety-survivor-fund)  
LSA Staff Contact: Christin Mechler (515.250.0458) [christin.mechler@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:christin.mechler@legis.iowa.gov)

For FY 2020, the ILA appropriated \$100,000 to the Fund. No expenditures have been made at this time. In FY 2020, the Fund accrued a total of \$831 in interest. No appropriation has been made for FY 2021 at this time, and so far, for FY 2021, the Fund has accrued an additional \$32 in interest for the fiscal year. The total year-to-date balance of the Fund is \$100,863.

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