



AGENCY AND FAMILY SUPPORT RESOURCES

2024/25

Guide data and information effective beginning January 2024

AGENCY AND FAMILY SUPPORT RESOURCES

| | |
|---|----|
| Scholarships | 2 |
| Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.) | 2 |
| First Responders Children Foundation..... | 2 |
| Gratitude Initiative..... | 3 |
| Survivor Benefits | 4 |
| Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.) | 4 |
| Department of Justice..... | 4 |
| Information/Training..... | 5 |
| Below 100..... | 5 |
| International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) | 5 |
| St. Michael’s Shield Project..... | 5 |
| Stanton Foundation | 6 |
| COUNSELING | 7 |
| Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.) Counseling Program | 7 |
| Department of Justice..... | 7 |
| The First Responders Children’s Foundation | 7 |
| Programs..... | 9 |
| Gary Sinise Foundation..... | 9 |
| Gratitude Initiative..... | 9 |
| Law Enforcement United (LEU) | 10 |
| Tunnels to Towers – t2t.org..... | 11 |
| About The Officer Down Memorial Page | 12 |

SCHOLARSHIPS

CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS (C.O.P.S.)

C.O.P.S. scholarships provide financial assistance to surviving children** and to surviving spouses** of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty, according to C.O.P.S. scholarship criteria, who wish to pursue a course of study beyond high school. Types of higher education include students enrolled in undergraduate and post-graduate studies at an accredited college or university, or enrolled at an accredited trade/vocational school.

** Surviving children and spouses shall be eligible provided the survivor is not entitled to a tuition-free education as a state death benefit. If an eligible survivor applies for a state benefit and is denied, the survivor will then become eligible for a C.O.P.S. scholarship. **

HOW MUCH IS THE SCHOLARSHIP?

C.O.P.S. Scholarship recipients are eligible to receive up to \$2,000.00 per semester, with a lifetime maximum amount not to exceed \$16,000.00

WHEN SHOULD STUDENTS APPLY?

Applicants should apply for assistance using the process listed below for EACH semester they are wishing to be considered.

No applications will be accepted after the deadline listed below for each semester.

- Summer Semester: April 1st
- Fall Semester: June 1st
- Winter/Spring Semester: October 1st

WHAT DOES C.O.P.S. NEED FROM YOU?

To be considered for the C.O.P.S. Scholarship, students will need to complete the following:

- Fill out and sign the C.O.P.S. Scholarship application.
- Provide ALL required documentation listed on pages 2 & 3 of the application.
- Submit your completed application & required documentation to the National Office.

WHEN WILL YOU HEAR FROM C.O.P.S.?

The scholarship committee will meet 1-2 weeks after the scholarship deadline to go over the applications received. It

is always the goal to notify students of the decision of their application and have funds sent to their respective schools within 30 days after the application deadline.

If the committee has any questions, they will reach out to you. Please make sure to provide C.O.P.S. with the correct phone number and email and be sure to monitor that regularly so they are able to move forward with applications submitted.

If you would like to review the Scholarship Criteria further, you can read more at the Standard Operating Procedure by going to the following website:

<https://www.concernsofpolicesurvivors.org/scholarship>

FIRST RESPONDERS CHILDREN FOUNDATION

First responders know all too well that the sacrifices required by their dangerous jobs are not theirs alone—that their entire family makes sacrifices. First responder families accept these sacrifices because of their shared sense of duty to help others.

But the absence of a parent, made permanent when they make the ultimate sacrifice, often means kids miss out on emotional support and sage advice about education from that parent. This, coupled with the cost of higher education that's out of reach for many first responder families, can put these children at a disadvantage when attempting to realize their full potential.

FRCF helps children overcome these hurdles in two ways.

1. First, FRCF scholarships provide access to higher education, a springboard to success that allows first responder children to pursue their career dreams. Scholarship funds can be used for trade school, college or graduate school expenses.
2. Second, our Scholars Council is a group of peers and working professionals connected to a broader community of supportive mentors and partner organizations. Recognizing that success requires more than schooling, the Scholars Council provides scholarship recipients with access to internships and jobs, career advice and mentorship, skills development and leadership opportunities.

For more information, please visit <https://1strcf.org/scholarship/>

GRATITUDE INITIATIVE

Gratitude Initiative (GI) helps provide college scholarships to students who complete the GI College Success Academy and are enrolled to attend an accredited college or university.

LAW ENFORCEMENT CHILD ELIGIBILITY APPLY FOR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Thank you for your interest in the GI College Success Academy Program. The application process is quick and easy and usually takes less than 10 minutes.

This link (<https://gratitudeinitiative.org/apply-for-educational-programs/law-enforcement-child-eligibility/>) contains information

about the application process, eligibility, and required documentation. The application includes three (3) sections: parent information, student information, and a section where you will upload the required documentation. Either the student or their parent may complete the application on behalf of their family.

Before you begin, please review the information below to confirm your eligibility and to help you gather the required documentation. We encourage you to complete your application in one sitting however you do have the ability to save your work and complete it later.

We look forward to receiving your completed application!

SURVIVOR BENEFITS

CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS (C.O.P.S.)

SURVIVOR BENEFITS

Yearly, C.O.P.S. compiles the state benefits available to surviving families. Benefits include education benefits, state benefits, worker's compensation, pension, funeral benefits and miscellaneous organizations that assist. Download your state benefits package at <https://www.concernsofpolicesurvivors.org/survivorbenefits>.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS' BENEFIT PROGRAM

The Department of Justice is committed to supporting law enforcement officer health and wellness—healthy officers are critical to building healthy and safe communities. This collection assembles several dozen articles, podcasts, and Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB).

A unique 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.

Visit www.psob.gov to file a death or disability claim.

The amount of the PSOB benefit is \$422,035 for eligible deaths occurring on or after October 1, 2022. For benefit amounts prior to October 1, 2022, please visit <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/psob/resources/benefits-by-year>

To contact a liaison in your state, contact the National C.O.P.S. Office. Infographics, trainings, webinars, and other publications produced (mainly by the C.O.P.S. Office and Bureau of Justice Assistance) in recent years dealing with all aspects of law enforcement officer and family wellness from financial literacy to substance use disorders to preventing or recovering from the suicide death of a colleague. It is hoped that these resources will help law enforcement agencies assemble or enrich their wellness-focused programming.

Please check out www.psob.gov for the above information.

INFORMATION/TRAINING

BELOW 100

The mission of Below 100 is to influence law enforcement culture by providing innovative training and awareness, through presentations, social media, and webinars on identifying the leading causes and current trends in preventable line of duty deaths and injuries.

THE 5 TENETS

1. Wear Your Belt.
2. Wear Your Vest.
3. Watch Your Speed.
4. WIN—What's Important Now?
5. Remember: Complacency Kills!

For more information, please visit <https://www.below100.org>.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE (IACP)

The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) is the world's largest and most influential professional association for police leaders. With more than 33,000 members in over 170 countries, the IACP is a recognized leader in global policing, committed to advancing safer communities through thoughtful, progressive police leadership. Since 1893, the association has been serving communities by speaking out on behalf of law enforcement and advancing leadership and professionalism in policing worldwide.

The IACP is known for its commitment to enhancing community safety by shaping the future of the police profession. Through timely research, programming, and unparalleled training opportunities, the IACP is preparing current and emerging police leaders—and the agencies and communities they serve—to succeed in addressing the most pressing issues, threats, and challenges of the day.

The IACP is a not-for-profit 501c(3) organization headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia. The IACP is the publisher of The Police Chief magazine, the leading periodical for law enforcement executives, and the host of the IACP Annual Conference, the largest police educational and

technology exposition in the world. IACP membership is open to law enforcement professionals of all ranks, as well as non-sworn leaders across the criminal justice system.

For more information about the IACP training programs, such as First Line Leadership; Leadership in Police Organizations; Planning, Designing, and Constructing Police Facilities; and Women's Leadership Institute please visit <https://www.theiacp.org/about-iacp>.

ST. MICHAEL'S SHIELD PROJECT

(Formerly Armor of God Project)

FREE BULLET PROOF VESTS PROGRAM FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Thousands of law enforcement professionals in the United States are working in dangerous environments and they do not have a ballistic vest to protect them. Many officers are provided new ballistic vests by their employment agency every five years. Most manufacturers of ballistic armor have set 5 years as the limit to how long they will warranty their product. While the manufacturer warranty may be expired, often the vest will still effectively protect those that do not have one. Over the last several years

St. Michael's Shield has tested numerous expired vests and has found them to still possess the ability to stop projectiles.

The Armor of God Project began in 2009 and in 2018 transitioned into Vest For Life and is now located in Knoxville, TN. Their mission is still dedicated to protecting those that protect us by providing donated ballistic vests to officers that need them.

We encourage you to assist them in any way that you are able in order that they may be able to provide every law enforcement officer with this basic safety equipment free of any costs except for shipping. Through the efforts of a small cadre of volunteers, financial supporters, and those praying daily, thousands of ballistic vests have been given out and lives have been saved.

To request or to donate a bulletproof vest please visit <https://vestforlife.com>.

STANTON FOUNDATION

FALLEN K9 REPLACEMENT GRANTS

To honor the lives of K9s lost in the line of duty, the Stanton Foundation offers grants of up to \$15,000 to fund the purchase of a new K9 and a bulletproof vest. The Foundation makes a binding commitment to provide the funds when an application is accepted. The funds become available to the Department within two weeks of receiving an invoice for the purchase of the K9 and the vest. To be eligible, the department must:

- Have lost an active, on-duty K9 during a deployment (including transportation), a training event, or patrol activities within the past 12 months;
- Be financially prepared to send the new K9 to appropriate training;
- Submit the invoices for purchases within six months of having their application accepted.

The fallen K9 must not:

- Have died due to a genetic or medical condition unrelated to his service;
- Have died due to handler or departmental error*;
- Have died outside of a deployment (including transportation), a training event, or patrol activities;
- Have died more than 12 months ago.

This program is not competitive and is directed toward any police department in the United States. The Stanton Foundation will award grants to any eligible department that successfully completes the application process. To apply, a department should complete an application and await Foundation approval. Upon approval of the application, the department must sign a certification statement. Thereafter, the department may purchase a K9 and bulletproof vest and provide invoices to the Foundation for prompt reimbursement. To review the application, please visit our Resources page.

<https://thestantonfoundation.org/canine-welfare/fallen-k9-replacement-grant>

COUNSELING

CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS (C.O.P.S.) COUNSELING PROGRAM

ELIGIBILITY

Any dependent child of a law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty (according to federal government criteria) since May 14, 1984, is eligible.

All information submitted to Concerns of Police Survivors in conjunction with the “C.O.P.S. Kids” program will be treated as confidential, privileged information. Family surnames and names of children will never be included in any printed report that leaves the National Office.

FILING A CLAIM

Complete the “C.O.P.S. Kids” Counseling application form (located at www.concernsofpolicesurvivors.org/counseling), along with a copy of the child’s birth certificate, and submit to the C.O.P.S. National office. Be sure to include the counselor information on the application if known. A C.O.P.S. staff member will follow-up with you after the application has been reviewed with further instructions.

FUNDING LIMITATIONS

The “C.O.P.S. Kids” Counseling program will assist with the out-of-pocket costs that are incurred for counseling up to \$6,000 per eligible child. Payments can be paid directly to the mental health professional or reimbursed to the responsible parent/guardian. If counseling for the parent/guardian is recommended by a health care professional in conjunction with the child’s counseling, C.O.P.S. will assist with out-of-pocket costs up to \$4,000. Eligibility for this program ceases on the surviving child’s 22nd birthday. Please refer to their Standard Operating Procedure at the website provided below to review the complete “C.O.P.S. Kids” Counseling criteria.

REAPPLYING FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE

If after reaching the funding limitation of \$6,000, and additional psychological counseling is still suggested, you may reapply by writing a letter to the C.O.P.S. National Office stating the need for additional financial assistance. The C.O.P.S. National Board will review and consider each request on a case-by-case basis.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

The Department of Justice is committed to supporting law enforcement officer health and wellness—healthy officers are critical to building healthy and safe communities. This collection (see link below) assembles several dozen articles, podcasts, infographics, trainings, webinars, and other publications produced (mainly by the COPS Office and Bureau of Justice Assistance) in recent years. Dealing with all aspects of law enforcement officer and family wellness, from financial literacy to substance use disorders to preventing or recovering from the suicide death of a colleague, it is hoped that these resources will help law enforcement agencies assemble or enrich their wellness-focused programming.

Please check out www.justice.gov/asg/officer-safety-and-wellness-resources for the above information.

THE FIRST RESPONDERS CHILDREN’S FOUNDATION

RESILIENCY PROGRAM

The First Responders Children’s Foundation Resiliency Program provides expert mental and behavioral health counseling—at no cost to first responder families. For first responders, the program is free, confidential and developed to help your children manage, process and deal with a range of emotional challenges specific to their unique needs. Please visit Istrcf.org/get-mental-health-support or call (833) 327-3633 (confidential and toll-free).

The need to protect and maintain the mental health of your children has never been greater. No matter how valiantly you try, it’s impossible to completely shield them from the stresses of your uniquely stressful job.

WHO THEY SERVE

The FRCF Mental Health Resiliency Program protects and strengthens the mental resiliency of the children of police, fire, sheriff, emergency medical personnel and 911 dispatchers.

THE VISION IS SIMPLE

Free, confidential, professional, trauma-informed counseling services for the children of first responders. All therapy services for children and family members are:

- Confidential and anonymous
- At no cost to first responder families
- Provided by licensed mental health professionals
- Accessible both virtually and in-person

HOW THEY CAN HELP

First Responders Children's Foundation can help if your child is experiencing any of the following: fear, anxiety, isolation, depression, nightmares, undeserved shame, as the victim of bullying, public humiliation, or self-harm ideation.

AVAILABLE IN FIVE STATES

The program will be available to first responder families in California, Florida, New York, Tennessee and Texas. The program has been developed to scale into more states.

ABOUT FIRST RESPONDERS CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

For over 20 years, First Responders Children's Foundation has focused on the unique needs of the children of first responders.

More than ever, these children carry a heavy burden knowing the daily dangers their parents face. In times of crisis, these burdens weigh even heavier and can impact a child significantly—particularly for those that lose a parent. Our children are our future.

First Responders Children's Foundation does not provide a suicide hotline.

If anyone in your family is experiencing suicidal thoughts or an emergency please call your local emergency number 9-1-1. Or reach out to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255 or [suicidepreventionlifeline.org](https://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org).

PROGRAMS

GARY SINISE FOUNDATION

FIRST RESPONDER PROGRAM

When crises occur, our Firefighters, Police, and EMTs put their own lives at risk to save others. They answer the call, rush toward danger, and lead the way.

Through the Gary Sinise Foundation's First Responders Outreach, we provide help with critical funding for emergency relief, training, and essential equipment to ensure these heroes perform to the best of their abilities.

We also help those who are severely wounded in the line of duty by building 100% mortgage-free, specially adapted smart homes, as well as home modifications, mobility devices, and adapted vehicles to restore their mobility and independence.

Interested in applying for a First Responder Grant from the Gary Sinise Foundation? Access the application online at: <https://garysinisefoundation.tfatforms.net/4655198>

SNOWBALL EXPRESS

Gary Sinise Foundation Snowball Express serves the surviving spouse/guardian and children of fallen heroes. We are committed to year-round programming and support for families that honors their fallen hero, encourage them to make new memories, and provides opportunities to connect with others who know what they've been through.

One of the ways we honor and remember our fallen heroes is in a Remembrance Garden filled with hundreds of flags and placards, each representing the brave heroes our families lost. This garden is an important reminder to our families that they are not alone during this time of year, and their hero's selfless sacrifice will never be forgotten.

The holidays can be especially challenging for grieving families. Each December, we host a five-day experience for 1,750+ children of the fallen and the surviving spouse/guardian. With special time to honor their fallen and a blend of fun entertainment and inspiring programs, these families can lean on their peers for support. This is why we keep bringing Snowball Express back to Walt Disney World® Resort each year!

In addition to the magic of Disney each December, we're also hosting community events for these families all year long.

From baseball games to arts & educational opportunities to overnight experiences, these families can strengthen their community close to where they live. These events are essential for children and the surviving spouse/guardian to develop bonds with the only people who can truly understand their loss: each other.

The Gary Sinise Foundation offers an opportunity for families to bond with each other and make a few friends and cherished memories with various festivities throughout the year. We show our appreciation to and love for families and the children who continue to bear the ultimate meaning of service and sacrifice. Please complete our preliminary registration form at <https://www.garysinisefoundation.org/snowball-express>.

EMPOWERMENT WORKSHOPS

Another way we're supporting families year-round is through weekend Empowerment Workshops. During this three-day retreat, surviving spouses/guardians and young adults come together to bond with each other and learn about self-awareness and effective communication methods to lead empowering lives. These activities help participants look more closely at their lives after loss and tap into their resiliency to move forward.

GRATITUDE INITIATIVE

THE GI COLLEGE SUCCESS ACADEMY

A One-of-a-kind program that's proven to help children succeed in COLLEGE, CAREER, and LIFE!

Gratitude Initiative (GI) provides the most comprehensive college and career counseling, test prep, and financial aid counseling program available today.

- The program was developed by a team of experts in the fields of education technology development, college and career counseling, and distance learning.
- The College Success Academy is provided free of charge to the families GI serves and is open to children in grades 8-12 with support through college graduation.
- The program is delivered online to serve families worldwide and is supported by a team of advisors that work directly with students and their parents via email, phone, and chat.
- GI's team of advisors are highly trained experts with a minimum of a bachelor's degree up to a Ph.D.

PROGRAMS CONTINUED

AWARENESS PROGRAM

GI provides awareness programs to help military and law enforcement families reduce stress at home with an emphasis on supporting academic success and increased college attainment among children of both military and law enforcement-connected communities.

GI partners with various military commands, family advocate groups, as well as veteran and law enforcement non-profit partners to provide increased support to help families overcome the unique challenges military teens face.

<https://gratitudeinitiative.org/our-programs/>

LAW ENFORCEMENT UNITED (LEU)

MEMBERSHIP

What does our LEU National Membership provide you?

- Become an ambassador of our mission, vision, and values.
- Ensure that those we support will have resources available to them. Not just now but always.
- Join a network of members all over the country most of whom become lifelong friends LEU Membership Card (New this year)
- Volunteer for current open or future leadership positions to grow the organization Give back to the law enforcement and survivor community
- Membership provides access to event registration, for All LEU Sanctioned Bicycle Events such as;
 - The Road to Hope, Virginia Division
 - The Road to Hope, Pennsylvania Division
 - The Road to Hope, New Jersey Division
 - The Road to Hope, Maryland Division: Ruff Ride
 - The FLETC Long Ride
 - The Tough Ride
- Renewing members have access to event registration 30 days before new members
- ALL Participants who complete the Road to Hope and Tough Ride will receive a LEU finisher medal

While membership is on the National Level, Access to the event registration is limited and fills up fast!!! Do not delay in registering for your events!

MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

All levels of membership to Law Enforcement United, Inc. are limited to:

- Active or retired Law Enforcement Officer or Corrections Officer who is either sworn or is eligible for Public Safety Office's Benefits (P.S.O.B.) by the U.S. Department of Justice
- Immediate family member of a Law Enforcement Officer (L.E.O.) or Corrections Officer that died in the line of duty ("Survivor") who is eligible for Public Safety Office's Benefits (P.S.O.B.) by the U.S. Department of Justice
- Civilian (non-sworn/nonsurvivor) that is sponsored by an active member of Law Enforcement United, Inc. who is an Active or Retired Sworn Law Enforcement Officer or Corrections Officer, or a Law Enforcement United Survivor.
- All members & participants must be 18 years of age

Credentials must be available to the Executive Board or Designee upon request for verification purposes. Credential requirements may include active department photo ID, or verification of survivor relationship from COPS, Civilian requirements would be written (electronic or hard copy) letter from Sponsor to the National Board.

Members are required to adhere to Law Enforcement United Standards of Conduct, keep membership up to date, and meet all financial obligations to remain in good standing.

Members who register to participate in any LEU bicycle ride event do have to meet minimum fundraising requirements to attend, ensure their participation registration is up to date, submit all forms, and meet all deadlines. For more information see our Fundraising Page

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership pays annual dues of \$75.00

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

July 1st is when annual membership renewals begin. Dues are \$75.00 and are due at the time of renewal.

A 30-day grace period is extended to membership renewals. Financial hardships should be communicated to the National Board prior to July 15th for consideration of an extension or other arrangements. July 31st any member that has not

PROGRAMS CONTINUED

renewed their membership dues will be removed from the membership database and no longer active or eligible to participate in any LEU sanctioned events.

NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

August 1st Law Enforcement United, Inc. will begin accepting New Member Applications. New Member applicants have an annual membership dues of \$50.00 due at the time of application. All former members wishing to re-apply as New Members must have left in good standing both financially and adhering to our standards of conduct to be eligible to begin membership. A review of the application is subject to approval by the National Board.

MECHANICS, MEDICS, MOTOR MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

Event Staff may be subject to further screening via application to determine if they have the required skillsets and time available to execute the event.

Please ensure you read and understand all membership criteria prior to application. New Membership applications will begin August 1st

TUNNELS TO TOWERS – T2T.ORG

SMART HOMES

Are you a veteran or first responder with a catastrophic injury that affects your mobility? Do you know someone who suffered a severe injury in the line of duty? If you answered, “Yes,” to either question, then you or someone you know may be eligible to participate in the Foundation’s Smart Home Program.

The Tunnel to Towers Foundation builds mortgage-free smart homes for our most catastrophically injured veterans and first responders. Each home is designed to address the unique needs of each individual. Smart homes host a myriad of features such as automated doors and lighting, wider halls and doorways, special showers to accommodate wheelchairs, automatic door openers, cabinets, counters, and stove tops that can be raised and lowered, backup generators, and central heating and air conditioning systems that can be controlled by tablets. These homes help our most severely injured veterans and first responders to reclaim their day-to-day independence.

Our process is a simple one. Simply fill out the application and one of our liaison officers will contact you and walk you through the screening process and help you complete it together. It is simple, confidential, and comes without any obligation.

To see if you or someone you know may meet the program eligibility requirements, apply for a smart home here.

FALLEN FIRST RESPONDER HOME PROGRAM

The Tunnel to Towers Foundation (*T2t.org*) is committed to ensuring we never forget 9/11, the sacrifices made, and those that continue to be made by our first responders in the line of duty. Through the Fallen First Responder Home Program, Tunnel to Towers aims to pay off the mortgages of fallen law enforcement officers and firefighters who lose their lives in the line of duty, or to 9/11-related illness, and leaving behind young children. The Foundation’s goal is to ensure stability and security for these families facing sudden, tragic loss.

ABOUT THE OFFICER DOWN MEMORIAL PAGE

The Officer Down Memorial Page, Inc., (ODMP) is a non-profit organization dedicated to honoring America's fallen law enforcement officers. More than 26,000 officers have died in the line of duty in the United States since 1776 and ODMP is honored to preserve their memories and give friends, family, other officers, and citizens alike the opportunity to remember the fallen and honor their sacrifices. Visit us at www.ODMP.org.



