



EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



U.S. Department of Justice



The Federal Law Enforcement Dependents Assistance (FLEDA) Act was enacted in October 1996 to enhance the appeal of service in civilian federal law enforcement agencies by providing financial assistance for higher education to spouses and children of federal law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. Congress and the President amended the Act in 1998 to provide educational assistance to spouses and children of police, fire, and emergency public safety officers killed in the line of duty, thus creating the Public Safety Officers' Educational Assistance (PSOEA) Program. The PSOEA Program also makes assistance available to eligible spouses and children of public safety officers permanently and totally disabled by catastrophic injuries sustained in the line of duty.

Background

By amending the FLEDA Act, Congress and the President extended educational assistance to include not only the families of federal law enforcement officers but all public safety officers. In so doing, they made an important statement about how vital our public safety officers are to our nation's safety.

The PSOEA Program recognizes that the benefits available to these families through the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Program, administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, are often consumed by basic needs and are not sufficient to support the costs of higher education. For many families, however, access to higher education is instrumental in their ability to move forward in the aftermath of a line-of-duty tragedy.

PSOEA Program Benefits

The PSOEA Program provides an educational assistance allowance to eligible survivors of public safety officers whose deaths or permanent and total disabilities are the direct and proximate result of an injury sustained in the line of duty.

PSOEA benefits may be used to defray educational expenses, including tuition, room and board, books, supplies, and education-related fees. The amount of assistance is determined by the length of the term and whether the student attends school as a full-time, three-quarter-time, half-time, or less-than-half-time student.

Also, the amount of assistance is subject to change consistent with the current computation of the educational assistance allowance set forth in Title IV of the Higher Education Act, Section 3532 of Title 38, United States Code.

Assistance under the PSOEA Program is available to both public safety officers' spouses and children for 45 months of full-time education or training or for a proportional period of time for a part-time program.

PSOEA Program Effective Dates

Under the PSOEA Program, the families of federal, state, local and tribal police, fire, and emergency public safety officers are covered for line-of-duty deaths that occurred on or after January 1, 1978. The effective date for families of permanently and totally disabled federal law enforcement officers is October 3, 1996. Families of state and local police, fire, and emergency public safety officers are covered for line-of-duty permanent and totally disabling injuries that occurred on or after November 13, 1998. Families of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) personnel and state, local, and tribal emergency management and civil defense agency employees are covered for such injuries sustained on or after October 30, 2000.

Eligibility for PSOEA Benefits

The PSOEA Program stipulates that PSOEA benefits are to be provided directly to students who attend a degree or certification program at an institution of higher learning and are the spouses or children of federal, police, fire, and emergency public safety officers whose deaths or permanent and total disabilities are covered by the PSOB Program (34 U.S.C. 10281 et seq.). While public safety officers' children are generally no longer eligible for assistance for classes attended after their 27th birthday, there is no age restriction as to when they can apply for assistance for those classes.

Required Documents

For more information about the PSOEA Program, and the documents required to submit a PSOEA claim, please visit www.psob.gov.

1. Eligibility For PSOEA Benefits

[Home](#) / [Applying for Benefits](#) / [How to Apply for Education Assistance Benefits](#)

How to Apply for Public Safety Officers' Educational Assistance (PSOEA) Program Benefits

Eligibility for PSOEA Benefits:

- Spouses or children of Public Safety Officers whose PSOB death or disability claims have previously been approved are eligible to apply for PSOEA benefits. As a PSOEA applicant, there MUST have been a previously approved PSOB death or disability claim for the applicable Public Safety Officer.
- Public Safety Officers' children are no longer eligible for assistance after their 27th birthday, absent a finding of extraordinary circumstances by the Attorney General.
- Assistance under the PSOEA Program is available for 45 months of full-time education or training or for a proportional period of time for a part-time program.

Application Instructions for PSOB Education Benefits:

STEP 1:

To begin your benefits application for the Public Safety Officers' Educational Assistance (PSOEA) Program, you must first complete the Education Benefits Prescreen. After clicking the "Prescreen" link below, you will be asked to provide the minimally required materials needed to confirm your eligibility for benefits prior to beginning your Education Payment Application.

[Prescreen ▶](#)

2024 Benefits

The amount of the PSOB benefit is \$437,503.00 for eligible deaths and disabilities occurring on or after October 1, 2023. The amount of the PSOB educational assistance benefit for one month of full-time assistance on or after October 1, 2023 is \$1,488.00.



2. In which capacity are you filing for Education Benefits

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Public Safety Officers' Education Benefits Prescreen

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In which capacity are you filing for education benefits?

Filing Type *

- ☒ Student
- ☐ Student's Parent
- ☐ Authorized Representative
- ☐ Other (please describe)

If "other" selected, describe your filing type:

Next/Save

3. Enter the Student Information

[Home](#) / [Public Safety Officers' Education Benefits Prescreen](#)

Public Safety Officers' Education Benefits Prescreen

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Enter the Public Safety Officer's information

Prefix

Select



Public Safety Officer Other Prefix

Public Safety Officer First Name *

Public Safety Officer Last Name *

Public Safety Officer Suffix

Public Safety Officer Employing Agency Name *

Public Safety Officer's Date of Death or Injury

MM/DD/YYYY



Was there an approved Death or Disability Claim?

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ I Don't Know

Which type of claim was the approved claim? *

☐ Death Claim ☐ Disability Claim

Enter PSOB Death or Disability claim number, if known.

What is the Student's relationship to the Public Safety Officer? *

☐ Spouse
☒ Child
☐ Other (please describe)

Describe "other" here

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4. Primary Contact Information

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Public Safety Officers' Education Benefits Prescreen

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Primary Contact Information

Are you the primary contact person for all matters related to the PSOE Program? *

☐ Yes ☐ No

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5. Student's Record of Education

Home / Public Safety Officers' Education Benefits Prescreen

Public Safety Officers' Education Benefits Prescreen

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Student's Record of Education

Add information about your program of study at an institution of higher education (type of school, dates attended, etc...)

Add School

Name of School ↑	School State	Type of School	Dates Attended From	Dates Attended To	Degree/Certification Attempting or Achieved	Graduation or Expected Graduation Date
There are no records to display.						

Previous

Next/Save

Create

Student's Record of Education

Name of School *

School City *

School State *

Select

Describe "other" here

School Country

Type of School *

Select

Describe "other" here

Dates Attended From *

MM/DD/YYYY

Dates Attended To *

6. Enter the Public Safety Officer's Information

Home / Public Safety Officers' Education Benefits Prescreen

Public Safety Officers' Education Benefits Prescreen

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Enter the Public Safety Officer's information

Prefix

Public Safety Officer Other Prefix

Public Safety Officer First Name *

Public Safety Officer Last Name *

Public Safety Officer Suffix

Public Safety Officer Employing Agency Name *

Public Safety Officer's Date of Death or Injury

MM/DD/YYYY

Was there an approved Death or Disability Claim?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ I Don't Know

Which type of claim was the approved claim?

Enter PSOB Death or Disability claim number, if known.

What is the Student's relationship to the Public Safety Officer? *

☐ Spouse

☐ Child

☐ Other (please describe)

Describe "other" here

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7. Prescreen Review

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Public Safety Officers' Education Benefits Prescreen

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PRESCREEN PREVIEW

Education Prescreen

OMB Form 1121-0220, Form Expiration Date: 01/31/2027

Please Review and Confirm

The following is a summary of the information you have entered. Please review and make any necessary changes to this page before submitting your application.

In which capacity are you filing for education benefits?

Filing Type *

- ☒ Student
- ☐ Student's Parent
- ☐ Authorized Representative
- ☐ Other (please describe)

If "other" selected, describe your filing type:

Enter the Student Information

Public Safety Officer Suffix

Public Safety Officer Employing Agency Name *

Public Safety Officer's Date of Death or Injury

Is there an Approved Death or Disability Claim?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ I Don't Know

Which type of claim was the approved claim?

Enter PSOB Death or Disability claim number, if known.

What is the Student's relationship to the Public Safety Officer? *

- ☐ Spouse
- ☒ Child
- ☐ Other (please describe)

Describe "other" here

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8. Required Documents

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Public Safety Officers' Education Benefits Prescreen

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Required Documents

Based on your responses, a customized checklist has been generated. The following required documents must be uploaded for the Prescreen to be considered complete. If you have any questions, please contact the PSOB Customer Resource Center at 1-888-744-6513 between 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, or send a message using [Messages](#) in [MyPSOB](#).

Upload ↑	Classification	Document Type	Association	Date Requested	Date Uploaded ↓	Review Status	Instructions	Missing Document Justification
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No documents are required at this time. You may proceed to the next page.

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9. Final Review Form

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Public Safety Officers' Education Benefits Prescreen

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FINAL REVIEW FORM

Education Prescreen

OMB Form 1121-0220, Form Expiration Date: 01/31/2027

Please Review and Confirm

The following is a summary of the information you have entered. Please review and make any necessary changes to this page before submitting your application.

In which capacity are you filing for education benefits?

Filing Type *

☒ Student

☐ Student's Parent

☐ Authorized Representative

☐ Other (please describe)

If "other" selected, describe your filing type:

10. Submission Acknowledgment

[Home](#) / [Educational Assistance \(PSOEA\) Prescreen Submission Acknowledgement](#)

Educational Assistance (PSOEA) Prescreen Submission Acknowledgement

Public Safety Officers' Educational Assistance (PSOEA) Prescreen Successfully Submitted

You have successfully submitted your Education Benefits Prescreen, the initial step in applying for PSOEA Program Benefits.

An Education Specialist will review your Prescreen to confirm your eligibility to apply. After submitting your Prescreen and receiving confirmation of your eligibility, you will be given access to complete your Payment Application.

If you have questions about your Education Benefits Prescreen or any of the subsequent steps in filing for Education Benefits, please do not hesitate to call the PSOB Customer Resource Specialist at 1-888-744-6513 Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, or send a message using [Messages](#) in [MyPSOB](#).

2024 Benefits

The amount of the PSOB benefit is \$437,503.00 for eligible deaths and disabilities occurring on or after October 1, 2023. The amount of the PSOB educational assistance benefit for one month of full-time assistance on or after October 1, 2023 is \$1,488.00.

