



## **Public Safety Officers' Educational Assistance PSOEA**

Number: 16.615

Agency: Department of Justice

Office: Bureau of Justice Assistance

### **PROGRAM INFORMATION**

#### **Authorization (040):**

Educational Assistance to Dependents of Civilian Federal Law Enforcement Officers Killed or Disabled in the Line of Duty, 42 U.S.C. 3796d. Section 1211 and Section 1212; Public Law 104-238, Section 2(2), 110 Statute 3114; Public Law 105-390, Section 2 (2) Statute 3495.

#### **Objectives (050):**

The PSOEA Program, an expansion of the Federal Law Enforcement Dependents Assistance (FLEDA) Program, provides financial assistance for higher education to the spouses and children of public safety officers killed in line of duty. The PSOEA Program also makes assistance available to spouses and children of public safety officers permanently and totally disabled by catastrophic injuries sustained in the line of duty. Under the PSOEA program, the families of state and local police, fire, and emergency public safety officers are covered for line-of-duty deaths that occurred on or after January 1, 1978. The families of federal law enforcement officers and firefighters are covered for line of duty deaths occurring on or after October 12, 1984. 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.

#### **Types of Assistance (060):**

DIRECT PAYMENTS WITH UNRESTRICTED USE

#### **Uses and Use Restrictions (070):**

Program funds are intended solely to defray eligible applicants' educational expenses, which may include tuition, fees, room and board, books, supplies, and other expenditures consistent with the educational, professional, or vocational objectives of the applicant. Funds are restricted to defray above costs only.

#### **Eligibility Requirements (080)**

##### **Applicant Eligibility (081):**

Dependents who (1) attend a program of education at an eligible institution, or (2) are the spouse and/or surviving children under the age of 27 of federal, state, and local public safety officers whose deaths or permanent and totally disabling injuries are covered by the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Program (42 U.S.C. 3796 et seq.) are eligible for this program. A public safety officer is a person serving a public agency

in an official capacity, with or without compensation, as a law enforcement officer, firefighter, or member of a public rescue squad or ambulance crew.

**Beneficiary Eligibility (082):**

The spouse and surviving children of federal, state, and local public safety officers receive the ultimate benefits from this program. The children may receive benefits for classes taken before their 27th birthday. There is no age restriction for spouses.

**Credentials/Documentation (083):**

Documentation needed to apply for assistance includes: the Application for Public Safety Officer's Educational Assistance (42 U.S.C. 3796 d); educational transcripts; tuition/fees statements; acceptance letters to educational/professional institutions; schedule of classes; verification of full- or part-time status; and certification of other forms of educational assistance. Contact the PSOB office at 1-888-744-6513 or by e-mail at AskPSOB@usdoj.gov for full credential/documentation requirements. This program is excluded from coverage under OMB Circular No. A-87.

**Application and Award Process (090)**

**Preapplication Coordination (091):**

Claimants may initiate a claim by writing or telephoning the PSOE Program, Benefits Office, Bureau of Justice Assistance, 810 Seventh Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20531, (1-888) 744-6513 or AskPSOB@usdoj.gov. Environmental impact information is not required for this program. This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372.

**Application Procedures (092):**

This program is excluded from coverage under OMB Circular No. A-102. This program is excluded from coverage under OMB Circular No. A-110. The applicant must submit a fully executed application to the PSOE Program, Benefits Office, Bureau of Justice Assistance, 810 Seventh Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20531.

**Award Procedure (093):**

Upon a finding of eligibility by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, claimants are typically awarded funds for the current or upcoming term, and they may apply for the following term once the earlier term has been completed. Funds can be received for multiple terms at one time if they have already been completed.

**Deadlines (094):**

Not Applicable.

**Range of Approval/Disapproval Time (095):**

Dependent upon validity of claim and submission of required documentation.

**Appeals (096):**

Applicants may appeal within 30 days of denial notification. The appeal process consists of a record review by an administration hearing officer.

**Renewals (097):**

Not Applicable.

**Assistance Consideration (100)**

**Formula and Matching Requirements (101):**

This program has no statutory formula.

This program has no matching requirements.

This program does not have MOE requirements.

**Length and Time Phasing of Assistance (102):**

Assistance is available for the equivalent of 45 months of full-time education or training, or for a proportional period of time for a part-time program. Assistance is typically awarded in 4-month installments to coincide with the length of a school term. Method of awarding/releasing assistance: lump sum.

**Post Assistance Requirements (110)****Reports (111):**

No reports are required.

**Audits (112):**

No audits are required for this program.

**Records (113):**

None.

**Financial Information (120)****Account Identification (121):**

15-0403-0-1-754.

**Obligations (122):**

(Direct Payments with Unrestricted Use) FY 09 \$1,015,112; FY 10 est \$4,100,000; and FY 11 est \$4,100,000

**Range and Average of Financial Assistance (123):**

For classes taken since October 1, 2009, the rates of assistance are \$925 per month for full-time students, \$694 for three-quarter-time student, \$461 for half-time students, and \$231.25 for less-than-half-time students. The amount of assistance is subject to change consistent with the current computation of educational assistance allowance set forth in Title IV of the Higher Education Act, Section 3532 of Title 38, U.S.C.

**Program Accomplishments (130):**

Fiscal Year 2011: No Current Data Available Fiscal Year 2012: No Current Data Available Fiscal Year 2013: No Current Data Available

**Regulations, Guidelines, and Literature (140):**

The Bureau of Justice Assistance's Public Safety Officers' Educational Assistance Program Fact Sheet (August 1999); Federal Register guidelines are available.

**Information Contacts (150)****Regional or Local Office (151) :**

None.

**Headquarters Office (152):**

Eric Martin Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Department of Justice, 810 Seventh Street, N.W., Washington, District of Columbia 20531 Email: [AskPSOB@usdoj.gov](mailto:AskPSOB@usdoj.gov) Phone: 1-888 744-6513 or (202) 616-6500

**Website Address (153):**

[http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/psob/psob\\_main.html](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/psob/psob_main.html)

**Related Programs (160):**

16.571 Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program; 16.575 Crime Victim Assistance; 16.576 Crime Victim Compensation

**Examples of Funded Projects (170):**

Not Applicable.

**Criteria for Selecting Proposals (180):**

Applications received by BJA are reviewed for completeness, accuracy, and compliance with all program requirements.