

-PRESS RELEASE-

The Bay Area Law Enforcement Assistance Fund BALEAF Assistance Available for Physical and Mental Health

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 8, 2021

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San Francisco, CA – The Executive Board of the Bay Area Law Enforcement Assistance Fund (BALEAF) reminds Bay Area Law Enforcement members that during these challenging times, many in law enforcement may be struggling with their physical health as well as their mental health. BALEAF is here to provide support to Bay Area Law Enforcement employees (both sworn and non-sworn) and their families in crisis. BALEAF wants to remind those who are suffering to reach out to us for assistance. BALEAF can provide assistance both financially and with referrals to counseling resources.

BALEAF has a close working relationship with The West Coast Post-Trauma Retreat – First Responders Support Network (WCPR). WCPR states, “The program is for first responders whose lives have been affected by their work experience.” WCPR’s goal is, “To help the first responders and retirees regain control over their lives and either return to work with a new perspective on stress and coping, move on with their lives if that is a more appropriate decision, or simply enjoy retirement.”

“We encourage all in law enforcement who are suffering, to reach out to your department's Peer Support or to contact us. You are not alone and we are here to help.”

BALEAF is sharing the Press Release on the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, “**Report to Congress on Law Enforcement Officer Suicide**,” released on April 6, 2021. The link to download the report is in the pages following.

About BALEAF: A nonprofit charity providing support and resources to Bay Area law enforcement members and their families during times of death, serious injury or catastrophic events. The Bay Area Law Enforcement Assistance Fund is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity. 100% of each donation is awarded directly to the officers and their families. 100% of the administrative expenses are covered personally by the Board.

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Tags [BALEAF](#), [BALEAF Board](#), [BALEAF Recipients](#), [Donate to BALEAF](#)



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES
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COPS

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

April 6, 2021

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Department of Justice Announces the Release of "Law Enforcement Officer Suicide: 2020 Report to Congress"

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Department of Justice’s Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) today announced the release of “[Law Enforcement Officer Suicide: 2020 Report to Congress](#).” The report is a result of a request from Congress, driven by the increase in suicides by current and former law enforcement officers, to review the availability of existing mental health resources for law enforcement agencies. The report also provides a review of peer responder programs and makes recommendations for establishing evidence-based behavioral health and suicide prevention efforts for both law enforcement and other first responders.

“One of the top priorities of the Department of Justice and the COPS Office is the health and wellness of the nation’s law enforcement officers, who put both their physical and mental health on the line every day to keep our communities safe,” said Robert Chapman, Acting Director of the COPS Office. “The Department has committed numerous resources to this effort and will continue to do so.”

After a wide-ranging review of current resources and research, the report states that all evidence “constantly circles back to the importance of peer support and behavioral health partnerships.” In addition, the report finds that “Training is also critically important to supporting officer mental health and suicide prevention. Colleagues, supervisors, and managers are all important players in suicide prevention efforts, as they are the ones who may see the signs that an individual is struggling.”

The report points out that the departments that have been successful in lowering their suicide rates are the ones that have continued to focus on the education and training of individuals in this area, as well as creating support networks such as peer-to-peer programs. But the report also stresses that one of the biggest challenges to suicide prevention programs in agencies continues to be the law enforcement “culture,” and that too many officers still fear both the stigma and the possible consequences of asking for help.

The report also identifies the numerous resources the Department already devotes to officer safety and wellness through the COPS Office and the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) in the Office of Justice Programs. These resources include, but are not limited to, Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act (LEMHWA) grants; the VALOR Initiative; the COPS Office’s Collaborative Reform Initiative Technical Assistance Center (CRI-TAC); the National

Consortium on Preventing Law Enforcement Suicide; and the Officer Safety and Wellness (OSW) Group, formed by BJA and the COPS Office.

In addition, the report provides a number of recommendations for moving forward, such as enhancing peer-led prevention programs, strengthening laws so that officers seeking help are protected, and improving confidentiality within agencies.

The COPS Office is the federal component of the Department of Justice responsible for advancing community policing nationwide. The only Department of Justice agency with policing in its name, the COPS Office was established in 1994 and has been the cornerstone of the nation's crime fighting strategy with grants, a variety of knowledge resource products, and training and technical assistance. Through the years, the COPS Office has become the go-to agency for law enforcement agencies across the country and continues to listen to the field and provide the resources that are needed to reduce crime and build trust between law enforcement and the communities served. The COPS Office has invested more than \$14 billion to advance community policing, including grants awarded to more than 13,000 state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies to fund the hiring and redeployment of more than 134,000 officers.

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