

Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission

P.O. Box 1489 | Tallahassee, FL 32302-1489 | (850) 410-8600

CRIMINAL JUSTICE STANDARDS AND TRAINING COMMISSION TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM 2024-06

DATE:

March 29, 2024

TO:

Criminal Justice Training Center Directors

FROM:

Director Chad Brown

Criminal Justice Professionalism Division

SUBJECT:

Florida Law Enforcement Reimbursement Program

Beginning with the 2022-2023 academic year, full-time law enforcement officers who were not sponsored by an employing agency and who relocated from outside the state or who transitioned from service in the special operations forces and completed an exemption from training (EOT) pursuant to s. 943.131(2), F.S., may be eligible to be reimbursed for up to \$1,000 for expenses incurred to obtain Florida law enforcement certification. These expenses may include fees associated with the EOT assessment, EOT training course, and the Law Enforcement State Officer Certification Examination.

The Department of Education (DOE) is responsible for the administration of the program and distribution of the reimbursement monies. For more information regarding the program, please contact the DOE Office of Student Financial Assistance at (888) 827-2004 or review the attached fact sheet and program application.

Attachments: Florida Law Enforcement Reimbursement Fact Sheet

Application for Florida Law Enforcement Reimbursement Program

cc: Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission

2023-24 Fact Sheet

Florida Law Enforcement Reimbursement Program

Section 1009.8961, Florida Statutes

State Board of Education Rule 6A-20-0285, Florida Administrative Code

Program Description

The Florida Law Enforcement Reimbursement Program (LERP) assists in the recruitment of law enforcement officers who relocate from outside of Florida or who transition from service in the special operations forces to Florida to become a full-time law enforcement officer within this state. Eligible participants will be reimbursed for up to \$1,000 for eligible expenses incurred while obtaining a Florida law enforcement officer certification. The LERP program will help Florida attract law enforcement officers who are crucial to the safety and well-being of communities.

Applying for Reimbursement

Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA) must submit the <u>Application for the Florida Law Enforcement Reimbursement Program</u>, applicant receipts, and a Florida Department of Law Enforcement, <u>Global Profile Sheet</u>, to the Florida Department of Education (FDOE), Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA), which must contain the following applicant demographic information:

- Applicant Full Name;
- Applicant Rank;
- Applicant Type: Out-of-state Law Enforcement Officer (LEO) or Special Operation Forces (SOF);
- Applicant Originating State or SOF Detail;
- Reimbursement amount:
 - o Equivalency assessment cost,
 - o Equivalency training cost, and
 - o LEO Certification Examination cost.
- Employing Law Enforcement Agency (LEA) Name;
- LEA Payment Address;
- LEA City, State, Zip;
- LEA County;
- LEA Employer Federal Identification Number; and
- Application Receipt Date.

Requirements to Receive Funding

To receive reimbursement, the applicant's LEA shall certify that the applicant meets the requirements of section 1009.8961(3), Florida Statutes, and that the officer was not already sponsored by the employing agency to cover the cost of any commission required training.

Reimbursement Procedures

Reimbursement shall be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis according to the date the employing LEA receives the completed application and receipts for eligible expenses incurred, and is contingent upon an appropriation by the Florida Legislature. Once the LEA's application for reimbursement has been approved, the FDOE will transmit funds to the LEA, after which the LEA is required to reimburse approved LEO applicants for authorized amounts within 30 days of the receipt of funds from the FDOE.

Disbursement of Funds

Eligible applicants may be reimbursed for eligible costs and fees up to \$1,000, which include any cost or fee incurred for:

- Any equivalency assessment administered by the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission (commission) within the Department of Law Enforcement.
- Any equivalency training required by the commission.
- The law enforcement officer certification examination.

Contact Information

Address:

Florida Department of Education Office of Student Financial Assistance State Scholarship and Grant Programs Suite 1344 325 West Gaines Street Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400

Phone:

888-827-2004

<u>Email</u>:

OSFA@fldoe.org

Application for the Florida Law Enforcement Reimbursement Program

This application is for the reimbursement of eligible expenses incurred while obtaining a Florida Law Enforcement Officer certification for applicants who relocated from outside the state of Florida or who transition from service in the special operations forces to become a full-time law enforcement officer within the state of Florida.

Applicant Name:	Applicant Rank:
☐ Out of State Law Enforcement Officer Prior state:	☐ Special Operations Forces Detail:
Reimbursement Amount:	\$ \$ \$ \$
Employing Law Enforcement Agency: Employer Name: Payment Address: City, State, Zip: County: Employer Federal Identification Number: Received by: Application Receipt Date:	
Application receipt buter	

This application and receipts for eligible expenses must be submitted to the employing law enforcement agency. The law enforcement agency will submit the application, receipts, and the applicant Global Profile Sheet to the Florida Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance by email to OSFA@fldoe.org. Funds are allocated on a first come, first serve basis. Reimbursements are contingent upon available funds and will be issued to the applicant by the employing law enforcement agency.

Form: LERP-1

Effective Date: October 1, 2022

Incorporated by Rule 6A-20.0285, Florida Administrative Code

Form Updated 030724