

Program Overview

Following the 2022 legislative session, Governor DeSantis signed House Bill 3 which created the Florida Law Enforcement Recruitment Bonus Payment Program. The program aims to aid in the recruitment of law enforcement officers within the state and attract out-of-state officers to Florida. The program administers one-time bonus payments of \$5,000 (after taxes) to each eligible newly employed officer within the state.

Florida criminal justice employing agencies work with FloridaCommerce to determine eligible employees and provide any information or assistance needed to ensure eligibility. To receive and retain a one-time recruitment bonus payment, a newly employed officer must:

- Gain or be appointed to full-time employment as a certified law enforcement officer with a Florida criminal justice employing agency on or after July 1, 2022, and have never been employed as a law enforcement officer in Florida.
- Sign the Law Enforcement Recruitment Bonus Payment Program Acknowledgement Form.
- Maintain continuous full-time employment with a Florida criminal justice employing agency for at least two years from the date on which the law enforcement officer obtained certification. The required two-year employment period may be satisfied by maintaining employment at one or more employing agencies, but such period must not contain any break longer than 15 calendar

This bonus payment is taxable income; therefore, each bonus payment made by FloridaCommerce to newly employed officers will be in the gross amount of \$6,694, which includes \$1,694 for the payment of taxes.

A newly employed officer who receives a bonus payment pursuant to this program must reimburse FloridaCommerce if they fail to maintain continuous employment for the required two-year period. Reimbursement will not be required if a law enforcement officer is discharged by their employing agency for a reason other than misconduct as designated on the Affidavit of Separation.

Program Activity

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| • Applications Approved | 3,564 |
| • Ineligible Applications | 441 |
| • Number of Payments Issued (as of November 27, 2023) | 3,554 |
| • Total Paid Out | \$23,883,678.16 |



For additional information visit www.floridajobs.org

Ron DeSantis, Governor
J. Alex Kelly, Secretary