



**Assist the Officer**  
FOUNDATION



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## 2025 IMPACT REPORT

### Letter from our Chairman...

Dear Friends of the Assist the Officer Foundation,

It is an honor to write to you as Chairman of the Assist the Officer Foundation. Having served alongside this organization as Vice Chairman over the past two years, I have had the privilege of seeing firsthand the impact your generosity has on the lives of our first responders and their families. I officially stepped into this role in January of 2026, and I do so with deep gratitude for the trust placed in me and a strong commitment to carrying our mission forward.

The work we do at ATO is only possible because of supporters like you. In 2025, your continued commitment allowed us to provide meaningful, life-changing assistance to those who serve our communities every day, often in silence and under extraordinary pressure.

Through our Confidential Counseling Program, we provided 1,755 counseling appointments to 452 first responders, ensuring they had access to critical, trauma-informed mental health support when they needed it most. The total cost of these services reached \$205,669.40, a reflection not only of growing need, but of our unwavering promise that cost will never be a barrier to care.

In addition, ATO provided \$259,833.61 in direct financial assistance to 133 families across 20 different police and fire agencies. These funds helped families navigate serious injury, illness, and other catastrophic events—offering stability during some of the most difficult moments of their lives.

While these numbers are significant, they represent far more than statistics. They represent

peace of mind, dignity, healing, and hope. Every counseling session attended and every family assisted is a direct result of donors, sponsors, volunteers, and partners who believe in standing behind those who stand for us.

As we look ahead, the mission of the Assist the Officer Foundation remains clear and steadfast: to provide financial assistance, confidential counseling, and unwavering support to first responders and their families. The need continues to grow, and so must we do so with confidence, knowing this community stands with us.

On behalf of our Board of Directors and the countless first responders whose lives you have touched, thank you for your continued trust, generosity, and belief in our mission. It is truly an honor to serve.

With sincere appreciation,

Joe Meno  
Chairman  
Assist the Officer Foundation



## The History and Mission of the ATO...

Founded in 1999, the **Assist the Officer Foundation (ATO)** was born out of a critical need to provide a safety net for those who risk their lives to protect ours. Originally established to support Dallas Police officers facing catastrophic life events, the foundation has grown into a cornerstone of the North Texas first responder community.

**Our Mission** Our mission is simple but vital: to provide immediate financial assistance and confidential counseling to first responders and their families during times of serious injury, illness, or the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. We operate on the principle that no hero should have to face a personal or financial crisis alone.

**Significance to the DFW Community** In the Dallas-Fort Worth area, the ATO serves as more than just a charity; it is a lifeline. By providing rapid financial aid—voted on by our Board of Directors—and a robust, confidential mental health network, we ensure the stability of our local heroes. Our significance lies in our regional reach, extending support to 19 different agencies and hundreds of families annually. Whether it is through a death benefit for a fallen officer or five months of extension benefits for a firefighter recovering from surgery, the ATO ensures that the DFW first responder community remains resilient, supported, and never forgotten.



## Services offered by the ATO

### Confidential Counseling Services

The Assist the Officer Foundation (ATO) recognizes that the repeated exposure to trauma, danger, and high-stress environments is an inherent part of a first responder's life. To ensure our heroes

have a safe place to process these experiences, we provide an unprecedented **Confidential Counseling Program**.

Launched in 2004, this program was built through a unique collaboration between professional clinicians and active-duty officers to ensure it is "culturally competent"—meaning our counselors truly understand the specific psychological toll of your profession.

### **Guaranteed Support & Financial Coverage**

We believe that financial barriers should never stand in the way of mental health. To facilitate immediate access to care:

- **Vetted Counselor Network:** You have direct access to a specialized network of 17 professional counselors located throughout the Dallas-Fort Worth region.
- **Annual Funding:** The ATO provides each client with up to **\$875 in annual funds** specifically for these services.
- **Seven-Session Guarantee:** This funding model is strategically designed to guarantee the client at least **seven full counseling sessions** if necessary, ensuring enough time for meaningful support and recovery.
- **Strict Confidentiality:** There are no referrals, no internal paperwork, and no notification sent to your department. You contact the counselor directly, and your privacy is 100% protected.

### **Financial Assistance**

The Assist the Officer Foundation (ATO) was established in 1999 with a singular focus: ensuring that no first responder faces a financial crisis alone while recovering from injury or illness. We provide a bridge over the gap between a catastrophic event and the return to stability.

### **Comprehensive Financial Support**

Our financial assistance program is designed to move at the speed of the crisis, offering support in several critical ways:

- **Immediate Injury Assistance:** We provide rapid financial aid to first responders injured both **on and off the job**. We recognize that a broken bone or a serious illness at home impacts an officer's ability to provide for their family just as much as an injury sustained in the field.
- **Extension Benefits:** Recovery doesn't always follow a set schedule. For first responders who remain out of work due to their condition, the ATO provides extension benefits for **up to five additional months**, ensuring mortgage payments and utilities are covered while they focus on healing.
- **Line-of-Duty Death Benefit:** In the ultimate tragedy, the ATO provides an immediate death benefit to the families of area first responders killed in the line of duty, offering a measure of financial peace during an unthinkable time.
- **Specified Fundraising:** The ATO serves as a trusted fiduciary, assisting in raising and managing funds specifically designated to benefit area first responders who have been seriously injured or killed in the line of duty.

**Disclaimer:** Financial assistance provided by the Assist the Officer Foundation is subject to a formal review process. Each request is presented as a recommendation to the **ATO Board of Directors**, where it is reviewed and voted upon prior to any funds being granted. This ensures transparency, accountability, and the responsible stewardship of the donations entrusted to us by our supporters.

# Confidential Counseling Historical Figures (2019-2025)

ATO Counseling Figures							
	2025 YTD	FY2024	FY2023	FY2022	FY2021	FY2020	FY2019
<b>Total Appointments</b>	1755	2390	1903	1269	1092.5	807	1197.5
<b>First Responders Served</b>	452	564	515	304	177	142	194
<b>Average Appointments Per Client</b>	3.88	4.24	3.7	4.17	6.17	4057	6.17
<b>Average Cost Per Client</b>	\$ 455.02	\$ 495.12	\$ 509.71	\$ 603.81	\$ 580.62	\$ 435.88	\$ 522.96
<b>Total Cost</b>	\$ 205,669.40	\$ 279,247.50	\$ 262,500.40	\$ 183,559.31	\$ 107,822.00	\$ 61,895.00	\$ 101,455.00

## 2025 Client Breakdown (The New Data)

	Dallas PD	Dallas Fire Rescue	Police Other than DPD	Fire Other than DFR	Totals
<b>Total Appointments</b>	1029	217	295	214	1755
<b>First Responders Served</b>	280	58	62	52	452
<b>Average Appointments per Client</b>	3.68	3.74	4.76	4.12	3.88
<b>Average Cost Per Client</b>	\$423.42	\$441.90	\$561.79	\$512.50	\$455.02
<b>Total</b>	\$118,558.40	\$25,630.00	\$34,831.00	\$26,650.00	\$205,669.40

## 2025 Financial Assistance Figures

<b># of Agencies</b>	<b>20</b>
<b># of Families Served</b>	<b>133</b>
<b>Amount of Financial Assistance</b>	<b>\$259,833.61</b>



## Confidential Counseling Services: A Vital Resource

Our counseling program, which began in 2004, continues to be a cornerstone of the foundation, offering professional support with total confidentiality. The data from 2019–2025 reflects the growing trust in our services:

### Historical Performance (2019–2025)

- **Total Appointments (2025 YTD):** 1,755 appointments provided.
- **First Responders Served (2025 YTD):** 452 individuals accessed care.
- **Growth Trend:** Since 2020 (807 appointments), our volume has more than doubled, reaching a peak of 2,390 in FY2024.
- **Efficiency:** Despite increasing demand, we maintained a sustainable average cost per client of **\$455.02** in 2025.

### 2025 Client Breakdown

This year, we successfully reached deep into the first responder community across the region:

- **Dallas PD Officers Only:** Representing our foundational commitment.
- **DFR (Dallas Fire-Rescue) Employees:** A critical and growing group receiving specialized support.
- **Other than Dallas PD Officers:** Reflecting our regional expansion to assist officers from surrounding agencies.
- **Other than DFR Personnel:** Serving regional firefighters and emergency staff.

### Financial Assistance: 2025 Impact by the Numbers

When tragedy strikes, the ATO provides rapid financial relief for loss of income due to serious injury, illness, or line-of-duty events. In 2025, our impact was measurable and immediate:

- **Agencies Supported: 20** different law enforcement and fire agencies served across the region.
- **Families Supported: 133** families received direct assistance to help cope with catastrophic life events.
- **Total Financial Assistance:** Over **\$259,833** provided in direct financial aid to first responders in need.

## Help Us Continue the Mission

[Donate Online](#)

Donate Online at ATO's Website

**Crypto & Modern Giving (The Giving Block):** "We are proud to accept a wide range of donations, including cryptocurrency. You can find our official profile and contribute securely by searching for the **Assist the Officer Foundation** on **The Giving Block**."

[Donate at The Giving Block](#)



**DPA's Assist the Officer Foundation**

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