



*American Academy of Forensic Sciences
American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors
International Association for Identification
National Association of Medical Examiners
Society of Forensic Toxicologists/ American Board of Forensic
Toxicology*

CFSO FY19 BUDGET MEMO

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The FY19 Budget Has Arrived

Below is the budget for FY19 as it has been proposed by the Administration. As you can see, the numbers are lower than they were in the FY18. This budget was actually deemed by the Congress to be a “guide” and not the final outcome even before it was submitted. The week prior to submission we had another short shutdown over what the media called the budget. This is accurate but does not provide the whole picture. Here is the status and what the CFSO will be doing to address this clear funding shortfall.

1. The **FY18 appropriations bill** remains in limbo. The Congress passed a short term Continuing Resolution (CR) to keep the government running and the funds for forensics programs were part of that bill. It is anticipated that a final budget will be passed prior to or on March 23rd when the CR expires. We continue to work to keep funding for Coverdell at \$13.5m, DNA at \$125m, and OSACs at \$4m.
2. The FY19 **budget caps** were passed along with the CR. Those caps allowed for increased “non-defense” spending. Specifically, for FY 19 they went from \$529 to \$597 thus canceling sequester. This gives the appropriations Committee, and the Administration, to spend \$597 on non-defense programs.
3. The **FY19 budget proposal** is what was introduced this week and what the numbers below are. The appropriations committee will begin hearings about these numbers. CFSO has met with them and expressed concern with the proposed amounts and has asked for the increased sums.

The CFSO will continue to work with Congress to increase the funding of the below numbers.

Program/Dollars	Language in Budget Request
BYRNE JAG- \$332.5	<p><i>Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (JAG)</i>—The Byrne Justice Assistance Grants program awards grants to State, local, and tribal governments to support a broad range of activities that prevent and control crime, including: law enforcement programs; prosecution and court programs; prevention and education programs; corrections and community corrections programs; drug treatment programs; and planning, evaluation, and technology improvement programs. The 2019 Budget proposes \$332.5 million for this program. Several well-known OJP programs, including the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program; the VALOR Initiative, a program that promotes officer safety; and the Public Safety Partnership (formerly NCRA Network or VRN) program, are funded as carve-outs under the Byrne JAG program. In FY 2019, jurisdictions will be required to dedicate a small percentage of their awards on National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) compliance. NIBRS is an incident-based system used by law enforcement agencies for collecting and reporting data on crimes. DOJ plans to transition the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting program to NIBRS only data collection by 2021</p>
COVERDELL-\$10m	<p><i>Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants</i>—This program provides grants to States and units of local government to improve the quality and timeliness of forensic science or medical examiner services. The 2019 Budget proposes \$10 million for this program.</p>
DNA-\$105m (<i>\$97m DNA Backlog \$4m Kirk Bloodsworth \$4m SAFE</i>)	<p><i>DNA-Related and Forensic Programs and Initiatives</i>—This program supports a comprehensive strategy to maximize the use of forensic DNA technology in the criminal justice system. The program provides capacity building grants, training, and technical assistance to State and local governments, and supports innovative research on DNA analysis and use of forensic evidence. The 2019 Budget proposes \$105 million for this program.</p>

	<p>(i) \$97,000,000 is for a DNA analysis and capacity enhancement program and for other local, State, and Federal forensic activities, including the purposes authorized under section 2 of the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–546) (the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program): Provided, that up to 4 percent of funds made available under this paragraph may be used for the purposes described in the DNA Training and Education for Law Enforcement, Correctional Personnel, and Court Officers program (Public Law 108–405, section 303);</p> <p>(ii) \$4,000,000 is for the purposes described in the Kirk Bloodsworth Post-Conviction DNA Testing Program (Public Law 108–405, section 412); and</p> <p>(iii) \$4,000,000 is for Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Program grants, including as authorized by section 304 of Public Law 108–405;</p>
SAKs \$45m	<p><i>Community Teams to Address the Sexual Assault Kit (SAK) Backlog</i>—This program addresses a common gap in response to rape and sexual assault at the State, local, and tribal levels by promoting the timely resolution of cases associated with sexual assault kits (SAKs) that have never been submitted for forensic DNA testing or are back-logged at crime labs. Grants awarded through this program support community efforts to identify critical needs in the areas of sexual assault prevention, investigation, prosecution, and victim services, and then implement strategies to address these needs. The 2019 Budget proposes \$45 million for this program.</p>
COAP \$20m	<p><i>Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program (COAP)</i>—This program promotes a coordinated response to the growing problem of abuse and misuse of prescription opioids and heroin. COAP provides a variety of grants, training, and technical assistance to help State, local, and tribal law enforcement, first responders, and criminal justice and substance abuse agencies prevent, investigate, and respond to opioid abuse in their communities. The 2019 Budget proposes \$20 million for this program</p>
COPS \$99m	<p><i>Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring Grants</i>—The 2019 Budget merges the COPS Office into</p>

	<p>OJP. The COPS hiring program provides funding to State, local and tribal law enforcement agencies to hire additional sworn law enforcement officers to be deployed in community policing activities. The 2019 Budget proposes \$99 million for this program. Within this amount, \$10 million will support the public safety needs of law enforcement and advance community policing in Native American communities, of which up to \$3 million will support the purchase of systems, systems support, and technical assistance to facilitate tribal access to law enforcement information sharing systems; \$5 million will support the collaborative reform initiative, which supports organizational transformation around specific issues; \$5 million will be used to fund training and technical assistance that supports the integration of community policing strategies throughout the law enforcement community to effectively address emerging law enforcement and community issues; \$5 million will be used for Strategies for Policing Innovation (formerly called Smart Policing) efforts; and \$10 million will be used to support the Regional Information Sharing System.</p>
<p>NIJ R&D \$36m</p>	<p><i>Research, Development, and Evaluation Program</i>—The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) serves as the research and development agency of the Department of Justice, as authorized by 34 U.S.C. 10121–10123. The mission of NIJ is to advance scientific research, development, and evaluation to enhance the administration of justice and public safety by providing objective, independent, evidence-based knowledge, and tools to meet the challenges of crime and justice, particularly at the State and local levels. NIJ research, development, and evaluation efforts support practitioners and policy makers at all levels of Government.</p> <p>Planned activities include but are not limited to: 1) Social science research addressing, among other topics: human trafficking; evaluation of anti-gang programs; policing; crime and justice; elder abuse; and demonstration field experiments in reentry and probation; 2) Provision of criminal justice-focused technology assistance to units of State, local and tribal government; 3) Criminal justice research infrastructure investments including funding for the National Criminal Justice Reference Service and the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data; 4) Development of equipment performance standards and conduct of compliance testing to help ensure the safety and effectiveness of the equipment used by criminal justice agencies, such as body armor,</p>

restraints, holsters, and video systems; and 5) Development of new tools and technologies for law enforcement, corrections, and forensic applications, including those aimed at improving officer safety, knowledge management, and community supervision. The 2019 Budget proposes \$36 million for the Research, Development, and Evaluation Program.

Criminal Justice Statistics Program—The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) serves as the principal statistical Agency within the Department of Justice, as authorized by 34 U.S.C. 10131–10135, and assists State, local, and tribal Governments in enhancing their statistical capabilities. It disseminates high quality information and statistics to inform policy makers, researchers, criminal justice practitioners, and the general public. The Criminal Justice Statistics Program encompasses a wide range of criminal justice topics, including: 1) victimization; 2) law enforcement; 3) prosecution; 4) courts and sentencing; 5) corrections; 6) recidivism and reentry; 7) tribal justice statistics; 8) justice expenditures and employment; 9) inter-national justice systems; and 10) drugs, alcohol, and crime. The 2019 Budget proposes \$41 million for the Criminal Justice Statistics Program.

3% Research, Evaluation and Statistics Set Aside—The 2019 Budget requests a set-aside of up to three percent for research, evaluation, and statistics. The set-aside amount from OJP discretionary programs supports the base programs for NIJ and BJS.