

FORENSIC FY20 BUDGET

FUNDING CHART

PROGRAM	REQUEST	HOUSE	SENATE	FINAL
DOJ				
Paul Coverdell Forensic Science	\$ 10,000	\$ 30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
DNA Initiative	\$105,000	\$142,000	\$136,000	\$132,000
Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grants (note it is not Debbie Smith in Admin budget rather the DNA Analysis, Capacity Enhancement and other Forensic Activities)		(\$100,000)	(\$125,000)	(\$102,000)
State and Local Forensic Activities	0	(\$30,000)	0	(\$19,000)
Kirk Bloodsworth Post-Conviction DNA Testing Grants	\$4,000	(\$8,000)	(\$7,000)	(\$7,000)
Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Program Grants	\$4,000	(\$4,000)	(\$4,000)	(\$4,000)
SAKI	\$47,500	\$49,000	\$48,000	\$48,000
NIST				
OSAC	0	\$3m	\$3m	\$3.15m
Forensic Technical Merit		\$1m	\$1m	\$1m
HHS				
Opioid Overdose Prevention and Surveillance				\$475.58m
National Violent Death Reporting System				\$ 23.50m

LANGUAGE

HOUSE	SENATE	CONF
<p>Byrne/JAG funds—The Committee advises that some Byrne/JAG funds be directed to provide newer, more efficient forensics testing tools for rural jurisdictions. The Committee requests additional consideration be given to \$applicants who seek to hire service-connected disabled veterans. The Committee encourages the Department to support the use of these grant funds for the purchase of fentanyl detection equipment.</p>	<p>No Language</p>	
<p>Forensics.—The Committee encourages National Institute of Justice (NIJ) to explore partnerships with accredited universities of higher education for the purpose of providing national learning opportunities for law enforcement, district attorneys, and primary care physicians within functioning forensic laboratory and death investigation facilities. These partnerships should focus on collaboration between State departments of forensic science working in partnership with universities and local district attorneys, to provide a facility of prominence for forensic science education, training, research, and service, which will benefit current practitioners in the field as well as future forensic scientists.</p>	<p>National Center on Forensics.—The Committee provides \$2,000,000 for the NIJ to facilitate a partnership amongst a full- service State department of forensic science with a medical examiner function; an accredited university of higher education with affiliate medical and law schools; and a statewide district attorneys association for the purpose of providing medico-legal learning opportunities for medical students to train as deputy medical examiners/coroners in underserved rural areas; provide forensic science and legal training to district attorneys, judges, and law enforcement; and develop opportunities as appropriate amongst the designated partners to benefit current and future practitioners in the field.</p>	<p>National Center on Forensics. -In lieu of House report language on Forensics, the Department is directed to follow the Senate report language on the National Center on Forensics.</p>
<p>DNA initiative.—The recommendation includes \$142,000,000 for DNA-related and forensic programs and activities, an increase of \$12,000,000 above the fiscal year 2019 level and \$37,000,000 above the request. Within the funds provided, the Committee provides \$8,000,000 for</p>	<p>DNA Backlog and Crime Lab Improvements.—The Committee is once again extremely disappointed that the Department’s budget request slashes funding by \$25,000,000 for critical grant programs to help State and local agencies address their backlogs and test forensic evidence. The Committee</p>	

<p>Post-Conviction DNA Testing grants, \$4,000,000 for Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Program grants, \$30,000,000 for other State and local forensic activities including civil rights cold-cases, and \$100,000,000 to meet the purposes of the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program, which is an increase of \$10,000,000 above the fiscal year 2019 level for this program. The Committee provides funding separately for this purpose to increase transparency and oversight of DNA Initiative funding.</p>	<p>continues its strong support for DNA backlog and crime lab improvements by recommending \$136,000,000 to strengthen and improve Federal and State DNA collection and analysis systems that can be used to accelerate the prosecution of the guilty while simultaneously protecting the innocent from wrongful prosecution. Within funds provided, \$125,000,000 is for Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Reduction grants, \$7,000,000 is for Kirk Bloodsworth Post-Conviction DNA Testing grants, and \$4,000,000 is for Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners grants.</p> <p>The Committee expects that the OJP will make funding for DNA analysis and capacity enhancement a priority in order to meet the purposes of the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program. The Committee directs the Department to submit to the Committee as part of its spending plan for State and Local Law Enforcement Activities a plan with respect to funds appropriated for DNA-related and forensic programs, including the alignment of appropriated funds with the authorized purposes of the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program.</p> <p><i>Enforcing the Debbie Smith Act.</i>—Section 3 of The Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–324) codified that not less than 75 percent of amounts made available “for a DNA Analysis and capacity enhancement program and for other local, State, and Federal forensic activities” shall be provided for grants for activities described under paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of Section (2)(a) of the DNA Analysis and Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14135(a)). This 75 percent requirement had previously been codified by Congress and the President as part of the Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Reporting Act of 2013, which was enacted as Title X of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (Public Law 113–4). Though this provision has been</p>	
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	<p>a part of the U.S. Code for several years, the Department has failed to adhere to the law. Specifically, in their solicitations for both fiscal year 2018 and fiscal year 2019, the Department allocated only \$70,000,000 (58 percent) of the funds to the DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction Program. With the enactment of Section 3 of the Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2016, Congress has made its intent clear. The Committee therefore instructs the Attorney General to ensure that not less than 75 percent of the funds provided under this provision are provided to States and units of local government through grants to address the DNA crime scene evidence backlog.</p> <p>Additionally, the Justice Served Act of 2018 (Public Law 115– 257) was enacted on October 9, 2018, and requires that not more than 7 percent and not less than 5 percent of the funds allocated for the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program be used for “grants for prosecutors to increase the capacity of State and local prosecution offices to address cold cases involving violent crime, where suspects have been identified through DNA evidence.” The Committee directs the Department to implement the Justice Served Act of 2018 in accordance with the clear intent of Congress and ensure that not more than 7 percent and no less than 5 percent of the funds provided under the Debbie Smith program are allocated for the purpose of increasing the capacity of state and local prosecutors to address cold cases.</p>	
	<p><i>Sexual Assault Kit Initiative [SAKI].</i>—The Committee’s recommendation includes \$48,000,000 to continue a competitive grant program started in fiscal year 2015 as part of the initiative to reduce the backlog of rape kits at law enforcement agencies. The NIJ shall provide competitively awarded grants with a comprehensive community-based approach to addressing the resolution of cases in the backlog. The Committee directs the NIJ to</p>	

	<p>provide a report not later than 90 days after enactment of this act on its progress in developing a strategy and model to serve as best practices for discovering and testing kits, training law enforcement, and supporting victims throughout the process as required by Public Law 113–235.</p>	
<p><i>Missing and exploited children programs.</i>—The recommendation includes \$85,000,000 for missing and exploited children programs, which is \$3,000,000 above fiscal year 2019 and \$4,000,000 above the request. The Committee expects the Department to allocate \$40,000,000 for task force grants, training and technical assistance, research and statistics, and administrative costs for the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) program. The Department is urged to include in its ICAC Task Force grant solicitation a prioritization of proactive investigations of suspects possessing, distributing, or producing violent and sadistic child sexual abuse imagery. The Committee expects the Department to allocate \$1,000,000 to hire and equip wounded, ill, or injured veterans as forensic analysts or investigators to support child exploitation investigations.</p>		
	<p><i>Drug Field Testing and Training Initiative.</i>—The Committee recognizes that crime and forensics labs across the country are over-whelmed, and understands the ripple effect on the justice system when forensic testing is delayed. While some forensic analysis must be conducted in a laboratory environment, the Committee believes that there are other methods, like rapid drug testing, that can be performed in the field. Therefore, within the funds provided, \$2,000,000 shall be spent on a pilot program to establish a training model led by an accredited institution of higher learning that can be used nationwide regarding rapid identification</p>	

	<p>technology and methods which can be used when drugs are discovered in the field. This institution shall provide training to local law enforcement officers both on the methods of conducting rapid field testing to identify drugs encountered in the field as well as proper evidence collection techniques and storage measures, with the ultimate goal of reducing court backlogs for drug related offenses.</p>	
	<p><i>Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Reporting Act [SAFER].</i>—The SAFER Act was included as Title X of the Violence Against Women Act of 2013 (Public Law 113–4) and was reauthorized by the SAFER Act of 2017 (Public Law 115–107). The Act authorized the Attorney General to make grants for the purpose of helping State and local law enforcement agencies conduct audits of the rape kit backlog. In 2016, the Department fully implemented the SAFER Act by providing grants for such a purpose under the Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence-Inventory, Tracking, and Reporting Program. The Committee directs the continuation of this important program to deliver justice for victims of sexual assault.</p>	
	<p><i>Paul Coverdell Forensic Science.</i>—The recommendation provides a total of \$30,000,000, of which \$17,000,000 is to specifically target the challenges the opioid and synthetic drug epidemic has brought to the forensics community as described in Senate Report 115–275 and codified in Public Law 116–6.</p>	
	<p><i>Cybercrime.</i>—As national and international cyber threats become increasingly sophisticated, our Federal prosecutors must become better versed in digital forensic evidence. The Committee’s recommendation fully funds the budget request of</p>	

	<p>\$62,858,000 for cybercrime activities. The USAO will be able to increase the number of investigations and prosecutions of cyber attacks and cyber intrusions, and provide the high-caliber level of training on cybercrime and digital evidence needed for Assistant U.S. Attorneys to be able to analyze and present digital evidence across all types of criminal cases.</p> <p>The Committee does not support proposed funding cuts for Intellectual Property and Child Pornography activities, and instead directs USAO to provide no less than the fiscal year 2019 funding level for prosecution of these cyber-related crimes.</p>	
<p>Forensic Sciences.—The Committee provides \$1,500,000 above the fiscal year 2019 amount for forensic science research. Additionally, the Committee provides \$3,000,000 to support the Organization of 22 Scientific Area Committees and \$1,000,000 to support technical merit evaluations previously funded by transfer from the Department of Justice.</p>	<p>Forensic Sciences.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2019 amount for forensic science research. Additionally, the Committee provides \$3,000,000 to support the Organization of Scientific Area Committees and \$1,000,000 to support technical merit evaluations.</p>	<p>Forensic Sciences.-In lieu of House and Senate report language, the agreement provides \$1,000,000 above the fiscal year 2019 enacted level for forensic science research. Additionally, the agreement provides \$3,150,000 to support the Organization of Scientific Area Committees and \$1 000,000 to support technical merit evaluations.</p>
		<p>Opioid Overdose Prevention and Surveillance-The agreement directs CDC to continue funding overdose prevention efforts in the same manner as directed in P.L. 115-245. The agreement encourages CDC to continue to work collaboratively with States to ensure that funding is available to all States for opioid prevention and surveillance.</p>