



Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations (CFSO)

AAFS Update 2022

Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations (CFSO)

- AAFS
- ASCLD
- IAI
- NAME
- SOFT/ABFT

The mission of the CFSO is to speak with a single voice on behalf of its member organizations in matters of mutual interest regarding forensic science, to influence legislative matters and public policy, and to make a compelling case for greater funding for public forensic science service providers and forensic medicine service providers.

CFSO Strategic Plan

PURPOSES

- A. To increase essential resources for the forensic science enterprise*
- B. To promote initial and ongoing accreditation and individual practitioner certification resources*
- C. To advance the validity, reliability, and reproducibility of forensic science and forensic medicine practices*
- D. To improve and expand forensic information technology systems, infrastructure, and interoperability*
- E. To advocate for enhanced forensic science research and development, and advancement of a national strategy*
- F. To maintain effective and timely communication with our member organizations*

CFSO Strategic Plan

OBJECTIVES

- A. To continue to be recognized as the organization representing the forensic community to policy makers*
- B. To collaborate with federal entities to promote increased grant funding for administrative and quality systems*
- C. To identify and promote opportunities to meet the current and expected demand for qualified practitioners*
- D. To advocate for ongoing professional development of forensic practitioners and support services*
- E. To establish and maintain collaborative partnerships for validation and performance verification studies*
- F. To interact with federal grantors for simplification of the grant application and management process*
- G. To maintain a collaborative relationship and consensus on common objectives among CFSO organizations*
- H. To foster a productive relationship with Congressional and other governmental entities*
- I. To engage with and support crime victim organizations and other stakeholders on issues of mutual interest*
- J. To support forensic science education for officers of the court, the judiciary, and law enforcement*

CFSO Strategic Plan

STRATEGIES

- A. To ascertain the existing and projected needs of the forensic science community*
- B. To develop educational and policy positions regarding forensic science*
- C. To monitor and influence legislation that may impact forensic science*
- D. To collaborate in developing legislative initiatives with member organizations and stakeholders*
- E. To propose and promote legislation advancing forensic science*
- F. To establish and maintain interactive and effective communications with federal agencies*
- G. To provide public communication through an informative website, newsletter, and other means*

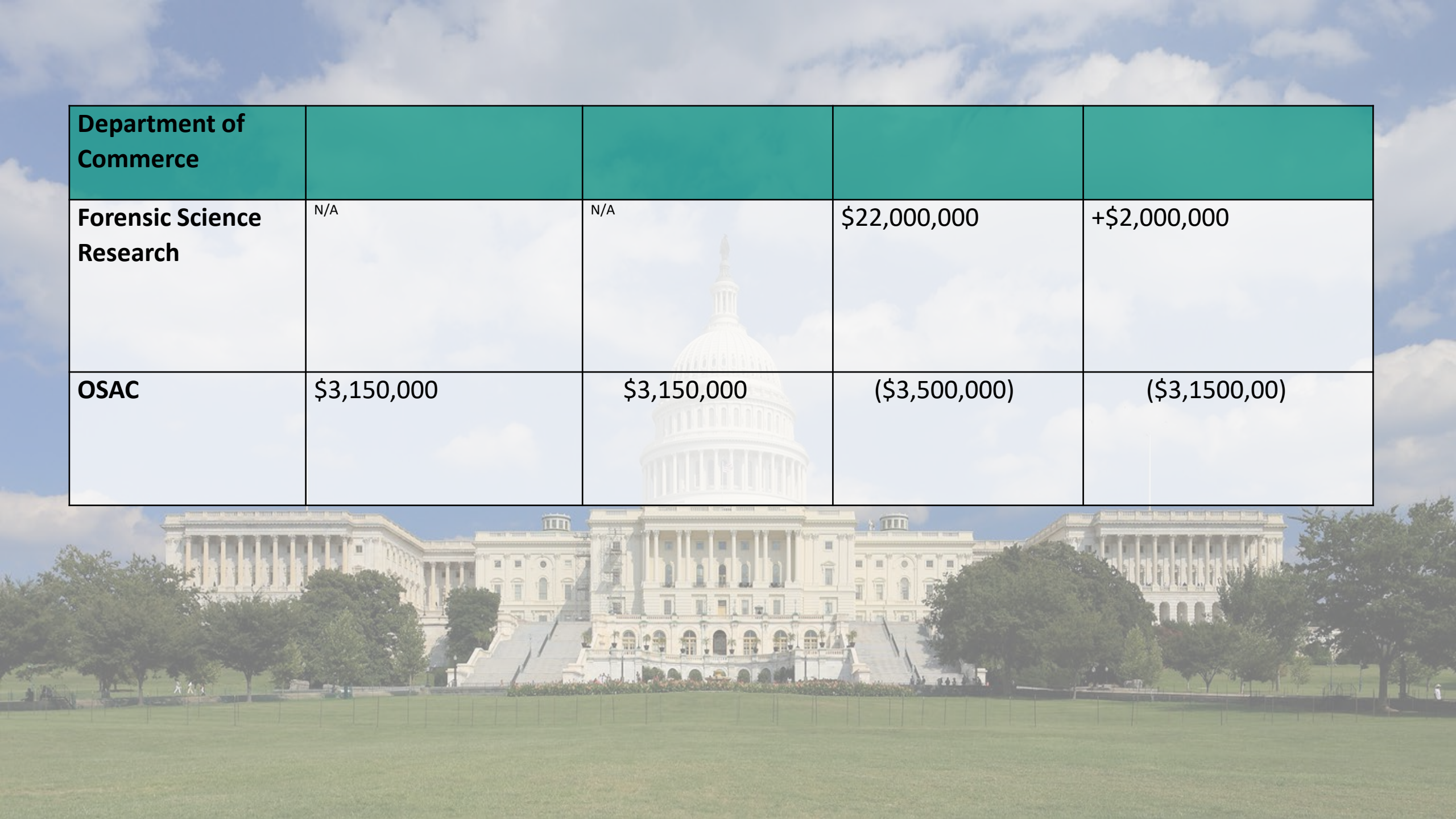


Legislative Items: Funding
House and Senate Proposed Budget FY22

Department of Justice	FY21 final	FY22 proposed	House FY22	Senate FY22
Byrne JAG	\$484,000,000	\$513,500,000	\$684,469,000	\$640,283,000
NamUs	\$2,400,000	\$5,000,000	\$2,400,000	\$5,000,000
Paul Coverdell Grants	\$33,000,000	\$35,000,000	\$33,000,000	\$35,000,000
DNA Initiative	\$141,000,000	\$147,000,000	\$158,000,000	\$151,000,000
Debbie Smith DNA Grants	\$110,000,000	\$112,000,000	\$120,000,000	\$120,000,000

Kirk Bloodsworth Post Conviction DNA	\$8,000,000	\$12,000,000	\$13,000,000	\$12,000,000
Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Program	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$4,000,000
Community Teams to Reduce the Sexual Assault Kit Backlog (SAKI)	\$48,000,000	\$100,000,000	\$60,000,000	\$60,000,000
National Center on Forensics	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000	0

NIJ Research, Development and Evaluation		\$41,000,000	\$45,000,000	\$41,000,000
ATF Forensic Services to conduct DNA analysis on fired cartridge casings	n/a	\$4,300,000		
John R Justice Student Loan Repayment	n/a	\$2,000,000	\$4,000,000	
Regional Sexual Assault investigative training academies	0	\$20,000,000	\$20,000,000	\$0.00



Department of Commerce				
Forensic Science Research	N/A	N/A	\$22,000,000	+\$2,000,000
OSAC	\$3,150,000	\$3,150,000	(\$3,500,000)	(\$3,150,000)

LEGISLATIVE: Enacted As Law

S. Res. 392, Forensic Science Week

- Pending for CY 2022

Extending Temporary Emergency Scheduling of Fentanyl Analogues included in the CR

- Bill provides temporary reauthorization until March 11, 2022
- There is debate among the Members as to a permanent path forward.

LEGISLATIVE: 117th Congress

Justice for All Reauthorization Act (JFAA)

Discussions began in 2019 with drafting in 2020

- First round of negotiations between the CFSO and IP per the Senate Judiciary Committee
- Second round of discussion with stakeholders
- Legislation reauthorizes:
- Coverdell Grants (technical corrections included regarding accreditation and other administrative matters, increases grant funding)
- Kirk Bloodsworth

LEGISLATIVE: 117th Congress

Justice for All Reauthorization Act (JFAA)...Continued

- DNA R&D
- Wrongful Conviction
- Realignment of OIFS from NIJ up to an OJP level office
- Directs a triennial “Needs Assessment” of forensic science
- Amends Debbie Smith Act
- Senate draft to be introduced
- Passage expected before the end of the year

LEGISLATIVE: 117th Congress

ME Legislation

- Assistance in medical examiner and coroner workforce shortage
- Loan forgiveness/repayment for Forensic Pathologists
- Certification help and training money for forensic death investigators
- Funded fellowships in Forensic Pathology that are already authorized and approving more
- NamUs Authorization
- Expected to be introduced formally shortly
- Bipartisan and working toward Bicameral

LEGISLATIVE: 117th Congress

National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS)

- Working with Safe States to expand funding

NIST

- OSAC legislation no longer on the table
- SDO is authorized under the COMPETE Act
- Passed House on Feb. 8, 2022

Agency Communications

Administrative meetings

- Biden transition team
- Office of Justice Programs
- ATF
- NIST
- HHS

Non-Legislative Items

Medico-Legal Death Investigation-Data-Working Group

- A CDC/NIJ collaborative group was formed in 2020 called the MDI-Data-WG which includes many CFSO members (two chairs)
- Looking at ME/C data to determine collection and sharing of data
- Group is tasked with multi-year project of developing recommendations for federal government on ME/C data collection and exchange
- Report pending

Non-Legislative Items

Forensic Laboratory Needs-Technology Working Group:

- White papers published
- Working groups on
 - LIMS advances, interoperability, futuristic architecture
 - Identifying the technology needs of the practitioner to facilitate adoption of standards
 - Increasing research activities in the crime laboratories to aid in the adoption of new technologies
 - Developing an implementation Guide for DART-MS

Non-Legislative Items

NIST FY 2023 Initiatives:

- Computational Forensics (Algorithms)
- Databases and Data (Black and White Box Studies)
- Quality Assurance Program (National Validation Programs like CannaQAP)
- Training for officers of the court and forensic practitioners
- New OSAC Subcommittee on Forensic Nursing

Non-Legislative Items

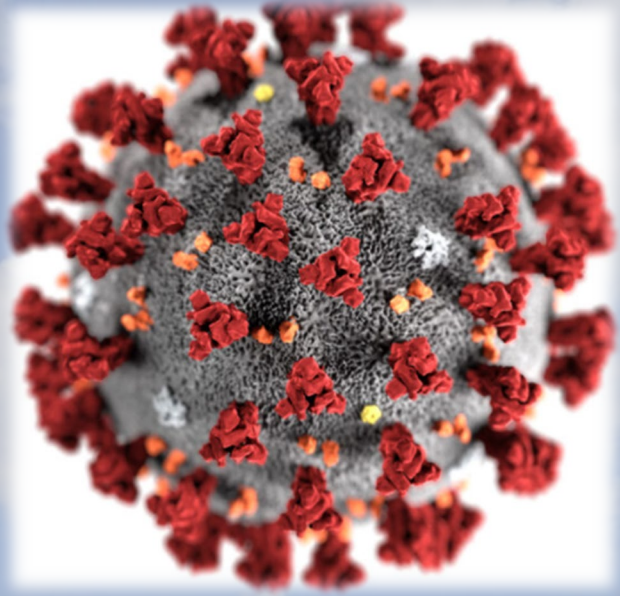
National Center on Forensics:

- George Mason University / Montana ME Office/NAAG...etc.
- Training for law enforcement, practitioners, officers of court
- Focus on getting more Forensic Pathologists into the workforce
- Second Center to University of Alabama recently awarded

Non-Legislative Items

Firearms Initiatives:

- More NIBIN correlation staff at the national center
- Increasing slots in the National Firearms Training Academy
- Workforce development initiatives



Unique to 2020/2021:

- New CFSO website design and security
- COVID help for labs and raising the level of visibility of COVID issues for FSSPs
- More meetings virtually which allows us to engage more people in the meetings

Non-Legislative Items

Monitoring:

- Federal Law Changes Related to Rule 16 and 702
- DNA Funding
- DNA Mixtures foundations report (NIST)
- Blood Spatter and Firearms Admissibility
- AFIS/MBIS interoperability
- SAKI and sexual assault funding
- National Forensic Science Week
- Victim profile searching in LDIS

117th Congress Legislation and Funding

by Edoardo Sassani / May 3, 2021

Standards Development Organization Funding

CFSO supports authorization and appropriation for forensic science standards development at forensic science standards development organizations.

- [January 5th 2022 Memo](#)

Fentanyl Bill

This bill extends until October 22, 2021, the temporary scheduling order issued by the Drug Enforcement Administration to place fentanyl-related substances in schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act. The bill was signed into law on May 4, 2021.

The previous order (PL 116-114) extended the last scheduling and also requested a GAO report to look at the matter. Titled "Synthetic Opioids, Considerations for the Class-Wide Scheduling of Fentanyl-Related Substances" (attached). The GAO report was sent to Congress in April 2021.

The GAO report provides analyzed documents, data and statements for Federal, state and local stakeholders. It focused on the "effects related to drug classification, research, and federal law enforcement and effects from the classification of similar substances."

- [Public Law – H.R.2630 "Extending Temporary Emergency Scheduling of Fentanyl Analogues Act"](#)
- [Congressional Record – Senate](#)
- [Congressional Record – House](#)
- [GAO Fentanyl Scheduling 2021](#)

FY22 Budget

The President has released the proposed FY22 budget detail. It is a budget with good news for the forensic science community as the funding is more robust. Please note that there is also new funding for regional Sexual Assault Training Facilities. Below you will find detail of that budget and we will keep you apprised of any activity as these proposed requests move through the congressional approval process. Of note, CDC has also added a significant amount of funding regarding sexual assault.

- [Budget FY22](#)
- [Attorney General Letter Response](#)

FY23 Budget

CFSO is preparing for FY23 by engaging our federal partners as they prepare their budget related to forensic science. You can see our letters to these agency heads from the links below.

- [HHS Letter](#)
- [DOJ Letter](#)
- [Commerce Letter](#)

PUBLICATIONS

CFSO Newsletters

- November 2021
- Proposed Budget FY22
- May 2021
- February 2021
- November 2020
(Budget Special Edition)
- November 2020
- August 2020
- July 2020

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- Toxicology
- NamUs
- Needs Assessment
- BJS Census Response to Federal Register
- OSAC/SDOs
- Firearms Workforce



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED
SUPPORT**

**Consortium of Forensic
Organizations (CFSO)**

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www.thecfso.org

