



CFSO

*Consortium of Forensic
Science Organizations*

**Consortium of Forensic
Science Organizations (CFSO)**

AAFS Update 2023



Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations (CFSO)

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

The mission of the CFSO is to speak with a single forensic science voice on behalf of its member organizations of matters of mutual interest regarding forensic science, to influence public policy at the national level, and to make a compelling case for greater federal funding for public crime laboratories and medical examiner and coroner offices. The primary focus of the CFSO is national, state, and local policymakers, as well as the United States Congress.

CFSO Strategic Plan 2023

GOALS

- A. To continue to be recognized as the primary organization representing the forensic community to policy makers
- B. To increase resources needed for the forensic science enterprise
- C. To advance the validity, reliability, and reproducibility of forensic science and forensic medicine practices
- D. To develop an ongoing federal forensic science research strategy
- E. To be a single voice to policy makers on behalf of the forensic science community

CFSO Strategic Plan 2023

OBJECTIVES

- A. To meet the current and expected need for qualified personnel for the forensic science community
- B. To fund the ongoing professional development of forensic practitioners and forensic support services
- C. To establish and maintain validation and performance verification programs and collaboratives
- D. To improve and expand forensic information technology systems, infrastructure, and interoperability
- E. To simplify the grant application and management process, and develop collaborative applicant resources

CFSO Strategic Plan 2023

STRATEGY

- A. To maintain a collaborative relationship among CFSO organizations to advance their collective objectives **(CFSO Board Meetings Bimonthly, Listening Sessions, President's Council)**
- B. To maintain a productive relationship with Congressional and other governmental entities
- C. To collaborate with and support crime victim organizations and other stakeholders on issues of mutual interest
- D. To support forensic science education for officers of the court, the judiciary, and law enforcement.

CFSO Strategic Plan 2023

CONTINUING AGENDA

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



**Legislative Items: Funding
House and Senate Budget FY23**

Department of Justice	Final FY22 Budget	FY23 Proposed	Final FY23 Budget
Byrne JAG	\$674,500,000	\$533,500,000	\$770,805,000
NamUs	\$2,400,000	\$5,000,000	\$3,500,000
Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains Act	\$5,000,000	0	\$6,000,000
Forensics Ballistics Program in Higher Education	\$1,500,000	0	\$1,500,000
John R Justice Student Loan Repayment	\$4,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$5,000,000
National Center on Forensics	N/A	\$4,000,000	0
Paul Coverdell Grants	\$33,000,000	\$35,000,000	\$35,000,000
DNA Initiative	\$151,000,000	\$147,000,000	\$170,000,000
Debbie Smith DNA Grants	\$120,000,000	\$112,000,000	\$130,000,000
State, Local and Federal Forensic Activities	\$15,000,000	\$19,000,000	\$20,000,000 ¹
Kirk Bloodsworth Post Conviction DNA	\$12,000,000	\$12,000,000	\$15,000,000
Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Program	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000	\$5,000,000

Department of Justice	Final FY22 Budget	FY23 Proposed	Final FY23 Budget
Community Teams to Reduce the Sexual Assault Kit Backlog (SAKD)	\$50,000,000	\$100,000,000	\$55,000,000
NIJ Research, Development and Evaluation	\$30,000,000	\$43,000,000	\$35,000,000
Criminal Justice Statistics Program		\$45,000,000	\$42,000,000
Regional Sexual Assault investigative training academies	0	\$20,000,000	0 (see SAFE language)
ATF National Integrated Ballistics Information Network and Crime Gun Intelligence		\$21,200,000	See language for construction funding
Department of Commerce (NIST)			
Forensic Science Research	\$20,500,000	N/A *see note	\$22,000,000
OSAC	\$3,300,000		\$3,500,000
Technical Merit Evaluations	\$1,200,000		\$1,500,000
Department of Health (CDC)			
National Violent Death Reporting System	\$24,500,000	\$34,500,000 (52 recipients)	\$24,500,000
Opioid Overdose Prevention and Surveillance	\$490,579,900	\$713,500,000	\$505,579,000
SANE Nurses	\$13,000,000		\$15,000,000

DOJ

Byrne JAG

- **LANGUAGE:** Congress emphasizes that Byrne JAG can also be used for forensics.

DNA Initiative

- **LANGUAGE:** Congress continues to be very concerned with BJA's spending in this category of funds. Language is included that DOJ is directed to submit a spending plan to Congress detailing "funds appropriated for DNA related and forensic programs, including the alignment of appropriated funds with the authorized purposes of Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grants".

SAKI

- **LANGUAGE:** emphasizes DOJ must spend as authorizing language directs and requests a **report of the number of partially tested kits within 1 year of this act.**

DOJ cont'd

R&D (NIJ)

- **LANGUAGE: emphasizes purposes of funding and includes forensics.**

ATF

- **LANGUAGE: several places in the bill emphasize the need for ATF to work with State and Local law enforcement and to provide “all possible training opportunities”**

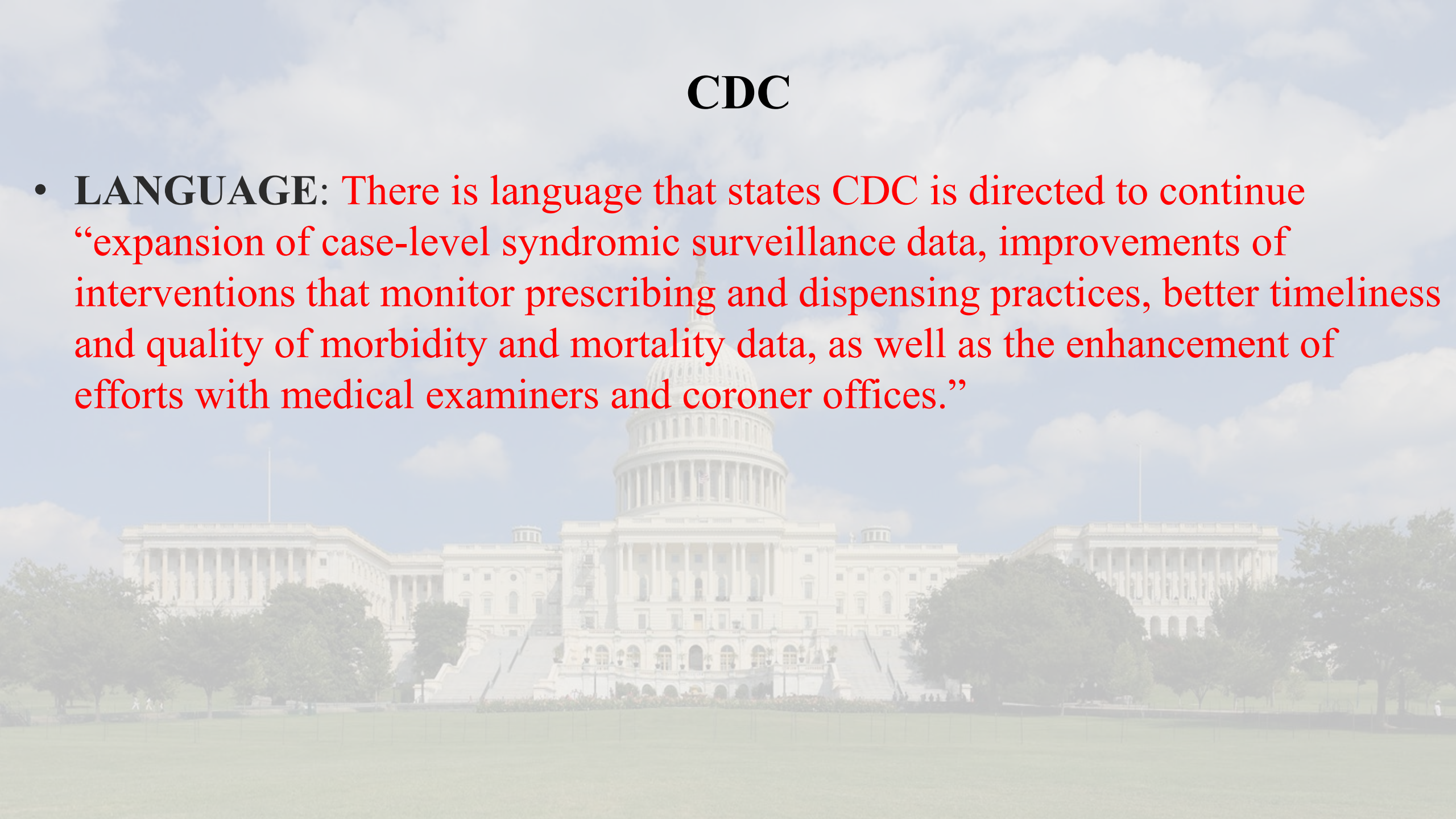
NIST

Forensic Science Research

- A grant for **SDOs** was authorized in the CHIPS Act earlier in the year directing that NIST “**shall** establish a competitive program of grants for nongovernmental standards development organizations.” Prior to the passage of the grant, CFSO asked Congress to fund the SDO grant. The Senate stated the following: “**NIST is directed to report to the Committees whether Federal support is necessary for Standards Development Organizations** in order to further advance the use of forensic standards.” NIST did not respond to that direction and the language was reiterated in the final report. CFSO is currently working to resolve this matter.

CDC

- **LANGUAGE:** There is language that states CDC is directed to continue “expansion of case-level syndromic surveillance data, improvements of interventions that monitor prescribing and dispensing practices, better timeliness and quality of morbidity and mortality data, as well as the enhancement of efforts with medical examiners and coroner offices.”



LEGISLATIVE: Enacted As Law

H.R. 4346 CHIPS and Science Act of 2022

- **Authorized** 2 million in funding for SDOs authorized

S. Res. 768, Forensic Science Week

- **11th Annual National Forensic Science Week Sept 18-24, 2022**

LEGISLATIVE: Enacted As Law

Fentanyl: PL117-103 Enacted on 3/15/2022

- Congress provided the temporary rescheduling again in order to have time to review the GAO report .
- Debate continues regarding the scheduling permanent and sentencing reform
- Continued in the 2023 Omnibus Bill to December 31, 2024

S. 5230 Billy's Law

- Streamlines the missing person reporting process ensuring that law enforcement databases are more accessible and comprehensive.
- The Attorney General shall maintain the 'National Missing and Unidentified Persons System' (NamUs)

LEGISLATIVE: 117 & 118th Congress

Justice for All Reauthorization Act (JFAA)

Discussions began in 2019 with drafting in 2020

- Coverdell Grants (technical corrections included regarding accreditation and other administrative matters, increased grant funding)
- Realignment of OIFS from NIJ up to an OJP level office
- A triennial “Needs Assessment” of forensic science

LEGISLATIVE: 117th Congress

FY 2022 Missing and Unidentified Humans Remains Program (MUHR)

- New Grant released: 7/15/2022 Anticipated again in 2023
- Due in a large part due CFSO in conjunction with Senator Cornyn (TX)
- Available to Statewide, County and/or units of local government
- Solicitation is competitive
- <https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-bja-2022-171404>

FIGG

Forensic Investigative Genetic Genealogy

- Appropriating Language Advocacy

Carla Walker Act

- 20m in funding
- CFSO working with 118th Congress

LEGISLATIVE: 118th Congress

ME Legislation

- Continuing efforts to find advocates in Congress to support ME's
- 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
- Expected to be introduced formally shortly
- Bipartisan and working toward Bicameral

Agency Communications

Attorney General Letter on Coverdell

- BJA Response (more labs qualify)

Budget Letters

- Department of Commerce
- DOJ-Attorney General
- Health and Human Services

Agency Communications

Administrative meetings

- Office of Justice Programs
- ATF
- NIST
- HHS/CDC
- BJA
- NHTSA

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
- Report with recommendations released in early 2023

Medico-Legal Death Investigation-Data-Working Group cont'd

**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**

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

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**

Non-Legislative Items

DOD-MES:

- Training for Forensic Pathologists
- Meetings ongoing with CFSO

Monitoring

Firearms Initiatives:

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

CEBR Solicitation:

- Competitive funds distribution

The Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations

CURRENT LEGISLATIVE AND ADVOCACY EFFORTS

CFSO is an association of forensic science professional organizations:



[American Academy of Forensic Sciences](#)
(AAFS Introduction)



[American Board of Forensic Toxicology](#)
(ABFT Website)



[American Society of Crime](#)



[International Association for](#)



[International Association of](#)

[Education](#)

[Political Outreach](#)

[Institutional Outreach](#)

[Public Outreach](#)

[Organizational Outreach](#)

[Scheduled Events](#)

[Official Proclamations](#)

Helpful Links:

- [National Forensic Science Week Facebook Page](#)
- [Crime Lab Tour Videos](#)
- [National Forensic Science Week Member Website](#)

The CFSO Ad Hoc Committee Members for National Forensic Science Week are: Jeff Gurvis (IAI), Penny Dechant (IAI), Ken Martin (IAI), Zain Bhaloo (AAFS), Matthew Go (AAFS), Ken Melson (AAFS), Jennifer Naugle (ASCLD), Tim Kupferschmid (ASCLD), Erin Forry (ASCLD), Matthew Gamette (ASCLD), Jenna Aungst (NAME), MJ Menendez (NAME), James Gill (NAME)

Unique to 2020/2021:

- New CFSO website for National Forensic Science Week
- Blood tube help for forensic science community
- Meeting with NIJ Director on Research Needs (requests published on CFSO website)

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

- 2021 Year End Summary
- March 2022 Budget Brief
- July 2022 Budget Brief
- August 2022 Newsletter
- January 2023 Budget Brief

Recent CFSO Letters

- DOC
- HHS
- DOJ
- NIST (SDO Funding)

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- CFSO 2022 Strategy and Strategic Plan
- Firearms
- Toxicology
- NamUs
- Needs Assessment
- OSAC/SDOs
- Firearms Workforce
- **AFIS Interoperability**
- **FIGG (pending)**



QUESTIONS ?

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www.thecfso.org



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED
SUPPORT**

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