



CFSO

*Consortium of Forensic
Science Organizations*

Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations (CFSO)

June 2023 Update



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

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.

A wide-angle photograph of the United States Capitol building in Washington, D.C. The building is a large, white, neoclassical structure with a prominent central dome topped by a statue. The building is surrounded by a green lawn and several trees. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds. A black rounded rectangle is overlaid on the center of the image, containing white text.

**Legislative Items: Funding
House and Senate Budget FY24**

DOJ FY24 PROPOSED

Forensic Science Research-\$15m to establish a “dedicated program to support forensic science research designed to promote criminal justice system efficiencies”. Intramural and extramural research. ”Support fellowships, expand research into digital evidence forensic genetic genealogy and artificial intelligence, couple forensic science innovations with social science evaluation”.

National Center on Forensics-\$4m to “develop and provide learning opportunities in the forensic science for medical students, prosecutors, judges and law enforcement”.

DNA Related and Forensic Science Programs-\$147m (-\$23m) “This reduction will fund those programs at the FY22 levels; most of the impact of this reduction will be focused on backlog reduction efforts. Debbie Smith, Other Federal, State and Local Forensics Activities -\$1m, SANE Nurses-\$1m

Forensic Training and Technical Assistance: \$5m for the establishment of a national

DOJ		
Program	FY23 Actual	FY24 Request
National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs)	\$3.5m	\$5.0m
Missing Persons and Identified Remains Act	\$8.0m	\$7.0m
Forensics Ballistic Program	\$1.5m	0
National Center of Forensics	0	\$4.0m
Forensic Science Research and Development Program (new program)	0	\$15.0m
DNA Programs	\$170.0m	\$147.0m
DNA Analysis and Capacity Enhancement Program	\$130.0m	\$112.0m
Other Federal, State, and Local Forensic Activities	\$20.0m	\$19.0m
Kirk Bloodsworth Post Conviction DNA Testing Program	\$15.0m	\$12.0m
Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Program Guide	\$5.0m	\$4.0m
Community Teams to Reduce the Sexual Assault Kit (SAK) Backlog	\$55m	\$100.0m
Regional Sexual Assault Investigative Training Academies	0	\$20.0m
Coverdell Forensic Science Grants	\$35.0m	\$35.0m
Forensic Support for Opioid and Synthetic Drug Investigations	\$17.0m	\$17.0m
Forensics Training and Technical Assistance (new program)	0	\$5.0m

NIST FY24 Proposed Budget

Advanced Forensic Science Research—technologies for forensic analysis and mathematical and statistical tools that help quantify confidence in the results of forensics tests.

Science based Standards Development--OSAC

Scientific Foundation Studies—In depth reviews to identify priorities for future research, help laboratories identify appropriate limitations on the use of forensic methods and suggest steps for moving the field forward

Operation of CSAFE

Expand into four major areas of computational forensic science, forensic science data, forensic science quality assurance, and forensic science evaluation of the legal community.

SDO grant is not funded

Commerce: NIST		
Forensic Science Research	\$22.0m	N/A*
OSAC	\$3.5m	N/A*
Technical Merit Evaluations	\$1.5m	N.A*
SDO Grant	N/A	N/A*
HHS: CDC		
Opioid Overdose Prevention and Surveillance	\$505.579m	\$713.369m
National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS)	\$24.5m	\$34.5m

*N/A=not available

April 2023 Newsletter
Budget Language
<https://thecfso.org/>

LEGISLATIVE 118th Congress

- **Debbie Smith Reauthorization**
- **Backlog Justice Act**
- **Carla Walker Act**

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
- Forensic Toxicologist training and continuing education funding
- Funded fellowships in Forensic Pathology that are already authorized and approving more
- Expected to be introduced formally shortly
- Bipartisan and working toward Bicameral

LEGISLATIVE: 117th Enacted As Law

H.R. 4346 CHIPS and Science Act of 2022

- **Authorized** 2 million in funding for SDOs authorized. Solicitation expected.

S. Res. 768, Forensic Science Week

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

LEGISLATIVE: 117th 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: 117th Congress

FY 2023 Missing and Unidentified Humans Remains Program (MUHR)

- New Grant Closed 4/18/2023 Anticipated again in 2024
- 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

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 and into FY 2024 Initiatives:

- Computational Forensics (Algorithms)
- Databases and Data (Black and White Box Studies)
- Quality Assurance Program (National Validation Programs like CanvaQAP)
- Training for officers of the court and forensic practitioners
- New footwear impression foundations project started
- Cross cutting study on communicating likelihood ratios
- Validation Principles Framework
- Continued work on OSAC, Research, Foundations Reports

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 Last Year:

- 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)

CFSO Newsletters

- March 2022 Budget Brief
- July 2022 Budget Brief
- August 2022 Newsletter
- January 2023 Budget Brief
- April 2023 Budget Brief

Recent CFSO Letters

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

PUBLICATIONS



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations (CFSO). The header features the CFSO logo, which includes a magnifying glass over a dome icon and the text "CFSO Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations". To the right of the logo is a search bar with the placeholder text "Search for..." and a magnifying glass icon. Below the header is a navigation menu with the following items: Home, About, News, Advocacy, Lab Video Links, Newsletter, Grants, Contact, and National Forensic Science Week. The main content area displays the title "The Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations" in a large, bold font. Below the title is a red link labeled "CURRENT LEGISLATIVE AND ADVOCACY EFFORTS". At the bottom of the main content area, there is a line of text that reads "CFSO is an association of forensic science professional organizations:".

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

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





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www.thecfso.org