



CFSO

*Consortium of Forensic
Science Organizations*

Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations (CFSO)

AAFS 2024 Update



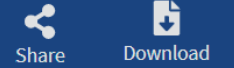
Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations (CFSO)

- 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.

Exciting CFSO News!!!

AWARD PROFILE
Grant Summary



Project Grant FAIN 60NANB24D007

In Progress (10 months remain)

Awarding Agency

Department of Commerce (DOC)

Recipient

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FORENSIC SCIENCES

410 NORTH 21ST STREET
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80904-2712
UNITED STATES

Congressional District: CO-05

Assistance Listings (CFDA Programs)

11.609 - MEASUREMENT AND ENGINEERING RESEARCH AND STANDARDS
[VIEW MORE INFO ABOUT THIS PROGRAM](#)

Dates



\$ Award Amounts

Description

PURPOSE THIS AWARD WILL SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT AND DISSEMINATION OF TECHNICALLY SOUND FORENSIC SCIENCE STANDARDS IN MANY FORENSIC SCIENCE DISCIPLINES THAT WILL BE MADE FREELY AVAILABLE FOR THE PUBLIC. ACTIVITIES...

[View more](#)

\$496,836
Obligated Amount

Feedback

CFSO Strategic Plan 2024

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

CFISO Strategic Plan 2024


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 2024

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.



**Legislative Items: Funding
FY 24 and FY25**

The background of the slide is a photograph of the United States Capitol building in Washington, D.C. The building is a large, white, neoclassical structure with a prominent central dome and two large wings. It 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 Pending FY24

Under a Continuing Resolution until March 8, 2024

DOJ	FY23 Actual	FY24 Request	House	Senate
Program				
Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant			\$670m	\$799m
National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs)	\$3.5m	\$5m	\$6m	\$5m (carve-out Byrne JAG)
Missing Persons and Identified Remains Act	\$8.0m	\$7.0m	\$5m	\$7m (carve-out Byrne JAG)
Forensics Ballistic Program in Higher Education	\$1.5m	0		\$2.5m (carve-out Byrne JAG)
National Center of Forensics	0	\$4.0m		0
Forensic Science Research and Development Program (new program)	0	\$15m	\$8m	(no language on forensics but NIJ received \$35.5m for R&D)
DNA Programs	\$170.0m	\$147.0m	\$195	\$170m
DNA Analysis and Capacity Enhancement Program-Debbie Smith	\$130.0m	\$112.0m	\$130m	\$130m
Other Federal, State, and Local Forensic Activities	\$20.0m	\$19.0m	\$0m	\$20m
Kirk Bloodsworth Post Conviction DNA Testing Program	\$15.0m	\$12.0m	\$20m	\$15m
Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Program Guide	\$5.0m	\$4.0m		\$5m
Community Teams to Reduce the Sexual Assault Kit (SAK) Backlog	\$55m	\$100m	\$55m	\$55m
Regional Sexual Assault Investigative Training Academies	0	\$20m	\$20m	\$20m (note in OVW office)
Sexual Assault Survivors Bill of Rights (STOP Grants)		0	0	\$10m (note in OVW office)
Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Grants	\$35m	\$35m	\$35 (\$2.5 marked for Medical Examiners)	\$35m
Forensic Support for Opioid and Synthetic Drug Investigations	\$17.0m	\$17m	0	\$17m
Medical Examiners			\$2.5m	

DOJ	FY23 Actual	FY24 Request	House	Senate
Forensics Training and Technical Assistance (new program)	0	\$5m	0	0
CARA (Comprehensive Opioid Use Reduction Activities) Forensic Support for opioid and synthetic drug investigations	0	0	\$17m	0
FBI 2 nd DNA Laboratory			\$30m	
Commerce: NIST				
Forensic Science Research	\$22.0m	N/A	\$22.0m	N/A
OSAC	\$3.5m	N/A	\$3.5m	N/A
Technical Merit Evaluations	\$1.5m	N/A	\$1.2m	N/A
SDO Grant	N/A	N/A	\$1.5	N/A
HHS: CDC				
Opioid Overdose Prevention and Surveillance	\$505.579m	\$713.369m	N/A	\$506.079m
National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS)	\$24.5m	\$34.5m	N/A	\$24.5m
Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners Program				\$15m

N/A=not available

August 2023 Newsletter Budget Language

<https://thecfso.org/>

DOJ FY24 Language FBI and DEA

HOUSE

FBI DNA LAB: Adds a new DNA laboratory to address increased samples from the border. Recommends \$30m.

DIGITAL EVIDENCE:

Directs DEA to provide a report to Congress on the cost to “formalize a tiered digital evidence workflow from collection and review to the analysis conducted by field agents and laboratory forensic examiners.”

SENATE

FBI DNA LAB: Same as House

FENTANYL:

Analogues: Make public and provide to Congress the status of studies and scheduling recommendations for all fentanyl analogues it has identified.

Trafficking: Directs DEA to develop a comprehensive fentanyl tracking system.

HEMP testing: DEA is directed to continue to work with S&L to ensure access to their field test technology and report status of deployment to Congress.

DIGITAL EVIDENCE: Urges a tiered approach encompassing “the entire digital evidence workflow, including collection, review and analysis by agents, analysts and forensic examiners.”

DOJ FY24 Language ATF

HOUSE

NIBIN: Continues to support expansion to allow for more “participation from law enforcement partners”. Committee notes that Byrne JAG may be used to acquire, or obtain access to, ballistic identification technology. The Committee also recognizes ATF’s effort to expand NIBIN training and technology to Tribal LE. The Committee also supports efforts “to include both cartridge casings and bullets, where feasible in the NIBIN program and encourages the Department to promote NIBIN as a critical forensic science to and to identify opportunities to build partnerships with institutions of higher education. The Committee recognizes the need for firearms examiners and technicians, and notes the higher education program as a way to help.

Enhancing capacity of ballistic matches: ATF is to report to Committee on availability and viability on technology that aligns with S&L needs, including assessing its effectiveness in providing real-time forensic-based intelligence to LE.

SENATE

NIBIN EXPANSION: The Committee supports efforts to expand to use of NIBIN to ensure all law enforcement agencies have access to NIBIN’s correlations services. The Committee “appreciates the investments being made by State and local partners to collect and share ballistics evidence across geographically separated law enforcement jurisdictions and encourages ATF to build on this” particularly in New England and along the southwest border.

Training LE Partners: The Committee “expects ATF to continue to provide training to local and State law enforcement agencies on submitting trace requests of firearms recovered in criminal investigations to ATF”.

DOJ FY24 Language

OJP

HOUSE

Forensic Science operational needs assessment: Committee instructs DOJ to conduct another needs assessment and report back in 180 days.

DNA Backlog and Crime Lab Improvement: Supports prioritizing funding for DNA analysis and capacity enhancement in order to meet the purposes of the Debbie Smith Act. Expects DOJ to continue reporting metrics.

Forensic genetic genealogical DNA analysis: Carve out of SAKI for \$5m for any FIGG technology.

Sexual Assault Kit Initiative: The Committee instructs BJA provide an update on the number of partially tested kits and any backlog on testing.

Rapid DNA at booking stations: Congress provides \$5m be included in the DNA-related and forensic programs activities.

Marijuana impairment: The Committee directs the Department to update it on the progress toward expanded researcher access to samples and strains of marijuana.

SENATE

Report on Forensic Laboratory Resource Requirements: Committee directs DOJ to report to the Committee within 1 year on “projected workload, backlog, personnel, workforce resource and equipment needs of forensic science providers and forensic medical service providers.”

Forensic Ballistics and Higher Education: Subject to approval from, educational institutions can join NIBIN in collaboration with local law enforcement agencies.

DNA Backlog and Crime Lab Improvements: The Committee expects OJP to use funds that meet the purposes of the Debbie Smith Act and direct a spend plan be presented detailing how spending aligns with the act. The Committee appreciates the recent publication of data and metrics on this grant.

Sexual Assault Kit Initiative: Committee directs the department to support efforts that support cross-jurisdiction and cross-site data sharing and directs a report back of number of partially tested kits.

Science Advisory Board-encourages the re-establishment

NIST FY2024 Language

(budget is not broken down to a program level)

Forensic Science Research NIST Budget

- Material Measurement Laboratory: Safety, Security and Forensics- “to provide tools to help forensic crime laboratories validate their analytical methods and ensure accuracy in the results for DNA and biological evidence, fingerprint and pattern evidence, illicit drugs, digital evidence, ballistics and trace evidence, developing metrologies for threat detection and protective materials.”
- Measurement Science, Service and Programs: Forensic Science Program-to strengthen forensic practice through research and improved standards, conducting research in several forensic disciplines, including digital evidence, forensic genetics, biometrics, firearms and toolmarks, drugs and toxins, statistics, trace analysis, forensic algorithms and data, and quality assurance (which includes interlaboratory studies and proficiency testing).

NIST FY2024 Budget Continued

(budget is not broken down to a program)

Forensic Science Research

- NIST provides physical reference standards and data that help forensic laboratories validate their analytical methods and ensure accurate test results. The program also supports the Center for Statistics and Applications in Forensic Evidence (CSAFE), one of three *NIST Center of Excellence*, which is working to develop new statistical methods for use in pattern and digital evidence
 - Objectives: Advance Forensic Science Research, Administer Science-based Standards Development, Conduct Scientific Foundation Studies, Operate the NIST Center of Excellence.
 - FY24+expansion in Forensic Science Program will focus on four areas-computational forensic science, forensic scientific data, forensic science quality assure and forensic science education for the legal community.

NO CONGRESSIONAL LANGUAGE JUST FUNDING

CDC (no House Language)

- The Senate directs “enhancement of efforts with medical examiners and coroners” in the Opioid Overdose Prevention and Surveillance Program
- The Senate recommends expansion of the Linking of ESSENCE and the Death Surveillance Initiative to be expanded beyond the initial six sites.
- The Senate provides funding to supporting training and certification of Registered Nurses, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, Forensic Nurses to practice as sexual assault nurse examiners.

FY 25 Budget – 118th Congress 2nd Session

CFSO Preparation

- **“Listening Sessions” with Member Organizations- Summer 2023**
- **Development of agency specific “White Papers” based on the needs of Members expressed during listening sessions**
- **Meetings with the respective governmental agencies to present needs**
- **FY25 Budget delivered to Congress after March 8th**
- **Listening session content will be developed into Congressional requests/positions**

LEGISLATIVE 118th Congress: Debbie Smith Act (Pending)

- Expires Calendar Year 2024
- House passed HR 1105, FY24-FY29, 11/14/23
- Senate passed S 499, FY25-FY29, 11/2/23
- Both bills reauthorize with no changes in language and include reauthorization of SAFER Act audits in Sec 2 of FY2000 Act
- Discussions are ongoing on process to resolve House and Senate bill

LEGISLATIVE 118th Congress: Backlog Justice Act

- **Database at DOJ of sexual assault kit status**
- **\$5M for training analysts at FBI**
- **\$10M for validation and tech transfer**
- **\$1.5M increase in STOP grants**
- **Awaiting introduction**

LEGISLATIVE 118th Congress: Rape Kit Backlog Progress Act of 2023 (Rep. Mace-SC)

- **Creates a website at DOJ, publicly available, a report on steps grantees have taken to inventory, audit, and track sexual assault kits and their testing.**
- **If not completed, then grantee is not eligible for the grant (Byrne JAG) the following year**
- **Stakeholder community has expressed great concern with legislation**
- **Discussion is ongoing**

LEGISLATIVE 118th Congress: Carla Walker Act

- **Initiated by vendor**
- **CFSO actively provided comments, 2nd draft is being worked**
- **Current draft (CREATES TWO GRANTS)**
 - creates a pilot
 - funds labs for equipment and outsourcing
 - directs DOJ to draft a strategic plan of how to implement
- **Stakeholders have provided edits**

LEGISLATIVE 118th Congress: Other Legislation

**Forensic Science Week (Senate Res. 359)
September 17-23, 2023**

**MDI Week (Senate Res. 532)
January 21-27, 2024**

LEGISLATIVE 118th Congress: MEC Legislation

Introduction Imminent

- Assistance in medical examiner and coroner workforce shortage
- Certification help and training money for forensic death investigators and toxicologists
- Expand funding for Forensic Pathology Fellowships
- Expected to be introduced in February/early March
- Bipartisan and Bicameral

Grant Awareness

Missing and Unidentified Humans Remains Program (MUHR)

- Authorization passed in 115th Congress
- Grant Solicitation Closed 4/18/2023 Anticipated again in 2024
- Available to Statewide, County and/or units of local government
- Solicitation is competitive

<https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-bja-2022-171404>

Grant Awareness

COVERDELL

- Available for preparation for accreditation and for accreditation
- Spring 2024 solicitation

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

National Working Groups

JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

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 late 2023

National Working Groups

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

National Working Groups

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

NIST Initiatives

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 CannaQAP)
- 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

National Centers 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

Monitoring

Supreme Court Decision: (January 2024 Newsletter)

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 (Debbie Smith Funds):

- 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)



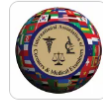
[American Board of Forensic Toxicology](#)
(ABFT Website)



[American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors](#)
(ASCLD Introduction)



[International Association for Identification](#)
(IAI Introduction)



[International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners](#)
(IACME Introduction)



[National Association of Medical Examiners](#)
(NAME Introduction)



[Society of Forensic Toxicologists and American Board of Forensic Toxicology](#)
(SOFT Introduction)

Unique to the CFSO Website:

- New CFSO website for National Forensic Science Week
- Legislative Agenda
- White Papers
- Newsletters

[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)

PUBLICATIONS

CFSO Newsletters

- January 2023 Budget Brief
- April 2023 Budget Brief
- August 2023 Budget Brief
- December 2023
- January 2024

Recent CFSO Letters

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



118th Congress (2023-2025) Legislation and Funding

by admin / December 29, 2022

Congressional Committee List

- [Federal Congressional Committee List](#)

Federal Research Interests

- [November Research Presentation to NIJ Director](#)

Coverdell Grant Qualifications

- [March 14th Letter to Attorney General](#)

Standards Development Organization Funding

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

- [January 5th 2022 Memo](#)
- [DOC Secretary Letter regarding SDO grant funding](#)
- [Feb 17th FSSB Letter to NIST](#)

2023 Priorities

-

Justice for All Reauthorization Act

CFSO supports the Justice for All Reauthorization Act.

- [January 19th 2022 Memo](#)

ME/C Support Legislation and NamUs Authorization

CFSO supports legislation for Forensic Pathologist loan reimbursement and funding for Forensic Pathology Fellowships. CFSO also supports funding for MDI education and training. NamUs must be a codified program in the federal government.

- [ME/C Needs and NamUs Codification White Paper](#)
- [Forensic Pathologist Needs Questions and Answers](#)

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](#)

FY23 Budget

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- CFSSO Strategy and Strategic Plan
- Firearms
- Toxicology
- NamUs
- Needs Assessment
- OSAC/SDOs
- Firearms Workforce
- **AFIS Interoperability**
- **At Home Rape Kits**
- **FIGG**
- **Buy America Act (pending)**
- **Emerging Drugs (pending)**
- **Forensic Science Library Access (pending)**





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www.thecfso.org