



*CONSORTIUM OF FORENSIC SCIENCE
ORGANIZATIONS (CFSO)*

BUDGET BRIEF

JULY 2024

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.

FY25 Proposed Federal Forensics Budget

CFSO Board of Directors

Matthew Gamette, MS
Chair
Representing ASCLD
matthew.gamette@thecfso.org

Timothy P. Rohrig, PhD
Vice-Chair
Representing SOFT/ABFT
timothy.rohrig@thecfso.org

Ken Melson, JD
Secretary
Representing AAFS
kenneth.melson@thecfso.org

Ken Martin, MS
Treasurer
Representing IAI
kenneth.martin@thecfso.org

James Gill, MD
Representing NAME
james.gill@thecfso.org

Bobbi Jo O'Neal
Representing IACME
bobbijooneal@thecfso.org

Beth Lavach,
Legislative Liaison
beth.lavach@thecfso.org

Congress is working through the FY25 budget and below are the results for the House and Senate versions. The bill has been marked up by both and passed out of committees, but it has not been brought to the floor by either body. With the upcoming election, it is clear a continuing resolution is again a certainty. The question will be how long the CR will last. Congress has again kept funding levels for forensic science steady. There is a significant change with grants in HHS with the transfer of funds out of CDC to SAMSHA but the Senate has yet to mark up this bill and this may change in the Senate version. The House has significant language regarding forensic science to include a study of Automated Biometric Identification Systems lack of interoperability, Medical Examiner and Coroner research on emerging drugs, Forensic Genetic Genealogy, and sexual assault kit tracking and SANE nurses. It is highly recommended that you read the language below, as well as the funding levels anticipated in FY25. If you have any questions in regard to this issue, please provide them to your respective CFSO representative.

DOJ	Final FY24	FY25 Proposed	HAC	SAC
Program				
Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant		\$524.5m	\$847,810	\$720,338
Forensic Science Research and Development Program <i>(new program)</i>	\$8m dedicated to forensics	\$60.3m (No breakout for forensics indicated)		\$34m
National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs)	\$3m	\$3.5m	\$6m	\$3.5m
Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains Act	\$5m	\$6m	\$3m	\$6m
Forensics Ballistics in Higher Education	???	0	0	\$2.5m
DNA Programs	\$153m	\$168m	\$153m	\$170m
DNA Analysis and Capacity Enhancement Program-Debbie Smith	\$120m	\$130m	\$121m	\$130m
Other Federal, State, and Local Forensic Activities	\$15m	\$19m	0	\$20m
Kirk Bloodsworth Post Conviction DNA Testing Program	\$14m	\$14m	\$14m	\$15m
Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Program Guide	\$4.0m	\$5	\$9m	\$15m
Community Teams to Reduce the Sexual Assault Kit (SAK) Backlog	\$51.5m	\$55m	\$51.5m	\$55m
Regional Sexual Assault Investigative Training Academies/Access to Sexual Assault Nurse Exams	\$20m	\$20m	\$15m	\$5m
Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Grants	\$34m	\$35m	\$28m	\$35m
Strengthening the Medical Examiner and Coroner System	(in State and Local funds)	(in State and Local funds)	\$2.5m	<i>*in the State and Local DNA Monies</i>

DOJ	Final FY24	FY25 Proposed	HAC	SAC
Forensic Support for Opioid and Synthetic Drug Investigations	No carve out	\$17m	No carve-out	0
CARA (Comprehensive Opioid Use Reduction Activities)		\$443m no carve out	\$420m (\$17m-forensics carveout)	\$445m
FBI 2 nd DNA Laboratory	\$30m	\$30m	\$30m	\$30m
SAFE see lang				
Commerce: NIST				
Forensic Science Research	\$22m	\$22m	\$22m	\$22m
OSAC	\$3.5m	N/A	\$3.5m	\$3.5m
Technical Merit Evaluations	\$1.5m	N/A	\$1.2m	\$1.2m
SDO Grant	\$1.5m	N/A	\$1.5m	N/A
HHS: CDC				
Opioid Overdose Prevention and Surveillance	\$505.579 (CR)	\$505.579m	\$500m transferred to SAMHSA-see language below	N/A
National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS)	\$24.5 (CR)	\$24.5m	N/A	N/A
Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners Program		\$15m	\$15m	N/A
Public Health Data Modernization Public Health Data Modernization (PPHF)	\$175m 0	\$41.7m \$182.9m	\$175m	N/A

N/A=not available

CONGRESSIONAL LANGUAGE

<u>HOUSE</u>	<u>SENATE(TBD)</u>
DOJ	DOJ
OJP	OJP
	<i>Science Advisory Board.</i> —The Committee recognizes the contributions of OJP’s Science Advisory Board [Board] and encourages the re-establishment of the Board. The Board worked to provide extra-agency review of, and recommendations for, OJP’s research, statistics, and grants program. The re-established Board should be comprised of scholars and practitioners in criminology, statistics, and sociology, as well as practitioners in the criminal and juvenile justice fields, and should be tasked with ensuring the programs and activities of OJP are scientifically sound and pertinent to policymakers and practitioners.
	<i>Post-Conviction Relief for Trafficking Victims.</i> —The Committee recognizes that serious, sustained efforts and investments in victim-centered programs are necessary to help address the rise in human trafficking, and is committed

	<p>to helping victims seek justice and ensure that offenders are held accountable. The Committee is concerned about reports that trafficking victims are prosecuted, both at the Federal and State levels, for crimes directly related to their trafficking. Criminal convictions often disqualify victims from numerous Federal programs and impede their recovery. The Committee is concerned that removing expungement services from eligible activities for OVC grants contradicts the 2017 Trafficking in Persons Report released by the State Department, which encouraged the expansion of vacatur services.</p> <p>The Committee directs OVC to allow the use of funds for direct representation on vacatur and expungement for a conviction for a non-violent crime that is a direct result of being a trafficking victim. Furthermore, the Committee directs the Department to submit the report required in Senate Report 115–275 and adopted by Public Law 116–6 regarding the Federal Government’s ability to supplement State vacatur programs.</p>
	<p><i>DOJ Grant Oversight.</i>—The Committee encourages the Department to review its multi-year grant award processes and protocols to ensure grantees have fully complied with the rules of year-one funding before year-two funding is disbursed in multi-year grant awards. In addition, the Committee supports the Department’s efforts to create a high-risk designation for grantees, so as to increase fiscal responsibility throughout the grant making process. The Committee recommends that the Department promptly complete and publish an internal review of the program, to inform efforts to implement a high-risk grantee designation in other Federal agencies. The Committee directs OJP, OVW, and the COPS Office to submit an annual report on grant programs that have not received a sufficient number of qualified applicants.</p>
<p><i>Interoperability of Automated Biometric Identification Systems.</i>— The Committee is concerned about the lack of a solution to the interoperability of various automated biometric identification systems, and notes that unlike DNA there is no single Federal database or repository to search for latent prints. The Committee understands that the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) have spent a significant amount of time working to address this issue, but no solution has been found. No later than 60 days after the enactment of this Act, the Committee directs NIJ, in coordination with NIST, to provide an update on work done to date to resolve this matter, the barriers to creating a federal database, and a path forward.</p>	
<p><i>Medical Examiner and Coroner Research Needs.</i>—The Committee understands that there is a lack of research and development being conducted to assist medical examiners and coroners in identifying and classifying trends of new and emerging drugs. The Committee strongly supports NIJ including the toxicology of emerging drugs in its research priorities.</p>	
<p><i>National Missing and Unidentified Persons System.</i>— The recommendation includes no less than</p>	

<p>\$6,000,000 for the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs), of which \$2,000,000 is directed exclusively for high-density sequencing. The Committee understands that modern scientific advancements in DNA standards and genetic genealogy have enabled law enforcement agencies to solve previously unsolvable cases, and the importance of timeliness given the degradation of forensic evidence over time. The Committee encourages the Department to continue its support for such technologies.</p>	
<p><i>Forensic Support for Opioid and Synthetic Drug Investigations.</i> – The recommendation includes \$189,000,000 for the Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Disorder Program (COSSUP) and of these funds, the recommendation includes \$17,000,000 for grants to assist State and local crime labs and medical examiner and coroner offices’ efforts to analyze evidence related to opioid and synthetic drug poisonings, among other purposes.</p>	
<p><i>Forensic Genetic Genealogy for Missing Murdered Indigenous Women Cases.</i> –The Committee understands that forensic evidence degrades over time, and many Missing Murdered Indigenous Women cases can be solved using forensic purposes.</p>	
<p><i>Forensic Genetic Genealogical DNA Analysis 2019 Policy.</i> –The Committee notes that in 2019 the Department promulgated an interim policy regulating FGG DNA analysis, but since that time numerous cases have been solved using FGG technology including multiple cases involving the unidentified human remains of victims. The Committee understands that the 2019 interim policy authorizes investigative agencies to use FGG when a case involves an unsolved violent crime and the candidate forensic sample is from a putative perpetrator, or when a case involves what is reasonably believed by investigators to be the unidentified remains of a suspected homicide victim. The Committee recognizes there is not always enough evidence at a crime scene to establish a death as a suspected homicide, and it is not uncommon for the manner of death to be revised or updated once a deceased person is identified. Given this, the Committee directs the Department to allow grant funds to be used for FGG DNA analysis and searching on unidentified human remains, regardless of the suspected manner of death.</p>	
<p><i>Forensic Genetic Genealogical DNA Analysis.</i> –The Committee understands that, although FGG is often associated with cold case investigations in which DNA samples submitted to the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) did not produce a hit, increasingly, contemporary cases are being solved using this tool. The Committee recognizes local law enforcement agencies’ interest in this technology and acknowledges that resource challenges often impede the use of FGG to solve cold cases and prevent future crimes. Within the amount included for the Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI), the Committee directs</p>	

<p>the Department to allocate no less than \$5,000,000 in support of efforts to use FGG to investigate unsolved violent crimes, without regard to the status of an applicant agency’s sexual assault kit inventory. The Committee directs the Department to track and report on the number of FGG samples analyzed, the types of DNA technology deployed, and the number of perpetrators or human remains identified as a result. Further, the Committee directs the Department to fund additional grants for the use of FGG technology under other appropriate programs including, but not limited to, NamUs. No later than 180 days after the enactment of this Act, the Committee directs the Department to provide a report detailing the number of FGG samples analyzed, the types of DNA technology deployed, and the number of perpetrators or human remains identified as a result.</p>	
<p><i>Sexual Assault Kit Initiative.</i> –The Committee encourages the Department to maximize the results of investments in sexual as- sault kit (SAK) testing by identifying best practices for addressing issues that arise following suspect identification, such as victim notification, investigation, prosecution, documentation, forensic advancements, inter-jurisdiction sharing, and tracking. The Committee also supports the Department’s efforts to assist cross-juris- dictional and cross-platform data sharing to identify and pursue re- peat offenders operating in multiple jurisdictions. Further, the Committee supports efforts to estimate cost savings that result from the prevention of future offenses due to SAK testing. The Committee instructs BJA to provide an update on the number of kits tested solely for serology or with technologies prior to short tandem repeat analysis.</p>	<p><i>Sexual Assault Kit Initiative.</i>—The Committee’s recommendation includes \$55,000,000 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. OJP shall provide competitively awarded grants with a comprehensive community- based approach to addressing the resolution of cases in the backlog.</p> <p>The Committee believes it is important for the Department to maximize the results of investments in sexual assault kit [SAK] testing through continued research to identify best practices for State, local, and Tribal jurisdictions in handling the myriad issues that arise from perpetrator identification- such as victim notification, investigation, prosecution, documentation, forensic advancements, inter-jurisdiction sharing, and tracking. The Committee further believes it is critically important to fund efforts to support cross-jurisdiction and cross-site data sharing to identify and pursue repeat offenders operating in multiple jurisdictions. Finally, the Committee believes that further work to validate the extensive cost savings that result from the prevention of future offenses as a result of SAK testing is needed. The Committee directs the Department to support efforts that advance these objectives; and further directs BJA to issue a report, within one year of the enactment of this act, on the number of partially tested kits.</p>
<p><i>Sexual Assault Kit Tracking.</i> –In coordination with NIST and no later than 180 days after the enactment of this Act, the Committee directs the Department to provide a report detailing State adherence to the draft standards for collecting physical evidence from victims of sexual assault as established by the Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science. In forming this report, the Committee directs the Department to consider the usefulness of a public-private partnership for sexual assault kit tracking.</p>	
<p><i>Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Grants.</i> –The recommendation includes \$9,000,000 for the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program which includes forensic exams and SANE training program</p>	<p><i>Access to Sexual Assault Nurse Exams.</i>—The Committee’s recommendation includes \$15,000,000 for grants for regional sexual assault nurse examiner [SANE] training, salaries for SANEs and sexual assault forensic examiners</p>

<p>grants. The Committee directs the Department to establish regional SANE training programs to establish a level of excellence in forensic nursing, and to prepare current and future nurse examiners to be profession-ready and meet the applicable State certification and licensure requirements. The Committee directs the Department to ensure that these programs provide training and supervision to nurses with the purpose of increasing sexual assault forensic nurse capacity in rural areas, and in support of population-specific programs and hospitals including, but not limited to, underserved, or historically underfunded communities. The Committee encourages the Department to prioritize rural, Tribal, and under-served communities, and urban areas without full-time coverage for this program, and directs the Department to ensure fund recipients promote best practices in forensic nursing throughout a region, while continuing to research and develop the highest standards of care.</p>	<p>[SAFEs], and technical assistance and resources to increase access to SANEs and SAFEs, as authorized by the Violence Against Women Act of 2022 (division W of Public Law 117-103). The Committee encourages the Department to prioritize areas where nationwide gaps exist in the availability and quality of post-sexual assault medical forensic care, including rural, Tribal, underserved communities, and urban areas that lack full-time coverage. The Committee directs OVW to collaborate with the Office for Victims of Crime to implement this program in coordination with other funding opportunities designed to enhance the quality and availability of post-sexual assault medical forensic care, to include multidisciplinary settings responding to the abuse of both children and adolescents.</p>
	<p><i>Sexual Assault Survivors' Bill of Rights.</i>—The Committee again provides \$10,000,000 as part of the STOP grants for the recently enacted Sexual Assault Survivors' Bill of Rights, a new and consequential grant program that incentivizes States to codify and standardize survivor rights. The Committee notes the Department's lower request due to a limited number of States applying and qualifying for the awards. Accordingly, the Committee continues to direct the Department to submit a report to the Committee, within 120 days of enactment of this act, detailing any applicants deemed by OVW as ineligible for this funding, the reasons for the ineligibility, and suggested legislative changes that could increase state eligibility.</p>
	<p><i>Statutory Set-Asides.</i>—The underlying statutes for several grant programs, including STOP and Sexual Assault Services Program [SASP], outline set-asides for Tribal governments and coalitions, culturally specific community-based organizations, and organizations providing services to underserved populations. These set-asides would provide a total of \$90,288,535 for fiscal year 2025, with \$66,403,535 for Tribal governments and coalitions, \$17,575,000 for culturally specific organizations, and \$6,310,000 to meet the needs of underserved populations. The Committee expects OVW to ensure that the full amounts provided for in the authorizing statutes are released to these groups expeditiously.</p>
<p><i>Capital Litigation Improvement and Wrongful Conviction Review.</i>—The Committee recognizes the need for legal representation and investigation services for individuals with post-conviction claims of innocence. Given the urgent need to identify and remediate wrongful convictions, the recommendation instructs the Department to award Capital Litigation Improvement and Wrongful Conviction Review program grants to applicants that provide high quality and efficient post-conviction representation for defendants with post-conviction claims of innocence. The Committee notes that Capital Litigation Improvement and Wrongful Conviction Review</p>	

<p>grantees may be non-profit organizations, institutions of higher education, or State or local public defender offices with in-house post-conviction representation programs with demonstrable experience and competence in litigating post-conviction claims of innocence. The Committee further notes that funds may support the following activities: grantee provision of post-conviction legal representation of innocence claims, the evaluation, review, and management of cases, expert review and testimony, potentially exonerative forensic testing, and investigation services related to supporting these post-conviction innocence claims.</p>	
	<p><i>Management and Administration [M&A] Expenses.</i> –The Department shall, in preparing its fiscal year 2025 spending plan, assess M&A expenses compared to program funding. The Committee directs the Department to ensure that its assessment methodology is equitable, and that the assessment reflects a fair representation of the share of each program devoted to common M&A costs. The Committee also directs grant offices to minimize administrative spending to maximize the amount of funding that can be used for grants or training and technical assistance. The Committee reiterates the direction provided in Senate Report 113–78 that the Department shall detail, as part of its budget submission for fiscal year 2025 and future years, the actual costs for each grant office with respect to training, technical assistance, research and statistics, and peer review for the prior fiscal year, along with estimates of planned expenditures by each grant office in each of these categories for the current year and the budget year.</p> <p><i>Grant Funding Set-Asides.</i> –The Committee notes the significant number of reductions in grant funding for various permissible purposes, including training and technical assistance; research, evaluation, and statistics activities; and peer review; with set-asides ranging anywhere from 2 percent to 10 percent of total grant funding provided. The Committee directs the Department to continue providing a comprehensive report, concurrently with the spending plan, that details the total amount provided for each grant program in this act, the specific reductions taken, the purpose for those reductions, and the final use of those resources, including any transfers that may occur among Office of Justice Programs [OJP], Office on Violence Against Women [OVW], and COPS. The Committee expects that the report will provide a complete analysis of the final amounts externally awarded and the amounts retained internally for other purposes.</p>
	<p><i>Spending Plans.</i> –The Department shall submit to the Committee, as part of its spending plan for State and Local Law Enforcement Activities, a plan for the use of all funding administered by the National Institute of Justice [NIJ] and the Bureau of Justice Statistics [BJS], respectively, for approval by the Committee prior to the obligation of any such funds.</p>

	<p><i>Assessment of NIJ and BJS.</i> –Directives under the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–435) (Evidence Act) and other congressionally-requested initiatives have given NIJ and BJS additional responsibilities and obligations. The Committee directs OJP to conduct a full assessment of the impact of these dynamics on NIJ and BJS’s ability to keep pace with cutting-edge scientific practices and emerging policy needs. OJP is further directed to develop a forward-looking vision for strengthening these agencies’ ability to respond nimbly to and anticipate future needs and scientific developments over the next decade and identify the resources needed to achieve this vision. These activities should be integrated, where possible, into OJP’s implementation of the Evidence Act. OJP shall provide an update to the Committee on its progress within 180 days from the enactment of this act.</p>
	<p><i>Report on Forensic Laboratory Resource Requirements.</i> –The Committee adopts and re-iterates the directive under this heading in Senate Report 118–62, as adopted into the joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 118–42. The Committee looks forward to the timely submission of this study.</p>
	<p><i>Forensic Ballistics and Higher Education.</i> –Subject to approval from ATF, educational institutions can join NIBIN in collaboration with local law enforcement agencies. Through the use of ballistics identification equipment, these NIBIN initiatives can provide students with hands-on training in the processing of firearms evidence used to generate actionable crime gun intelligence. The Committee provides \$2,500,000 for a competitive grant program for universities and technical colleges, to acquire ballistics identification equipment and support forensic ballistics programs.</p>
	<p><i>Paul Coverdell Forensic Science.</i> –The recommendation provides a total of \$35,000,000, of which \$17,000,000 is to target specifically the challenges the opioid and synthetic drug epidemic has brought to the forensics community.</p>
	<p><i>DNA Backlog and Crime Lab Improvements.</i>—The Committee continues its strong support for DNA backlog and crime lab improvements by recommending \$170,000,000 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 the funds provided, \$130,000,000 is for Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Reduction grants, \$15,000,000 is for Kirk Bloodsworth Post-Conviction DNA Testing grants, \$5,000,000 is for Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Program grants, and \$20,000,000 is for other State and local forensic activities. An additional \$15,000,000 is provided for Access to Sexual Assault Nurse Examinations grants under the Violence Against Women Prevention and Prosecution Programs.</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, as part of its fiscal year 2025 spending plan, a</p>

	<p>detailed description of the DNA-related and forensic programs, including a description of the alignment of appropriated funds with the authorized purposes of the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program. Consistent with the Justice Served Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–257), the Committee expects that not less than 5 percent, but not more than 7 percent, of amounts for the program shall be provided 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.</p> <p>The Committee appreciates the Department’s publication of data and metrics on the effectiveness of this program. For example, more than half of all matches made on the Combined DNA Index System [CODIS] are attributable to cases and offender samples processed through this Federal grant program. The Committee encourages the Department to continue to track and annually report such metrics related to how this program contributes to the number of cases and offender samples submitted to CODIS, as well as to the related number of CODIS matches.</p>
	<p><i>DNA-related and Forensics Programs.</i>—The Committee continues to direct the Department to allocate funds for DNA-related and forensics programs in compliance with all relevant requirements, including the Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–235), the Justice Served Act of 2018 (Public Law 115– 257), and appropriations directives.</p>
ATF	
<p><i>Enhancing Capacity of Ballistic Matches.</i> –Within the funds provided, ATF is directed to prioritize the development and implementation of automated ballistics imaging triage technology to enhance the efficiency and accuracy of ballistics imaging triage. This includes reducing turnaround times for the analysis of ballistics evidence and improving the sharing of information and data among law enforcement agencies. The ATF is directed to implement existing technologies that improve the efficiency and accuracy of bullet imaging comparisons. This effort must support the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) and Crime Gun Intelligence Center (CGIC) initiatives to effectively address gun violence. Furthermore, the ATF is directed to coordinate with State and local law enforcement agencies to ensure the adoption of technology that meets their specific needs. Finally, the Committee directs the ATF to report no later than 360 days after the enactment of this Act on the availability and viability of such technology, including its effectiveness in providing real-time forensic-based intelligence to law enforcement, challenges associated with its adoption, and recommendations for improvements.</p>	
	<p><i>NIBIN Expansion.</i>—The Committee supports efforts to expand the use of NIBIN and to ensure all law enforcement agencies have access to NIBIN’s correlation services,</p>

	<p>including through the NIBIN National Correlation and Training Center [NNCTC]. 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 continue to build on these investments and consider additional service models to offer departments, including Tribal law enforcement agencies, access to NIBIN. The Committee further directs that ATF examine ways to expand access to NIBIN to State and local agencies in the New England and southwest border regions.</p>
	<p><i>Training Law Enforcement Partners.</i>—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. Firearm tracing provides critical information to assist law enforcement agencies investigate and solve firearms crimes. The Committee supports the ongoing efforts of Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies to solve violent crimes and urges ATF to provide all possible training opportunities in support of these efforts.</p>
<p>FBI</p>	
<p><i>Construction: Department of Homeland Security-Related DNA Collections.</i>—The Committee notes that, in April 2020, the Department amended the DNA Fingerprint Act of 2005’s implementing rule, halting the Department of Homeland Security’s practice of waiving DNA collections with respect to non-United States persons detained under the authority of the United States. As a result of the DHS DNA collection expansion, the FBI Laboratory began receiving for processing an average of 92,000 DNA samples per month (over 10 times the historical sample volume). The Committee understands that prior to the ending of the Title 42 emergency health authority policy at the border, a backlog of approximately 650,000 samples had developed. The Committee agrees with the FBI that investment in additional DNA laboratory processing capabilities and technology is critical to maintaining and enhancing the FBI’s ability to address emerging threats and help mission critical information reach partners and investigators in an expeditious manner. To address the substantial capacity and storage challenges incurred by the FBI, and to increase border security, the Committee recommends the construction of additional DNA lab capacity outside the National Capital Region. The Committee directs the Bureau to explore the feasibility of additional DNA lab capacity and report to the Committee, no later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act, on potential locations for additional capacity.</p>	
<p>DEA</p>	
<p><i>Digital Evidence.</i>—The Committee recognizes the critical role of digital evidence collected from mobile devices by the DEA, drug task forces, and State and local partners. With digital intelligence technology deployed, DEA can exponentially improve the</p>	<p><i>Analysis of Digital Evidence.</i>—The Department’s law enforcement components increasingly rely on the analysis of digital evidence in the course of their investigations. The Department is directed to provide a report, within 1 year of the date of the enactment of this act, on the conclusions and</p>

<p>identification of known and, more importantly, unknown targets to disrupt criminal syndicates that traffic narcotics and precursor chemicals across our borders to distribute within the United States. Advanced digital evidence collection, research, and sharing software technologies can automate the processing of millions of data points from multiple sources of digital evidence from mobile devices to reveal insights that would take months and years to accomplish manually. The Committee directs DEA to establish and formalize a tiered digital evidence enterprise program encompassing the entire digital evidence workflow from the collection and review to the analysis conducted by field agents and analysts to the forensic examiners in the lab. The DEA program personnel would uniformly deploy digital evidence technical capabilities and training across all 23 DEA Divisions. Digital evidence technology enables the adherence to standardized, secure operating procedures required to legally collect, forensically review, and efficiently analyze digital evidence with similar rigor and consistency as wiretaps, DNA, and fingerprint evidence.</p>	<p>recommendations of the eLitigation Steering Committee. The report should address opportunities and challenges the components are facing with respect to processing backlogs; training requirements for digital forensic examiners and agents that use digital evidence in criminal investigations; technical and legal impediments to secure transmission and sharing with law enforcement and governmental partners; methods for secure and centralized storage; reliance on the use of removable media; and any resource challenges or gaps with respect to digital evidence.</p> <p><i>Digital Evidence to Combat the Fentanyl Crisis.</i>—Digital evidence technology enables adherence to standardized, secure operating procedures required to legally collect, forensically review, and efficiently analyze digital evidence with similar rigor and consistency to wiretaps, DNA, and fingerprint evidence. The Committee urges DEA to establish and formalize a tiered digital evidence enterprise program. Such a program should encompass the entire digital evidence workflow, including collection, review, and analysis by agents, analysts, and forensic examiners. DEA program personnel should uniformly deploy digital evidence technical capabilities and training across all DEA Divisions. With access to digital intelligence technology and training, DEA personnel can leverage capabilities like automation, machine learning, and optical character recognition to enable sharing and analysis of collected digital evidence both internally for deconfliction and externally with other Federal agencies and State and local partners.</p>
	<p><i>Hemp Testing Technology.</i>—The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334) removed hemp and its derivatives from the Controlled Substances Act (Public Law 91–513, as amended), and authorized the production, consumption, and sale of hemp and hemp-derived products in the United States. The act requires random testing to ensure hemp meets the definition under the law of having a delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol [THC] concentration of less than 0.3 percent. The Committee is aware that DEA has developed field-testing kits that can distinguish between hemp and marijuana on the spot. The Committee directs the DEA to continue to work to ensure State and local law enforcement have access to this field test technology so they can more efficiently conduct their drug interdiction efforts at the local level. The Committee further directs the DEA to report to the Committee, not later than 180 days after enactment of this act, and not less than every 180 days thereafter, until such time as testing kits are deployed to State and local law enforcement in the field.</p>
<p>DOJ</p>	
<p><i>Digital Evidence.</i>—The Department is directed to brief the Committee, no later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act, regarding the use of evidence from digital devices in the course of investigations conducted by the Department and its law enforcement components. The briefing should address opportunities and challenges the Department is currently facing within the following areas: current backlog of processing digital evidence, training requirements for digital forensic examiners and</p>	

agents that use digital evidence in criminal investigations, any barriers or other impediments, technical, legal or otherwise, to sharing digital evidence between components or between Federal, State and local governments, and State and local law enforcement partners, including any gaps in resources, or other related topics.	
--	--

<u>NIST</u>	
House	Senate
<i>Investigative Forensic Genetic Genealogical Analysis.</i> –The Committee supports NIST’s development of written and physical standards for investigative forensic genetic genealogical analysis as an investigative lead for law enforcement and within the constitutional confines of the justice system.	
<i>NIST Centers of Excellence.</i> –The recommendation includes sufficient funding to maintain the NIST Centers of Excellence, including the Forensic Science Center of Excellence, the Advanced Materials Center of Excellence, and the Community Resilience Center of Excellence.	
<i>Forensic Sciences.</i> –The recommendation includes \$22,000,000 for forensic science research, including no less than \$3,500,000 to support the Organization of Scientific Area Committees, no less than \$1,500,000 for a competitive Standards Development Organization grant, and no less than \$1,200,000 to support technical merit evaluations.	<i>Forensic Sciences.</i> —The Committee provides not less than the fiscal year 2024 enacted level for forensic science research, including level funding to support the Organization of Scientific Area Committees and technical merit evaluations.

CDC

<i>Data Modernization.</i> –The Committee is pleased to see progress towards the implementation of CDC’s data modernization efforts and encourages the agency to continue to invest in the five key pillars of data modernization: (1) electronic case reporting; (2) laboratory information management systems; (3) syndromic surveillance; (4) electronic vital records systems; and (5) the national notifiable disease surveillance system. The Committee also recognizes CDC’s efforts to engage with States, Tribes, localities, and territories through data use agreements for core data sources as well as key recommendations from the Advisory Committee to the Director Data and Surveillance Workgroup. The Committee directs CDC, within 90 days of the enactment of this Act, to provide a report regarding how these efforts are advancing the agency towards the development and implementation of enterprise-level public health data systems.	
<i>Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners.</i> –The Committee continues \$15,000,000 for this activity. HRSA is encouraged to prioritize rural, Tribal, and underserved communities, and urban areas with- out full-time coverage for this program. This program shall provide training and supervision to nurses with the purpose of increasing sexual assault forensic nurse capacity in rural areas, and in sup- port of population-specific programs and hospitals including, but	

<p>not limited to, underserved or historically underfunded communities. Entities receiving these funds shall promote best practices in forensic nursing throughout a region, while continuing to research and develop the highest standards of care.</p>	
<p><i>Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services Block Grant</i> The Committee includes \$2,508,079,000, which is a \$500,000,000 increase to the fiscal year 2024 enacted program level, for the Sub- stance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services (SUPTRS) Block Grant. The SUPTRS Block Grant is a critical com- ponent of each State’s publicly funded substance use disorder system designed to address all substance use disorders—including those related to alcohol. SUPTRS Block Grant funds may support initiatives related to alcohol in settings such as emergency rooms and primary care offices. In addition, States utilize SUPTRS Block Grant funds to support alcohol use disorder treatment services in outpatient, intensive outpatient, and residential programs. Further, the Committee is also aware that SUPTRS Block Grant funds may be allocated to support medications for the treatment of alcohol use disorders, an important tool that should be available to those in need. The Committee also understands SUPTRS Block Grant funds are utilized by States to support recovery community organizations to provide recovery support for those with alcohol use disorders.</p> <p>The Committee recognizes the critical role the block grant plays in State and Territory systems across the country, giving States and Territories the flexibility to direct resources to address the most pressing needs of their communities. The Committee also recognizes that the 20 percent prevention set aside within the SUPTRS Block Grant is a vital source of funding for primary prevention. The Committee further notes that the transfer of opioid overdose prevention and surveillance funding from CDC to the SUPTRS Block Grant will increase the availability of treatment and recovery services given the dramatic differences in administrative overhead costs assessed by the respective agencies.</p> <p>The SUPTRS funding level reflects a transfer of \$500,000,000 from the CDC to SAMHSA. Of the \$506,079,000 provide for the CDC program in fiscal year 2024, \$114,000,000, or 23 percent, went to administrative costs. The transfer of State program funding from CDC to SAMHA should increase the funding available to States for these activities by more than \$63,000,000 in reduced Federal administration expenses alone.</p>	
<p><i>First Responder Training.</i> –The Committee provides \$58,000,000 for First Responder Training. This amount includes \$33,00,000, an increase of \$1,000,000 from the fiscal year 2024 enacted program level, for Rural Emergency Medical Services Training Grants, which provide funding to recruit and train emergency medical serv- ices personnel in rural areas with a focus on addressing substance use disorders and co-occurring mental health conditions.</p>	

DOJ COMMUNITY PROJECTS

HOUSE Byrne JAG
Hernando County Sheriff Digital and Biological Forensic Capabilities Enhancements- \$2,873,000
DFS Equipment to Enhance Capabilities in the Toxicology Unit \$1,184,000
City of Thornton, CO, Thornton Crime Lab Enhancements, \$420,000
Ventura County, CO, Sheriff's Office, Unidentified and Missing Persons Forensic Genetic Genealogy Testing Initiative, \$700,000
Mobile, AL Command Center and Crime Scene and Evidence Recovery Vehicle for the Mobile Police Department , \$1,500,000
Bryan, GA County Sheriff's Office Rapid DNA Project, \$275,000
San Antonio TX Forensic Genealogy Project \$1,190,000
Fairfax County DNA Forensic Project \$100,000
City of Dallas, TX Police Department Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Digital Forensic Technology Project, \$500,000
Kane County Coroner's Office, Equipping the Forensic Laboratory, \$1,184,000
City of Long Beach, DNA Lab \$1,184,000
Charles County Sheriff's Office Digital Forensics Unit Upgrade, \$434,000
Monmouth County Prosecutors Office Digital Forensic Laboratory, \$750,000
Steuben County Sheriff's Office Rapid DNA Investigations \$275,000
Montgomery County MD Police Forensic Laboratory Capabilities Enhancement \$1,184,000
Univ of Wisconsin-Madison Criminal Justice Forensic Assistance \$1,305,000
City of Henderson WV Forensic Crime Lab \$1,184,000
City of Henderson WV Integrated Ballistic Identification System \$500,000

SENATE NIST
Forensic Genomics Institute, Marshal University, WV \$2,500,000
SENATE Byrne JAG
Rapid DNA Implementation Program, Statewide (Alabama) \$750,000
Rapid DNA System, Bellingham, WA Police \$517,000
Advanced Forensic Center Equipment Project, Jefferson Parish, LA Coroner's Office \$1,000,000
Rapid DNA Machine, Mineral County, NV \$384,000
Forensic Science and Crime Scene Processing Equipment, Albuquerque Police Dept \$908,000
Forensic and Crimes Scene Reconstruction Equipment, Bernalillo County, NM \$1,050,00
Crime Forensic Equipment, Farmingham, NM \$629,000
Evidence Processing Lab, City of Las Cruces, NM \$1,000,000
Crime Scene Reconstruction Equipment, Gallup Police Office \$115,000
DNA Analysis Technology, Paw Paw, MI \$576,000
Senate Cops Technology
Rapid DNA for Union County Sheriff's Office, Monroe, NC \$861,000

AGENCY LANGUAGE IN PROPOSED BUDGET

DOJ

Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (Byrne JAG)— The Budget requests \$524.5 million for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) appropriation in FY 2025, a decrease of \$246.3 million below the annualized FY 2024 Continuing Resolution level. This reduction is primarily due to the elimination of \$229.6 million in Congressionally-directed spending on one-time projects. Despite the overall decrease to the Byrne JAG appropriation, the net request results in a modest

increase to the level of funding available to support JAG formula grant awards to state, local and tribal governments.

Finally, this Budget will propose a further \$2.2 billion for the COPS Hiring Program as part of the Safer America Plan, \$884.0 million for a Gun Crime Prevention Strategic Fund to invest in modern, data-informed strategies to prevent gun crime and reduce victimization, an additional \$150.0 million in mandatory funding for Community Violence Intervention, as well as \$1.2 billion in new mandatory funding for a Violent Crime Reduction and Prevention Fund. This five-year Fund will provide \$602.5 million to allow communities across the Nation to hire 4,700 new detectives to increase their closure rates for homicides and other violent crimes, and will provide \$633 million for the FBI to hire violent crime agents, for the ATF to hire violent crime agents **and forensic examiners**, for the DEA to expand its Operation Overdrive program in more communities, for the United States Marshals Service (USMS) to expand Operation North Star to capture more violent crime fugitives, and for the U.S. Attorneys to hire more violent crime prosecutors.

Combating Violent Crime and Gun Violence. The Department requests a variety of key investments to further the implementation of Executive Order 14092, *Reducing Gun Violence and Making Our Communities Safer* (March 14, 2023). The Department requests an additional \$96.8 million for the ATF to support State, local, and tribal partners with critical National Integrated Ballistics Information System (NIBIN) service and through expansion of the National Services Center in Martinsburg, West Virginia, which provides analytical capacity and processing for crime gun intelligence. The ATF will make targeted investments towards combating gun violence, to disrupt trafficking of illegal firearms and prioritizing resources to areas experiencing the highest rates of persistent gun violence. Resources will also allow the ATF to fund the initial development of a high-throughput, rapid-processing unit for analysis of DNA from Fired Cartridge Cases (FCCs) and funding

([]8) \$35,000,000 for Paul Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement Grants under part BB of title I of the 1968 Act;

([]9) [\$147,000,000] \$168,000,000 for DNA-related and forensic programs and activities, of which—

(A) [\$112,000,000] \$130,000,000 is for the purposes authorized under section 2 of the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–546) (the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program): Provided, That up to 4 percent of funds made available under this paragraph may be used for the purposes described in the DNA Training and Education for Law Enforcement, Correctional Personnel, and Court Officers program (Public Law 108– 405, section 303);

(B) \$19,000,000 is for other local, State, and Federal forensic activities.

(C) [\$12,000,000] \$14,000,000 is for the purposes described in the Kirk Bloodsworth Post-Conviction DNA Testing Grant Program (Public Law 108–405, section 412); and

(D) [\$4,000,000] \$5,000,000 is for Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Program grants, including as authorized by section 304 of Public Law 108–405;

([]10) [\$100,000,000] \$55,000,000 for community-based grant programs to improve the response to sexual assault and apply enhanced approaches and techniques to reduce violent crime], including assistance for investigation and prosecution of related cold cases;

NIST

Material Measurement Laboratory (MML): The Material Measurement Laboratory is the national reference laboratory for measurements in the chemical, biological, and material sciences. MML conducts research on the composition, structure, and properties of industrial, biological, and environmental materials and processes. MML develops tools such as reference measurement procedures, certified reference materials, and critically evaluated data and best-practice guides used by U.S. industry to assure measurement quality and improve process efficiency. This work improves U.S. competitiveness in an increasingly challenging global environment. MML enables measurements in areas of national importance, including:

Safety, Security, and Forensics – Providing tools to help forensic crime laboratories validate their analytical methods and ensure accuracy in their 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.

Goal Statement : The primary goal of the Standards Coordination and Special Programs is to provide for NIST functions in both the management of cross-cutting laboratory research programs, and NIST's engagement in standards and conformity assessment policy, and documentary standards development.

Base Program : Standards Coordination and Special Programs house cross-cutting NIST activities managed by the Associate Director for Laboratory Programs (ADLP) that deal with select R&D programs, documentary standards coordination, and conformity assessment, and policy development.

1. The Special Programs Office (SPO) plans and manages high-profile programs that span the mission and expertise of multiple NIST laboratories to address critical national needs. To meet these needs, SPO works with and forges partnerships among government, private industry, academia, and professional organizations to provide world-class leadership in advanced measurement science, science-based standards, and data-driven technology innovations. SPO actively fosters communication and collaboration between NIST and external stakeholder communities, as well as agile collaboration across organizational boundaries at NIST. SPO's portfolio of programs includes the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Measurements Program, the Forensic Science Program, the Open Data Program, and other programs designated by the ADLP.

- The NIST Forensic Science Program is working 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 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 Centers of Excellence*, which is working to develop new statistical methods for use in pattern and digital evidence examination.

Examples of Accomplishments

Through its work in this activity and subactivity, NIST has delivered significant impact to stakeholders in the Federal Government and industry. Programs managed by the SPO, and SCO have yielded significant impacts.

- The [NIST Forensic Science Research Program](#) facilitated the development, validation, and implementation of a [Direct Analysis in Real Time – Mass Spectrometry method for the rapid screening of opioid drug samples](#). The research team worked closely with forensic scientists at the Maryland State Police laboratory to develop an optimized standard operating procedure for analyzing deadly street drugs like fentanyl and its analogs. The effort to transition this emerging technology to a fully validated method that can be used in crime laboratories has significantly reduced case turnaround times. It also led to a [collaborative effort between NIST and the Maryland Department of Health](#) to rapidly screen drug residue from paraphernalia obtained at Harm Reduction Sites and from law enforcement task forces across the state. This partnership will enable forensic laboratories and public health officials to better prepare for, detect, and track emerging illegal drugs and their potentially hazardous excipients.
- In FY 2023, the [NIST Forensic Science Foundation Studies Program](#) published reports on the scientific foundations of [digital investigation techniques](#) and [bitemark analysis](#). These reports fill a need identified in a [landmark 2009 study](#) by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, which called for research to address issues of accuracy, reliability and validity in many forensic science disciplines. Work is ongoing to complete reports on DNA mixture interpretation and firearm examination.
- The [NIST Forensic Science Standards Program](#), which administers the [Organization of Scientific Area Committees \(OSAC\) for Forensic Science](#), is currently facilitating the development of over 300 forensic science documentary standards. In FY 2023, the number of standards on [OSAC's Registry](#) recommended for adoption have increased from about 100 to over 140. Over 120 Forensic Science Standards Providers (FSSPs) have implemented standards from the OSAC Registry, improving the quality of forensic science practice in the United States.
- NIST updated its Public Access Plan, as part of its [Open Data Program](#), in response to the 2022 OSTP public access memo that significantly strengthened requirements for agencies to provide public access to the results of Federally funded research. Currently, NIST makes more than 5,000 peer-reviewed papers freely available via [PubMed Central](#) and more than 15,000 NIST Technical Series publications and reports available via the Government Publishing Office. NIST is making about 100 terabytes of data available for nearly 900 projects collected in the NIST data repository, including forensic science and greenhouse gas data.

In Forensic Science, NIST is focused on:

- Advanced Forensic Science Research – NIST researchers work both on technologies for forensic analysis and the mathematical and statistical tools that help quantify confidence in the results of a forensics test. To disseminate this work into the forensic science community, NIST develops measurement protocols, calibration systems, Standard Reference Materials and Data, authoritative guidelines, and works with standards-developing organizations to formalize many of these as consensus standards.
- Science-based Standards Development – Since 2014, NIST has administered the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) for Forensic Science Program which brings together over 500 members representing forensic science stakeholders from academia, Federal, state,

and local government, and the private sector to facilitate the development of scientifically sound forensic science standards and encourage their adoption across the country. OSAC has over 90 standards listed on its OSAC Registry and has received declarations from over 80 forensic science service providers that have implemented standards listed on the OSAC Registry.

- Scientific Foundation Studies – NIST conducts 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. NIST recently published two of several scientific foundation reviews on [DNA mixture interpretation](#).
- Operation of the NIST Center of Excellence in Forensics – CSAFE was established in 2015 and renewed in 2020 to help build a statistically sound and scientifically solid foundation for the analysis and interpretation of pattern impression and digital evidence. This multi-university *NIST Center of Excellence* is working to address the issues of accuracy, reliability, and validity of analyses in the examination of pattern and digital evidence.
- NIST plans to expand its Forensic Science Program in four major areas of computational forensic science, forensic science data, forensic science quality assurance, and forensic science education for the legal community.

CDC

- CDC launched the Collaborating Office for Medical Examiners and Coroners in 2022 to coordinate federal support for the medical examiner and coroner community, strengthening the reliability and validity of vital statistics and facilitating research for sudden and unexpected causes of death.
- For the first time, data from CDC's Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) program and the State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS) have been made widely available through public-facing dashboards. These dashboards provide critical data in an easy-to-understand format for public health partners and the public to engage with and understand rates of fatal and nonfatal overdoses in states and use those data to tailor interventions in states and communities.