



*American Academy of Forensic Sciences
American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors
International Association for Identification
International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners
National Association of Medical Examiners
Society of Forensic Toxicologists/ American Board of Forensic Toxicology*

May 14, 2025: DOJ FORENSIC PROGRAMS TERMINATED

Forensic Technology Center of Excellence (FTCOE)

FTCOE provided knowledge transfer and integration to the state and local forensic practitioner to make the connection between forensic discovery and forensic process.

FTCOE

PROGRAM	USE	JUSTIFICATION
Forensic Needs Assessment	The Needs Assessment of the forensic science community, including medical examiners and coroners, will provide objective, data driven evaluation of present and future needs of the community.	The Needs Assessment will evaluate and quantify the needs of the forensic practitioners to assist the policy makers and appropriators in providing grant programs
Technical Working Groups (TWG) (Medicolegal, Forensic Laboratory, Sexual Assault, Opioid, Latent Print Technical Leaders, Firearms Investigation Development)	The TWGs provide collective input for technology creation, implementation, methods, and best practices for specific forensic science disciplines.	Without the TWGs, there will be no national initiatives for technology creation, implementation, methods, or best practices for specific forensic science disciplines, preventing consistency in national operational practices.
Accreditation Initiative-Labs	The initiative increases the accreditation of forensic science laboratories that were unable to support the accreditation process because of their smaller size.	Accreditation of all forensic science laboratories has been a goal since the 2009 NAS report. Great progress has been made, but many small local laboratories have been unable to achieve accreditation because of lack of funds and administrative assistance.
Training Webinars	Training and informational webinars produced by FTCOE are of tremendous help in reducing on-site training events and enhancing the overall training of practitioners. The webinars also provide continuing education for personal certification for practitioners to retain certification status.	The loss of the existing training and informational webinars (1200 webinars and 600 podcasts) will seriously affect the training efforts of practitioners. Currently the webinars are free of charge or at a very generous price, allowing even those practitioners in small laboratories to become trained. Continuing development of these

		resources are important to the 15,000 practitioners who took advantage of them last year.
Internet Apps. (SAFER App, Trace Evidence App)	Internet apps. are online giving real time advice to those in the field on how to collect and preserve sexual assault and trace evidence.	Collecting and preserving biological and physical evidence is critical to solving crime and prosecuting perpetrators. These tools are an onsite resource for these difficult crime scenes.
Toolkits	Toolkits provide implementation guidance on specific technologies, such as Rapid DNA, for use by laboratories initiating new technology.	Laboratories purchasing new instrumentation must validate and operationalize them before bench use. These toolkits help the laboratories successfully implement the new technology.

FBI

PROGRAM	USE	JUSTIFICATION
Footwear Analysis	Many state, county, tribal, and local laboratories do not provide, or those that do, can no longer sustain a footwear/tire track identification section due to budget cuts. Those laboratories have relied on the FBI to conduct these examinations. The FBI also maintains access to footwear/tire track databases no longer available that allows for an initial search for the manufacturer and model of the footwear/tire that left the impression.	The loss of footwear/tire track analysis results in diminishing the corroborative or exculpatory value of a footwear/tire track impression. Footwear/tire track evidence, even if only identifying the make and model, can be an important lead or corroboration as to a person's presence at a scene. Not only does law enforcement need these critical services but so does our judicial system to ensure justice is served, in convicting the guilty while providing closure for victims and their families .

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