



CFSO

*Consortium of Forensic
Science Organizations*

Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations (CFSO)

IAI Update - 2025



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 2025

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 2025

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 2025

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.

FEDERAL BUDGET STATUS

- **FY25 budget passed as a Year Long Continuing Resolution**
 - **Repeats 24 funding levels**
- **FY26 budget ongoing**
 - **House Appropriations – Introduced and marked up**
 - **Senate Appropriations – Introduced and passed full committee markup**
 - **Short term CR anticipated**

CFSO Budget Prep

- **“Listening Sessions” with Member Organizations**
- **Development of agency specific “White Papers” based on needs of Members expressed during listening sessions**
- **Meetings with Agencies to present needs-2025 (White House and Deputy Atty Gen)**
- **Rack and Stack requests to Congress and modify when budget delivered**
- **NOTE: CFSO beginning FY27 documents for budget development. What are IAI’s concerns in the budget or with policy matters?**

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 FY26

July 2025 Newsletter Budget Language

<https://thecfso.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/CFSO-July-24-Budget-Newsletter.pdf>

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DOJ	Final FY24/25*	FY26 Proposed	HOUSE	SENATE
Program				
Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant	\$499.03m	\$446.00m	\$402.84m	\$569.15m
National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs)	\$3m	\$3m	\$11m	\$3m
Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains Act	\$5m	\$5m	See below under DNA Programs	\$5m
Forensics Ballistics in Higher Education	\$2.5m	0	0	\$1.5m

DNA Programs	\$153m	\$148m	\$154m	\$148m
DNA Analysis and Capacity Enhancement Program-Debbie Smith	\$120m	\$120m	\$120m	\$120m
Other Federal, State, and Local Forensic Activities (note includes Medical Examiner/Coroner programs)	\$15m	\$10m	N/A	\$10m
Kirk Bloodsworth Post-Conviction DNA Testing Program	\$14m	\$14m	\$14m	\$14m
Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Program Guide	\$4m	\$4m	\$9m	\$4m
National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs)	N/A See above under Byrne JAG	N/A See above under Byrne JAG	\$11m	N/A See above under Byrne JAG
Community Teams to Reduce the Sexual Assault Kit (SAK) Backlog	\$51.5m	\$51.5m	\$51.5	\$51.5m

DOJ	Final FY24/25*	FY26 Proposed	HOUSE	SENATE
Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Grants Strengthen Medical Examiner-Coroner	\$34m	\$10m	\$28m \$2.5m	\$34m ¹
CARA (Comprehensive Opioid Use Reduction Activities) Forensic Support for Opioid and Synthetic Drug Investigations	\$403m	\$418m	\$420m \$17m	\$420m
NIJ Research and Development	\$30m	\$22m	\$22m	\$60m (moved to OJP)
Bureau of Justice Statistics	\$35m	\$35m	\$33m	Included above
Wrongful Conviction Review	\$12m	0	N/A	\$12m

Commerce: NIST	Final FY24/25*	FY26 Proposed	House	Senate
Forensic Science Research	\$22m	N/A	\$20m	\$22m ²
OSAC	\$3.5m	N/A	\$3.5m	\$3.5m
Technical Merit Evaluations	\$1.5m	N/A	\$1.2m	\$1.5m
SDO Grant	\$1.5m	N/A	\$1.5m	N/A
HHS: CDC	Final FY24/25*	FY26 Proposed	House	Senate
Opioid Overdose Prevention and Surveillance¶ *Realigned in FY26 to Administrations Administration for a Healthy America (AHA)	\$505.579m	\$475.579m	N/A	N/A
National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS)	\$24.5m	\$24.5m	N/A	N/A
Public Health Data Modernization¶ Public Health Data Modernization (PPHF)	\$175m¶ 0	\$175	N/A	N/A

DOJ FY25 and FY26 Language HOUSE

Interoperability of Automated Biometric Identification Systems –

The Committee is concerned about the lack of interoperability among various automated biometric identification systems, and notes that unlike DNA there is no single mechanism to search for latent prints across jurisdictions. The Committee understands that NIST and the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) have spent a significant amount of time working to address this issue, including the production of the standards and guidance necessary to support the development of interoperable systems, but the problem remains. 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 that remain, and a path forward.

DOJ FY24 HOUSE Language

ATF

HOUSE

Enhancing Capacity of Ballistic Matches. —The Committee directs the ATF to **prioritize the deployment of automated ballistics imaging triage technology to reduce turnaround times, improve the accuracy of comparisons, and enhance data sharing among law enforcement agencies.** These efforts shall support the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) and Crime Gun Intelligence Center (CGIC) initiatives. The ATF is further directed to coordinate with State and local agencies to adopt proven technologies that meet their operational needs. The Committee encourages the ATF to **utilize a multi-vendor contracting approach,** consistent with a model used by the Department’s Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), to increase competition, interoperability, and scalability. Not later than one year after enactment of this Act, the ATF shall report to the Committees on the effectiveness of these technologies, challenges to adoption, and recommendations for improving forensic intelligence delivery.

National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN).—The Committee recognizes NIBIN as a critical tool in the national effort to reduce violence and combat violent crime. State and local law enforcement agencies consistently report that NIBIN plays a vital role in their investigations, enabling the timely matching of ballistic evidence from crime scenes nationwide and supporting the development of actionable leads to solve and prevent violent offenses. To ensure the continued effectiveness and expansion of this vital program, **the Committee directs the ATF to allocate not less than the fiscal year 2023 funding level for NIBIN.** The Committee urges the ATF to continue **expanding NIBIN deployment to additional jurisdictions,** ensure sufficient staffing for timely evidence processing, and invest in greater correlation capacity. The Committee also supports improved integration of NIBIN with crime gun intelligence efforts, the development of advanced data analytics to identify crime trends, and expanded opportunities for international ballistic data sharing, including with Mexico and INTERPOL.

DOJ FY24 SENATE Language ATF

Forensic Ballistics and Higher Education.—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 \$1,500,000 for a competitive grant program for universities and technical colleges, to acquire ballistics identification equipment and support forensic ballistics programs.

FY 26 Needs Assessment

With such significant cuts in the budget quantifiable data on the needs of the community are critical. In anticipation of this CFSO requested from Congress a follow-on Needs Assessment Language was inserted in the FY24 budget

Forensic Science Operational Needs Assessment.-NIJ shall provide a report to the Committees on the projected workload, backlog, personnel, workforce, resources, necessary turnaround times for law enforcement officers and officers of the court, and equipment needs of forensic science providers and forensic medical service providers, no later than 180 days after the enactment of this act. The report should be conducted in conjunction with the Forensic Laboratory Needs Technology Working Group and the Federal Interagency Medicolegal Death Investigation Working Group. Further, the Department shall consider in its reporting the most recent BJS census reports on publicly funded forensic science service providers, digital forensic science service providers, and medical examiner and coroner offices; the NIJ report entitled, "Report to Congress: Needs Assessment of Forensic Laboratories and Medical Examiner/Coroner Offices" and other relevant studies; and the practical and applied implications of any other scientific reports on forensic science with relevance to the operational, quality management, and practical needs of the forensic science community.

CFSO has written a letter to the AG (see website) urging this report be done in a timely manner and outlined the request of what should be covered. It appears NIJ has just started to work on this report with RTI

Senate recognized late start and inserted language in the FY26 budget encouraging the completion of the study.

IT IS CRITICAL THIS STUDY IS SUBSTNATIVE AND PROVIDES QUANTIFIABLE DATA ON THE NEEDS

DOJ FY24 Language

OJP - BYRNE

SENATE

Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program.—The Committee recommends \$569,146,000 for Byrne-JAG. Funding is not available for luxury items, real estate, or construction projects. The Department should expect State, local, and Tribal governments to target funding to programs and activities that conform to evidence-based strategic plans developed through broad stakeholder involvement. The Committee directs the Department to make technical assistance available to State, local, and Tribal governments for the development or update of such plans. Funding is authorized for law enforcement programs including those that **promote data interoperability among disparate law enforcement entities**; prosecution and court programs; prevention and education programs; corrections programs; drug treatment and enforcement programs; planning, evaluation, and technology improvement programs; and crime victim and witness programs, other than compensation.

Uses of Byrne-JAG Funds.—The Committee continues to recognize that novel equipment and technologies can improve public safety and public trust in criminal justice institutions. OJP is urged to promote awareness, through Statements on the OJP website, in “FAQs” and seminars, and in solicitation documents, that Byrne-JAG funds may be used for managed access systems and other cell phone mitigation technologies; fentanyl and methamphetamine detection equipment, including handheld instruments; drug detection canines; license plate readers; and hiring and training of cybercrime analysts and investigators.

LEGISLATIVE 119th Congress: Forensics Caucus

The Congressional Forensic Science Caucus is an informal Congressional Member of Congress group dedicated to issues related for forensic science and education other Members on this subject. The purpose of this bipartisan caucus is to educate Members of Congress on matters critical to the criminal justice system that pertain to forensics science and to advocate for legislation that ensures the sciences' continuous advancement, wide availability to investigators and litigants, and compliance with the highest standards of quality assurance. Forensic science capabilities are changing rapidly, and Congress is often presented with legislation that addresses, for expel, the needs for further research, analyst training, and the implementation of new instrumentation and standards for its use. Our caucus serves as a forum to facilitate important information about these relevant topics and work to advance these significant issues.

The contacts for the caucus are:

Rep. Michael Guest: Milton Robinson

Rep. Cleaver: Devin Kelsey

LEGISLATIVE 118th/119th Congress: Carla Walker Act

- Initiated by vendor
- CFSO actively provided comments and additions
- -creates a pilot
 - funds labs for equipment and outsourcing
 - directs DOJ to draft a strategic plan of how to implement
- Stakeholders have provided edits
- CFSO negotiated with stakeholders and impacted groups
- Reintroduced in 119th Congress

IAI Priority List

- Funding for Pattern Disciplines
- Funding for Implementation of OSAC Standards
- Training in CSI and Pattern Disciplines
- Laboratory Accreditation and Practitioner Certification
- Advanced Case Management Systems
- AFIS/ABIS/MBIS Interoperability
- Mental Wellness

LEGISLATIVE 119th Congress: Other Legislation

Forensic Science Week

September 14-20, 2025

HS Educator of Year, NIST Presentations, Website, Social Media

**Penny Dechant (IAI) **Ken Martin (IAI)

MDI Week

January 19-24, 2026

Grant Awareness

- Reviewing for compliance with executive orders and laws
- Less time for applications (less than 60 days—very quick for competitive grants)
- Solicitations coming “right after the OVC solicitations”
- Funding amounts and applications should be similar to FY24 solicitations
- Keep an eye on OVC provisions
 - Funding cannot be used for immigration activities that oppose ICE actions
 - New list of sanctuary states and locations
 - New grant Executive Order 8/7/2025

Grant Awareness

COVERDELL

- Available for preparation for accreditation and continued accreditation—specific carveout for first time accreditation
- Summer 2025 solicitation

Federal Agency Communications

Federal Restructuring

- Department of Commerce
 - Firearms, DNA, OSAC
- DOJ-Attorney General
 - FTCOE and resources, Grant managers
- Health and Human Services
 - OD2A, COMEC

Agency Communications

Administrative meetings:

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

Monitoring

Supreme Court Decision: (January 2024 Newsletter)

- Jason Smith v. Arizona – Confrontation Clause

Federal Actions:

- RaDAR and other emerging drugs
- NIBIN changes
- Interoperability
- Emerging Forensic Science Technology

Grants 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 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)

[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 the CFSO Website:

- CFSO website for National Forensic Science Week (all links updated)
- Legislative Agenda
- White Papers
- Newsletters

PUBLICATIONS

119th Congress (2025-2026)

by admin / December 26, 2024

CFSO Newsletters

- Early March 2025
- Late March 2025
- Early June 2025 Budget
- Late June 2025 Budget
- July 2025
- July 2025 Budget
- August 2025

Recent CFSO Letters

- ONDCP (Drug Strategy)
- HHS (Attestation)
- DOJ (Grants)
- NHTSA (Buy America)



[Legislation](#)

[Public Laws](#)

[Hearings](#)

[Committee Lists](#)

[Advocacy Tools](#)

[Forensic Science Caucus](#)

RECENT PUBLICATIONS



- State Emerging Drug Labs
- Attestation for Health Care
- MEC's as First Responders
- Rapid DNA

- CFSO Strategy and Strategic Plan
- Firearms
- Toxicology
- NamUs
- Needs Assessment
- OSAC/SDOs
- Firearms Workforce
- AFIS Interoperability
- At Home Rape Kits
- FIGG
- Buy America Act
- Emerging Drugs

