



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

CFSO Year End Update

Dear Members:

2014 had its ups and downs in Washington with the budget but was finally signed into law and that meant that the federal budget for Forensic Science was also signed into law. It was a good year for Forensic Science but you have yourselves to thank for that. This year the CFSO saw an unprecedented amount of grass-roots effort by its Organizations Members. **YOU** managed to keep the Paul Coverdell National Forensic Science Grants at the Senate number of \$12m. Your letters and phone calls to your Members of Congress about how important this funding is to you was effective. Thank you! In short you have received:

DNA Initiative \$117m (see breakout in chart)
Coverdell \$12m
NIST \$3.5m
Forensic Science Initiative \$4m (OSAC and Commission)
Community Based Sexual Assault Initiative \$41m

We have included below a chart that will show the forensic science funding in the FY15 budget and the accompanying language. This is final. We have also included a letter that the CFSO Board of Directors has sent to Attorney General Eric Holder asking that he fully fund the Paul Coverdell National Forensic Science Grants at \$35m for FY16. The Administration has never put this funding in its budget submittal to Congress, but we are hopeful this year as ASCLD met with the Department of Justice and advised them of the importance of this funding to the community. Thank you ASCLD! As soon as the budget is delivered to Congress this year we will let you know what the request is and advise of any assistance that we need.

COMMERCE

Forensics. -The agreement does not adopt House report language regarding “National Commission on Forensic Science (NCFS)” activities. Instead, the agreement acknowledges a transfer of \$3,000,000, the current funding level, from the Department of Justice to NIST to support ongoing interagency forensic programs. The agreement also supports an increase of up to \$3,500,000 under this heading for NIST forensic activities. NIST and its Federal partners shall ensure that the State and local practitioner community is adequately represented on the various working groups.

JUSTICE

OJP

Forensic sciences. -The agreement provides \$4,000,000 for a forensics initiative, of which \$1,000,000 is to support the “NCFS”, to be chaired by the Attorney General and the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and \$3,000,000 is to be provided, by transfer, to NIST to support Scientific Area Committees. The Department shall report to the Committees on Appropriations, no later than 90 days after enactment of this Act, on the status of these efforts. House report language regarding the State and local practitioner community is adopted by reference.

RESEARCH, EVALUATION AND STATISTICS (In thousands of dollars)

Bureau of Justice Statistics	\$41,000
National Institute of Justice	\$36,000
Regional Information Sharing Activities	\$30,000
Forensics Initiative.....	\$4,000
Transfer to NIST	(\$3,000)

Community-based sexual assault response reform. -The agreement includes \$41,000,000 for a competitive grant program to support multi-disciplinary community response teams tasked with a comprehensive approach to sexual assault cases. The goal of this grant program is to address the growing backlog of sexual assault kits at law enforcement agencies. There is broad consensus that this must be accomplished through an integrative approach to the problem. The Department, through the National Institute of Justice, shall develop a comprehensive model to address the underlying issues that led to the backlogs. The Department shall ensure that grant award decisions shall be informed by this model, and shall support efforts that include planning, implementation, and long-term evaluation. Grant funding may be used to inventory the existing backlog of rape kits, test backlogged kits, develop "cold case" units to pursue new investigative leads and to support victims throughout the investigation and prosecution process. Grants may also be used to develop evidence-tracking systems, train law enforcement on sexual assault investigations, and conduct research on outcomes in sexual assault cases. This effort shall complement and not duplicate other forensic grant programs at the Department that test DNA evidence kits in crime labs. These grants shall not supplant other sources of funding for these activities. The National Institute of Justice is directed to brief the Committees on Appropriations on the program not less than 45 days after the enactment of this Act, including design and evaluation criteria for the program, ideal grant size and the number of jurisdictions where this intervention is needed.

State and Local (In thousands of dollars)

Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants	\$375,000
VALOR Initiative	(15,000)
Domestic Radicalization Research	(4,000)
Smart Policing	(5,000)
Smart Prosecution	(2,500)
Firearms Safety Materials and Gun Locks	(3,000)
Missing Alzheimer’s Patients Grants	(750)
Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program	(10,500)
Juvenile Indigent Defense	(2,500)
State Criminal Alien Assistance Program	185,000
Victim of Trafficking Grants	42,500

Drug Courts	41,000
Mentally Ill Offender Act	8,500
Residential Substance Abuse Treatment	10,000
Capital Litigation and Wrongful Conviction Review	2,000
Economic High tech and Cybercrime Prevention	13,000
Intellectual Property Enforcement Program	(2,500)
John R Justice Grant Program	2,000
Adam Walsh Act Implementation	20,000
Children Exposed to Violence Initiative	8,000
Bulletproof Vests Partnerships	22,250
Transfer to NIST/OLES	(1,500)
National Sex Offender Public Website	1,000
Violent Gang and Gun Crime Reduction	5,000
National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) Initiative	73,000
NICS Act Record Improvement Program	(25,000)
Paul Coverdell Forensic Science	12,000
DNA Initiative	125,000
Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant	(117,000)
Kirk Bloodsworth Post Conviction DNA Testing Grants	(4,000)
Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Program Grants	(4,000)
Community Teams to Reduce Sexual Assault Kit Backlog	41,000
CASA-Special Advocates	6,000
Tribal Assistance	30,000
Second Chance Act/Offender-Re-entry	68,000
Smart Probation	(6,000)
Children of Incarcerated Parents Demo Grants	(5,000)
Pay for Success	(7,500)
Veterans Treatment Courts	5,000
Prescription Drug Monitoring	11,000
Prison Rape Prevention and Prosecution	13,000
Campus Public Safety	2,000
Justice Reinvestment Initiative	27,500
Charles Colson Task Force on Federal Corrections	(750)
Project HOPE Opportunity Probation with Enforcement	4,000
Vision 21	12,500
Comprehensive School Safety Initiative	75,000
TOTAL State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance	\$1,241,000

National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) Initiative grants.-The agreement includes \$73,000,000 for grants to improve records in the NICS system. These funds will strengthen NICS by assisting States in finding ways to add more records to the system, especially mental health records. This will help close gaps in Federal and State records currently available in NICS, which hinder the ability to confirm quickly whether a prospective purchaser is prohibited from acquiring a firearm. Not less than \$25,000,000 shall be available only for States meeting the requirements of the Record Improvement Program.