



**CONSORTIUM OF FORENSIC SCIENCE
ORGANIZATIONS (CFSO)**

BUDGET BRIEF
JANUARY 2026

The mission of the CFSO is to speak with a single forensic science voice on behalf of its member organizations on 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, & local policymakers, as well as the United States Congress.

UPDATE JANUARY 27, 2026
FY26 FEDERAL FORENSICS BUDGET

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Congress has released the final budget for the Departments of Justice and Commerce, and it was signed by the President. Overall funding levels are largely consistent with the President's request, with several targeted increases and decreases. Notably, while the Department of Justice requested \$10 million for the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants, Congress provided an additional \$22 million above the request for a total of \$32 million. Detailed funding outcomes are outlined below. The HHS budget, where CDC resides, has not passed but is expected to in the next few days.

As always, bill language is as important as funding levels, as it provides the Administration with authority and direction on how appropriated funds may be used. Below is the full legislative language included in the final budget, along with a summary of key highlights.

CFSO has begun to put together the FY27 budget priorities for Congress and welcomes your input. Please send any thoughts to your association CFSO representative.

BUDGET LANGUAGE AND TABLES

LANGUAGE SUMMARY:

ATF:

Encourages expansion of NIBIN.

OJP:

Grants:

- Congress disagrees with the Administrations restructuring of OVW and COPS offices and directs them to “maintain OVW and COPS as distinct grantmaking entities”.
- No more than 3.5% of grants shall be used for non-grant making.
- Grants funded in FY26 must be publicly posted no more than 90 days after passage of the law.
- 2% of NIJ/BJS grant funds shall be used for technology training programs.

Other:

- Interoperability study of ABIS study to be conducted.
- Support and encouragement for NIJ to study ME and Toxicology research.

DOJ	Final FY24/25*	FY26 Proposed	HOUSE	SENATE	Final
Program					
Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Discretionary	\$499.03m	\$446.00m	\$402.84m	\$569.15m	\$537.97m
National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs)	\$3m	\$3m	\$11m	\$3m	\$3m
Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains Act	\$5m	\$5m	See below under DNA Programs	\$5m	\$3m
Forensics Ballistics in Higher Education	\$2.5m	0	0	\$1.5m	N/A
Project Safe Neighborhood	\$19m	\$21m	\$20m	\$19m	\$13m
DNA Programs	\$153m	\$148m	\$154m	\$148m	\$138m
DNA Analysis and Capacity Enhancement Program-Debbie Smith	\$120m	\$120m	\$120m	\$120m	\$115m
Other Federal, State, and Local Forensic Activities (note includes Medical Examiner/Coroner programs)	\$15m	\$10m	N/A	\$10m	\$6m

DOJ	Final FY24/25*	FY26 Proposed	HOUSE	SENATE	Final
Kirk Bloodsworth Post Conviction DNA Testing Program	\$14m	\$14m	\$14m	\$14m	\$13m
Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Program Guide	\$ 4m	\$ 4m	\$9m	\$4m	\$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	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	\$50m
Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Grants Strengthen Medical Examiner-Coroner	\$34m	\$10m	\$28m \$2.5m	\$34m ¹	\$32.5m
CARA (Comprehensive Opioid Use Reduction Activities) Forensic Support for Opioid and Synthetic Drug Investigations	\$403m	\$418m	\$420m \$17m	\$420m	\$403m
NIJ Research and Development	\$30m	\$22m	\$22m	\$60m (moved to OJP)	\$22m
Bureau of Justice Statistics	\$35m	\$35m	\$33m	Included above in R&D	\$33m
Wrongful Conviction Review	\$12m	0	N/A	\$12m	\$11.5
Commerce: NIST	Final FY24/25 *	FY26 Proposed	House	Senate	Final
Forensic Science Research	\$22m	N/A	\$20m	\$22m ²	\$22m
OSAC	\$3.5m	N/A	\$3.5m	\$3.5m	\$3.5m
Technical Merit Evaluations	\$1.5m	N/A	\$1.2m	\$1.5m	\$1.5m
SDO Grant	\$1.5m	N/A	\$1.5m	N/A	\$1.5m

HHS: CDC	Final FY24/25*	FY26 Proposed	House	Senate	Final
Opioid Overdose Prevention and Surveillance	\$505.579m	\$475.579m	\$505.579m	\$505.579m	\$505.579m

¹ Includes \$17m carveout for Opioids

² Language in the SAC bill states to fund this account at the FY24 numbers which are reflected in this chart.

*Realigned in FY26 to Administrations Administration for a Healthy America (AHA)					
National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS)	\$24.5m	\$24.5m	\$24.5m	\$24.5m	\$24.5m
Public Health Data Modernization Public Health Data Modernization (PPHF)	\$175m 0	\$175m	\$185m	\$150m	\$185m
SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners)	\$15m	\$15m	\$15m	\$15m	\$15m

N/A=not available

CONFERENCE LANGUAGE

FBI

National Bio-forensic Analysis Center. – The agreement provides up to \$21,840,000 for the FBI's role at the NBFAC.

Supporting law Enforcement Through ViCAP Modernization and Training – In lieu of the directives under this caption, the agreement encourages the FBI to provide a briefing to the Committees, no later than 180 days after the enactment of this act, on the feasibility of conducting the described analysis.

(House Language) Supporting Law Enforcement Through ViCAP Modernization and Training/ - The Committee recognizes the critical role of the FBI's Violent Criminal Apprehension Program (ViCAP) in assisting law enforcement agencies with the investigation and resolution of violent crimes, including serial homicides, sexual assaults, and missing persons cases. The Committee directs the FBI to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the ViCAP database, including opportunities to enhance its technological capabilities, improve data sharing and participation among law enforcement agencies, and expand its effectiveness in identifying and apprehending violent offenders. The Committee further urges the FBI to prioritize support for State, local, and Tribal law enforcement through training, and operational collaboration related to the ViCAP program.

DEA

Fentanyl/ Wastewater Testing and Epidemiology. – The agreement recommends up to \$2,000,000 to accelerate testing for fentanyl, as described in the House report under this caption.

ATF

National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) – In lieu of the language in the House report under this caption, the agreement expresses strong support for NIBIN and directs ATF to support and expand it to the highest degree feasible.

(House Language): 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.

Unauthorized Release of Trace Data. – In lieu of the language under this caption in the House report, the agreement encourages the Department to take appropriate steps on the matter.

OJP

Fiscal Year 2026 Spending Plan. – The agreement reiterates the direction provided in Senate Report 113-78 that the Department shall detail, as part of its spending plan for fiscal year 2026 and future years, the actual costs for each grantmaking component 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 grantmaking component in each of these categories for the current year and the budget year.

Distinct Grant/making Components. – The agreement directs the Department to maintain the Office on Violence Against Women and Office of Community Oriented Policing Services as distinct organizational grantmaking entities within the Department.

Grants Transfer Authority – The agreement emphasizes the importance of the grant portfolio and the Committees' intent that funds appropriated for Department grant programs remain dedicated to grantmaking purposes. The agreement directs that no more than 3.5 percent of the funds made available by this act for grants, programs, or activities administered by the Office on Violence Against Women, the Office of Justice Programs, or the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services may be transferred, reprogrammed, or otherwise made available to any non-grantmaking office, component, or activity of the Department of Justice except as otherwise expressly provided by this act.

Grant Programs Crosswalks. – The Department is directed to provide the Committees, as part of the spend plan submitted pursuant to section 528 of this act a crosswalk of the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), and Community Oriented Policing Services Office (COPS) grant program solicitations, which includes the same level of information and detail as was provided to the Committee with respect to the solicitations of the Department's grant program offices in fiscal year 2024.

Byrne JAG Precipitous Increase in Crime Funds. – The agreement directs the Department to provide, in the fiscal year 2026 spend plan submitted pursuant to section 528 of this act, a detailed accounting of how each solicitation for funds reserved under section 506(b)(I) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10157) satisfies the requirement that such funds be used "to combat, address, or otherwise respond to precipitous or extraordinary increases in crime, or in a type or types of crime".

Notice of Funding Opportunities. – The agreement directs the Department that the notices of funding opportunities for the grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, and other assistance provided for by the Office on Violence Against Women, Office of Justice Programs, and the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services shall be publicly posted no later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this act.

Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program. – The Department is directed to continue following the directives in House Report 11 7- 97 adopted by Public Law 11 7- 103 on "Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) Formula program", and in the joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 11 7- 103 on "Uses of Byrne-JAG Funds". In lieu of the House report language on " Byrne JAG Funds for Automated License Plate Reader Systems (ALPRs)", the agreement highlights that Byrne JAG funds may be used by state, local, and Tribal law enforcement for ALPRs.

Capital litigation Improvement and Wrongful Conviction Review. – The agreement provides \$11,500,000 for Capital Litigation Improvement and Wrongful Conviction Review and adopts the Senate direction.

Improving Gun Crime Investigations. – The agreement provides \$13,000,000 for Project Safe Neighborhoods and, within these funds, encourages the Department to award grants at no less than the fiscal 2025 level for the implementation and development of automated ballistics imaging triage technology to support timely, evidence-based investigations of gun crimes. Such technology would assist law enforcement entities in rapidly scanning ballistics evidence, improving access to crime gun intelligence, and streamlining evidence submission to the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN).

Forensic Genetic Genealogical (FGG) DNA. – Within amounts provided for the Office of Justice Programs, the agreement directs the Department to support efforts to use FGG to investigate unsolved violent crimes, without regard to the status of an applicant agency's sexual assault kit inventory. Further, the Department is encouraged to revisit the FGG DNA Analysis 2019 Policy and to fund additional grants for the use of FGG technology under other appropriate programs including, but not limited to, the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) program.

Section 212 permits up to 2 percent of grant funds made available to be used for criminal justice research, evaluation, and statistics by the National Institute of Justice and the Bureau of Justice Statistics and designates up to 2 percent of grant funds for training and technical assistance.

HOUSE LANGUAGE-included in the final conference report JUSTICE

Report on the D.C. Five. – The Committee is aware that in 2022, D.C. Metropolitan Police recovered the remains of five unborn children from the Washington Surgi-Clinic in Washington, D.C. These five children were not given proper autopsies, despite photos being shared that suggest federal law may have been broken with one of the five children showing signs of severe damage to the head and lacerations at the back of the neck consistent with the injuries of a partial birth abortion. The Committee is also aware of press reports suggesting the Department directed the Washington, D.C. Chief Medical Examiner to dispose of the remains of those children without performing an autopsy. No later than 45 days after enactment of this Act, the Department shall provide the Committee any internal communication related to the remains of these five children, as well as any communication between the Department and the D.C. Chief Medical Examiner. Further, the Department shall provide a briefing to the Committees on all actions previously taken on this issue.

FBI
FBI Laboratory. – The Committee notes the FBI Laboratory processes samples of noncitizens engaged at the southern border into the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS). Due to the disastrous border crisis in the past four years, the backlog of these samples has reached extremely high levels that may lead to many months before a sample is entered into the CODIS system, significantly hindering law enforcement agencies from apprehending potentially dangerous criminals who unlawfully enter our borders. In order to make progress with the backlog, the Committee strongly supports the FBI's Laboratory Division.

DEA
Advanced Analytics and Information Sharing in Opioid and Fentanyl Investigations. – The Committee recognizes the importance of removing barriers to sharing digital evidence collected across the DEA and enabling agents and investigators to collaborate across offices to surface relevant leads and identify connections that might be missed. The recommendation includes the request for an efficient data sharing mechanism for digital evidence collected across the agency and a digital evidence analytics platform that enables agents and investigators conducting opioid and fentanyl trafficking investigations to work

collaboratively to find connections, generate new insights into narcotics trafficking patterns, and reduce investigator workload.

Digital Evidence. – 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, the DEA can exponentially improve the identification of known but, 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 the 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.

State and Local Task Force Program. – The Committee supports the DEA’s State and Local Task Force Program which is a force multiplier to carry out the DEA’s mission through coordination and cooperation with Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies in the U.S. to investigate major TCOs and to address local trafficking issues. Within the funds provided to the DEA, the Committee recommends not less than the fiscal year 2025 enacted level for the DEA’s State and Local Task Force Program

ATF

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.

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. Not 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.

OJP

Medical Examiner and Coroner Research Needs. – 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.

National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs). – The recommendation provides \$11,000,000 for NamUs, as authorized by Public Law 117–327. Of these funds, the Committee directs the Department to use \$5,000,000 for forensic-grade genome sequencing exclusively. The Committee understands that modern scientific advancements in DNA standards and genetic genealogy have enabled law enforcement agencies to break through previously impenetrable forensic DNA barriers and close previously unsolvable cases, including unidentified descendant cases involving children. The Committee encourages the Department to continue its support for such technologies.

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Grants. – The recommendation includes \$9,000,000 for the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program which includes forensic exams and SANE training program 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 or national 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 prior rural, Tribal, underserved 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. Federally funded regional centers shall work in coordination with nurse training programs in each State, as well as State entities responsible for overseeing nursing education, to ensure consistency with applicable State protocols, procedures, laws, and training programs.

Sexual Assault Kit Initiative. – The Committee encourages the Department to maximize the results of investments in sexual assault 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-jurisdictional and cross-platform data sharing to identify and pursue repeat 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 partially tested kits, and any backlog on testing.

Sexual Assault Kit Tracking. – In coordination with NIST and within 180 days of the enactment of this Act, the Committee directs the Department to provide a report detailing State adherence to the standards for collecting physical evidence from victims of sexual assault as established by the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) for Forensic Science as listed on the OSAC registry upon completion of the standards development process. In forming this report, the Committee directs the Department to consider the usefulness of recommendations to provide transparency to data currently residing at the Department from use of Federal funds to process sexual assault kits.

NIST

Forensic Sciences. – The recommendation includes \$20,000,000 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.

Rapid Drug Analysis and Research (RaDAR) Program. – The recommendation supports the NIST RaDAR program, which assists local communities by providing timely data on the local drug landscape. The Committee notes the potential for this information to identify regional changes in the illicit drug supply.

SENATE LANGUAGE JUSTICE

Report on Forensic Laboratory Resource Requirements. – The Committee adopts and reiterates 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.

National Missing and Unidentified Persons System [NamUS]. – The Committee strongly supports the mission of NamUS, in particular its efforts to identify unidentified children. The Committee encourages OJP to support partnerships, such as Project 525, that work collaboratively towards resolving longstanding cases involving minors.

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.

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.

Internet of Things Capabilities Database. – The growing use of the Internet of Things devices requires understanding of existing capabilities of such devices for training on options and best practices for handling of evidence to meet judicial standards and privacy concerns. To meet this need, \$2,000,000 shall be dedicated for a separate competitive grant program in order to provide four awards of not less than \$500,000 each for institutions of higher learning that provide training in computer forensics and digital investigation to develop a database on the Internet of Things device capabilities and to build and execute training modules for law enforcement.

Paul Coverdell Forensic Science. – The recommendation provides a total of \$35,000,000, of which \$17,000,000 is to specifically target the challenges the opioid and synthetic drug epidemic has brought to the forensics community.

DNA Backlog and Crime Lab Improvements. – The Committee continues its strong support for DNA backlog and crime lab improvements by recommending \$148,000,000 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, \$120,000,000 is for Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Reduction grants, \$14,000,000 is for Kirk Bloodsworth post-conviction DNA Testing grants, \$4,000,000 is for Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Program grants, and \$10,000,000 is for other State and local forensic activities. An additional \$12,000,000 is provided for Access to Sexual Assault Nurse Examination grants under the Violence Against Women Prevention and Prosecution Programs. 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 2026 spending plan, a 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. 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.

DNA-related and Forensics Programs. – 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.

Sexual Assault Kit Initiative. – The Committee’s recommendation includes \$51,500,000 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 address the resolution of cases in the backlog. 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 1 year of the enactment of this act, on the number of partially tested kits.

Project Safe Neighborhoods [PSN]. – PSN is a nationwide initiative that brings together Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial law enforcement officials, prosecutors, community-based partners, and other stakeholders to identify the most pressing violent crime problems in a community and develop comprehensive solutions to address them. PSN is coordinated by the U.S. Attorneys’ Offices in the 94 Federal judicial districts throughout the 50 States and U.S. territories. OJP is encouraged to highlight ways PSN funding can reduce gun violence, including through automated ballistics imaging triage technology. This technology can improve gun crime arrest rates by enabling law enforcement entities to immediately scan ballistics evidence, quickly access crime gun intelligence, and streamline evidence submission to NIBIN. The Committee notes the continued importance of PSN funds being used only for the purposes set forth in 34 U.S.C. 60703. The Committee further notes that PSN funds shall be locally controlled to address problems that are identified locally. The Committee directs DOJ to submit a report to this Committee, within 180 days of enactment of this act, that details for each area in which the PSN Block Grant Program operates: (1) how the area spent funds under the PSN Block Grant Program; (2) the community outreach efforts performed in the area; and (3) the number and a description of the violent crime offenses committed in the area, including murder, non-negligent manslaughter, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Research and Statistics. – The Committee’s recommendation provides \$60,000,000 for the Research, Evaluation and Statistics account. The recommendation is \$5,000,000 below the fiscal year 2025 enacted level. Funding in this account provides assistance in the areas of research, evaluation, statistics, hate crimes, DNA and forensics, criminal background checks, and gun safety technology, among others.

Capital Litigation Improvement and Wrongful Conviction Review. – 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 Committee directs that at least 50 percent of the \$12,000,000 appropriated to the Capital Litigation Improvement and Wrongful Conviction Review grant programs shall be used to support Wrongful Conviction Review grantees providing high quality and efficient post-conviction representation for defendants in post-conviction claims of innocence. Wrongful Conviction Review grantees shall be nonprofit organizations, institutions of higher education, and/or State or local public defender offices that have inhouse post-conviction representation programs that show demonstrable experience and competence in litigating post-conviction claims of innocence. Grant funds shall support grantee provision of post-conviction legal representation of innocence claims; case review, evaluation, and management; experts; potentially exonerative forensic testing; and investigation services related to supporting these post-conviction innocence claims.

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.

NIST

Foreign AI Model Evaluations. – The Committee directs NIST to assess the technical characteristics, capabilities, and potential national security risks of advanced AI foundation models developed by foreign adversaries, including those from the People’s Republic of China. NIST should focus on the development of robust model evaluation tools, secure testing environments, and benchmarking methodologies for comparing the capabilities of foreign and domestic AI models, as well as track key drivers of AI performance, including compute scale, data access, and algorithmic innovation. The Committee further directs NIST to publish regular unclassified assessments to inform policymakers on the global trajectory of AI capabilities and associated security risks.

National Synthetic Content Database. – The Committee supports efforts by NIST to advance digital content authentication technologies through the development and maintenance of a National Synthetic Content Database. The Committee recognizes the benefits of a shared national database to provide coverage of synthetic content developments, as well as to inform content authentication efforts in both government and industry.

Digital Content Authentication Prize Challenge. – The Committee acknowledges the critical importance of content authenticity in an era where AI can produce highly realistic and potentially deceptive material. The Committee is aware that competitions are a proven approach to spurring innovation for complex technical challenges, enabling the rapid identification of solutions through diverse engagement. The Committee

therefore encourages NIST to conduct a prize competition within 1 year on novel ways to identify synthetic content. Priorities for the competition should include: machine detection and digital forensic methods to detect partial or fully AI-generated content across single or multimodal content; assessing the robustness, interoperability, and security of watermarking and other labeling methods across modalities; and testing innovations in tamper-evident or tamper-proofing content provenance tools.

Forensic Sciences. – The Committee provides an amount equal to 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.

National Bioforensic Analysis Center. – The Committee recognizes the need to maintain operations at the National Bioforensic Analysis Center [NBFAC]. The Committee supports the bioforensic analysis and investigations performed at NBFAC and appreciates that the NBFAC currently operates under a cost-sharing memorandum with the DHS, for the FBI to maintain ongoing operations at this facility. The Committee provides \$21,840,000 for the FBI's role at the NBFAC.

DOJ BUDGET LANGUAGE

FY25 Enacted DOJ Budget \$36.1b (110,554 positions), FY26 Budget Request \$33.6b (\$105,461 positions) Change from FY25 =7% (-\$2.5b, -5,093 positions). State and Local Grants are decreased in FY25 by 23.8% (\$823m).

OJP

OJP Grantmaking components will consolidate the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) and Violence Against Women (OVW) into the Office of Just Programs (OJP) to improve State and local law enforcement partnerships by eliminating redundancies in Departmental outreach.

High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program (HIDTA) – The FY 2026 Budget request proposes to fund and transfer the management of the HIDTA Program to OJP at a level of \$196 million. HIDTA's mission is to reduce drug trafficking and drug production in the United States by: facilitating cooperation among federal, state, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies to share information and implement coordinated enforcement activities; enhancing law enforcement intelligence sharing among federal, state, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies; providing reliable law enforcement intelligence to law enforcement agencies needed to design effective enforcement strategies and operations; and, supporting coordinated law enforcement strategies which maximize the use of available resources to reduce the supply of illegal drugs in designated areas and in the United States as a whole.

DEA

DEA State and Local Training and Technical Assistance - \$12.9m and 22 positions. DEA is ending its clandestine lab cleanup and training program for State and Local law enforcement. Discoveries of domestic clandestine labs have decreased by 99% since 2004 and most methamphetamine and illicit fentanyl production has shifted to Mexico. DEA will instead focus resources on the Administration's enforcement priorities within Title 21 and Title 8.

ATF

ATF Reduction – Crime Gun Tracing & Firearms/ Explosives Licensing: - \$19.5million, zero positions. Funding reductions will eliminate efforts to continue the Comprehensive Crime Gun Tracing Modernization (CCGTM) effort, eForms consolidation, testing for Institute of Makers of Explosives Safety Analysis for Risk (IMESA FR) software, and IT Enterprise Modernization (ITEM). There are currently more than 9,200 Federal, State, local, and foreign law enforcement agencies actively utilizing eTrace in support of criminal investigations involving firearms.

ATF is eliminated as a separate component and merged with DEA.

NIST

Budget still not available.

CDC

Budget Request CDC's FY 2026 budget request for Public Health Data Modernization is \$175,000,000. This request includes \$75,000,000 in budget authority and \$100,000,000 million in PHS Evaluation funds. In FY 2026, CDC will support the enhancement and expansion of core data sources for surveillance of disease threats by investing in critical infrastructure necessary to exchange data securely and in real time, across and with jurisdictional public health authorities, healthcare, and other federal agencies.

Program Accomplishments: Data Modernization investments have improved every aspect of public health data gathering and reporting so that all levels of government have faster, actionable insights for decision-making. CDC provided essential funding and support for collection and analyses, system modernization (e.g., cloud services), and capacity building at public health departments to implement new technological innovations. Because of modernization efforts, CDC has more data for decision-making, particularly across the core surveillance systems used by many CDC programs and public health partners, including the following examples:

- In as little as 8 seconds, eCR sends patient case reports to public health departments for more than 200 conditions, including biothreat agents, respiratory diseases, and infectious diseases.
- CDC built a new electronic pathway for COVID-19 laboratory-based diagnostic tests that has handled over one billion diagnostic test reports, reaching over 1.5 million per day, and is supporting the reporting for mpox, allowing CDC to evaluate testing practices, assess percent positivity, and inform response.
- Advancements in interoperability of immunization information systems have improved national situational awareness. Data pipelines have allowed for aggregate reporting of over one million mpox vaccine doses.

Funding for State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Jurisdictions: CDC will continue to provide direct funding and technical assistance to state, tribal, local, and territorial health departments to improve the timeliness and quality of core data, to support automated integrated surveillance and analytic capabilities, and improved interoperability with healthcare and CDC.

National Center for Injury Prevention and Control: \$550.1 million. The Budget provides \$550.1 million to collect data and leverage research to identify pressing health problems and promote evidence-based strategies to inform real-world solutions to address suicide prevention, rape, intimate partner and sexual violence prevention, violent deaths, and opioid overdose prevention and surveillance.

National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS): This program funds recipients to implement and maintain the NVDRS system, monitor and report data, and use this data to inform prevention efforts. Violence strains local economies, burdens law enforcement, and overwhelms social services, with 22,830 homicides and nearly 50,000 suicides recorded in 2023—one suicide every 11 minutes. Every \$1 invested in violence prevention saves at least \$5 in costs, including criminal justice and healthcare expenses, while NVDRS, covering all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico, collects critical data to guide prevention efforts. NVDRS is the only system that consolidates data from multiple sources, helping communities understand the causes of violent deaths and develop targeted, effective prevention strategies. NVDRS supports data collection on all forms of violent deaths and suicides. Information on suicide help determine the effectiveness of strategies to prevent suicidal behavior and expand the number of proven prevention activities. NVDRS data will also enhance understanding of homicides, including the circumstances surrounding these incidents—including mass and multiple homicides—to help create safer and healthier communities. Recent advancements in rapid data analysis give public health professionals and policymakers greater visibility into public health threats, allowing them to make decisions faster. NVDRS continues to use data science—such as

machine learning, natural language processing, and software automation—to enhance efficiencies and will continue to pursue linking NVDRS to other data sources. Opioid Overdose Prevention and Surveillance Overdose is the leading cause of death for Americans ages 18-44 and a major cause for those 45 and older, with the epidemic driven by an evolving array of substances, including illicit fentanyl, stimulants, and emerging drugs like xylazine. Overdose deaths cost the U.S. economy \$5.6 trillion, but community-based naloxone education and distribution can generate a \$2,742 return for every \$1 spent by saving lives. Recent CDC data show a 26.5% decline in overdose deaths in 2024, suggesting progress. This program supports state and local health department through initiatives like Overdose Data to Action (OD2A), the Overdose Response Strategy (ORS), and the Opioid Rapid Response Program (ORRP), helping communities use data to target prevention efforts, track emerging drug threats, and provide timely support to those at risk. All overdose prevention activities align with the Office of National Drug Control Policy’s (ONDCP) priorities, focusing on reducing overdose fatalities, especially from fentanyl, by collaborating with public health departments, drug intelligence officers, public safety officials, laboratories, hospitals, and community organizations to share real-time threat data, disrupt the illicit drug supply, and support local prevention efforts. The program also works to secure the global supply chain against drug trafficking, partnering with the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Program through the ORS to enhance information sharing and protect communities. Prevention is a key priority, with initiatives like the Drug-Free Communities Support Program targeting youth substance use and the CDC Clinical Practice Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Pain helping clinicians provide safe pain care. The program further supports innovative research, data systems, and surveillance to inform prevention strategies, with funding supporting grant management, performance reviews, and essential program operations.

HOUSE

Opioid Overdose Prevention Limitation on Administrative Expenses. – The Committee supports CDC’s activities to promote effective strategies to reduce addiction and overdose deaths but has concerns that funding for such activities is being diverted to support administrative costs. For fiscal year 2026, the Committee provides \$54,000,000 for salaries and expenses, level funding with fiscal year 2024. For the remainder of the funds within the account, the Committee directs that no less than 85 percent be provided to State, local, and Tribal health departments or systems.

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE). – The Committee continues \$15,000,000 for this activity. The Committee encourages HRSA to prioritize rural, Tribal, and underserved communities, and urban areas without 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 support of population-specific programs and hospitals including, but 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. The Committee notes that the ANEW program will re compete in fiscal year 2027. The Committee requests that HRSA provide information in the fiscal year 2027 congressional justification on the feasibility of establishing regional SANE training programs within the ANEW program that would establish a level of excellence in forensic nursing and prepare current and future sexual assault nurse examiners/forensic nurse examiners to be profession-ready and meet the applicable State certification and licensure requirements.

SENATE

Opioid or Other Drug Use and Overdose Prevention. – The Committee continues to encourage CDC to ensure that funding for opioid and stimulant use and overdose prevention, as well as other emerging substances and threats, reaches local communities to advance local understanding of the opioid overdose epidemic and to scale-up prevention and response activities. Additionally, CDC is directed to continue expansion of case-level syndromic surveillance data, improvements of interventions that monitor prescribing

and 96 dispensing practices, better timeliness and quality of morbidity and mortality data, as well as the enhancement of efforts with medical examiners and coroner offices.

Opioid Overdose Prevention and Surveillance. – The Committee notes that recent data shows a reduction in deaths from drug overdoses, including from dangerous opioids like fentanyl. While the data is trending in the right direction, the Committee is concerned that this progress could be interrupted by the delay in the release of funding for overdose prevention efforts, which help State and local health departments have the capacity to prevent deaths from overdoses. The Committee directs CDC to issue timely awards for this program and to provide a briefing to the Committees within 60 days of enactment on the Overdose Data to Action program, including how States have used the funding to reduce overdose deaths.

National Violent Death Reporting System. – The Committee recognizes the value of the National Violent Death Reporting System [NVDRS], as it is the only system in the United States that captures data on circumstances surrounding violent deaths, including suicides and homicides. Such data allow States and localities to detect and monitor circumstances that commonly precede violent death, investigate and respond to factors that increase risk for violent death, and inform opportunities for preventing premature death. Modernizing the systems through which these data flow is imperative to ensure the timeliness of these data and the ability to use them to inform prevention and response activities. Additionally, the Committee recognizes the value of near real-time syndromic surveillance data collected on nonfatal violence, suicide, and mental health-related emergency department visits, particularly as CDC has demonstrated the ability to link these innovative data with violent death and suicide mortality data. Given that syndromic surveillance data on violence, suicide, overdose, and mental health-related emergency department visits are obtained through CDC’s existing National Syndromic Surveillance Program, the Committee encourages CDC to identify ways to streamline these two data sources—nonfatal and fatal violence-related data. Further, the Committee encourages CDC to identify opportunities to use existing data science analytic tools and artificial intelligence (e.g., those available via CDC’s Enterprise Data, Analytics, and Visualization platform) to reduce time spent by States in manually abstracting violent death circumstance data.

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners Program. – The Committee provides \$15,000,000 to support training and certification of RNs, advanced practice registered nurses [APRNs], and forensic nurses to practice as sexual assault nurse examiners.

HOUSE CJS MEMBER REQUESTS

Requestor	Project	Cost	Member of Congress Support
Augusta University	Rapid Fentanyl Detection	\$450,000 (NIST)	Carter (GA)
University of Central OK	Forensic Science Institute	\$283,819 (Byrne)	Bice
Hernando County Sheriff’s Office (FL)	Digital and Biological Forensic Capabilities Enhancements	\$2,873,000 (Byrne)	Bilirakis
Ventura County Sheriffs Office (CA)	Unidentified and Missing Persons Forensic Genetic Genealogy Testing Initiative	\$700,000 (Byrne)	Carbajal
Ventura County Sheriff’s Forensic Science Bureau (CA)	DNA Automated Workflow Project	\$900,000 (Byrne)	Brownley
Jefferson Parish Coroner’s Office (LA)	Advanced Forensic Center Equipment Project	\$1,031,000 (Byrne)	Carter

Requestor	Project	Cost	Member of Congress Support
Cleveland County Sherriff's Office (OH)	Rapid DNA System	\$970,000 (Byrne)	Cole
Fairfax County Government (VA)	DNA Forensic Project	\$150,000 (Byrne)	Connolly
City of Great Falls Police Dept (MT)	Crime Scene Laser Scanner and Crime Scene Processing Equipment	\$128,686 (Byrne)	Downing
Thornton City (CO)	Thornton Crime Lab Enhancements	\$420,000 (Byrne)	Evans
City of Mobile (AL)	Mobile Command Center and Crime Scene and Evidence Recovery Vehicle Project	\$1,031,000 (Byrne)	Figures
Houston Forensic Science Center (TX)	Optimization of Legacy Drug Testing	\$1,031,000 (Byrne)	Fletcher
Kane County Coroner's Office (IL)	Equipping the Kane County Forensic Lab	\$1,031,000 (Byrne)	Foster
Long Beach (CA)	DNA Lab	\$1,031,000 (Byrne)	Garcia
Charles Cuntly Sherriff's Office (MD)	Digital Forensic Unit Upgrade	\$534,000 (Byrne)	Hoyer
Siskiyou County Sherriff (CA)	DNA Testing Equipment	\$302,899 (Byrne)	LaMalfa
Indian River State College (FL)	Law Enforcement Ballistics Innovation and Testing Center at Indian River State College	\$900,000 (Byrne)	Mast
Queens County District Attorney's Office (NY)	Upholding the Rule of Law and Preventing Wrongful Conviction Program	\$300,000	Meng/Gillibrand
Onslow County Sherriff's Office (NC)	Rapid DNA	\$682,553 (Byrne)	Murphy
Loyola University (MD)	Forensic Science Program	\$965,000 (Byrne)	Olszewski
University of WI	Criminal Justice Forensic Assistance Program	\$1,031,000 (Byrne)	Pecan
Montgomery County Police (MD)	Forensic Laboratory Capabilities Enhancement	\$1,031,000 (Byrne)	Raskin
Clermont County Coroners (OH)	Forensics Lab	\$408,800 (Byrne)	Taylor
Texas Health Resources	Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners Program	\$269,186 (Byrne)	Van Duyune
JPS Health Network (TX)	Forensic Nursing Services Expansion	\$1,000,000 (Byrne)	Veasey

SENATE CJS MEMBER REQUESTS

Requestor	Project	Cost	Member of Congress Support
Delaware Division of Forensic Science (DE)	Forensic Science Equipment	\$700,000 (Byrne)	Blunt, Coon
New Jersey State Police (NJ)	Firearms Investigation Unit Capacity Expansion	\$200,000 (Byrne)	Booker
Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences (AL)	Law Enforcement Investigations Enhancement	\$750,000	Britt
Marshall Univ (WV)	Forensic Genomic Institute	\$2,500,000 (Byrne)	Capito
Jefferson Parish Coroner's Office (LA)	Advanced Forensic Center Equipment Project	\$1,395,000 (Byrne)	Cassidy, Kennedy
Albuquerque (NM)	Forensic Laboratory and Crime Scene Processing Equipment	\$908,000 (Byrne)	Heinrich
Bernalillo County Sheriffs Office (NM)	Forensic and Crime Scene Reconstruction Equipment	\$1,050,000 (Byrne)	Heinrich
City of Farmington (NM)	Crime Forensic Equipment	\$629,000 (Byrne)	Heinrich
City of Las Cruces (NM)	Crime Forensic Equipment	\$1,000,000 (Byrne)	Heinrich
Gallup Police Dept (NM)	Crime Scene Reconstruction Equipment	\$115,000 (Byrne)	Heinrich
University of NM, Office of Medical Investigator (NM)	DNA Processing Laboratory	\$1,000,000 (Byrne)	Heinrich, Lujan
Mississippi State University	Forensic Science Institute and Digital Forensic Lab	\$2,500,000 (Byrne)	Hyde-Smith, Wicker
Fulton County Medical Examiner (GA)	Unidentified and Missing Persons Forensic Genetic Genealogy Testing Initiative	\$362,000 (Byrne)	Ossoff
Satilla Health Foundation, Inc, (GA)	Forensic Interview Equipment	\$92,000 (Byrne)	Ossoff
Van Buren County (MI)	DNA Analysis Technology	\$576,000 (Byrne)	Peters
Charles County Sheriff's Office	Digital Forensics Unit	\$533,000 (Byrne)	Alsobrooks, Van Holland
Montgomery County, (MD)	Enhancing Crime Lab Forensic Capabilities	\$1,192,000 (Byrne)	Alsobrooks, Van Holland
Carson City Sheriff's Office (NV)	Rapid DNA Instrument	\$450,000 (COPS)	Cortez
Pittsburg County Sheriff's Office (PA)	Rapid DNA Program	\$500,000 (COPS)	Mullin
Union County Sheriff's Office (NC)	Rapid DNA Instrumentation	\$861,000	Tillis