



Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations

- American Academy of Forensic Sciences
- American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law
- American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors
- International Association for Identification
- National Association of Medical Examiners
- Society of Forensic Toxicologists and American Board of Forensic Toxicology

PROGRAM	PRESIDENT	HAC (House Appropriations Committee)	SAC (Senate Appropriations Committee)	FINAL
DOJ				
Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants				\$415m
Coverdell	\$13m with \$2.4 carve out for NamUs	\$0	\$13.5m	\$30m
DNA Debbie Smith Bloodsworth SAFE	\$105m • \$97m • \$4m • \$4m	\$125m • \$117 m • \$ 4m • \$ 4m	\$125m • \$117m • \$ 4m • \$ 4m	\$130m • \$120m • \$ 6m • \$ 4m
SAKI		\$45m	\$45m	
NAMUS	\$2.4 Carve out of Coverdell	\$2.4m not in Coverdell	\$2.4m not in Coverdell	\$2.4m in Byrne
CARA				\$330m
OSAC	\$4m		\$4m • \$3m OSAC • \$1m technical merit evaluations	\$4m • \$3m OSAC • \$1m technical merit evaluations
CDC				

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Opioid Prescription Drug Overdose (PDO) Prevention Activity				\$475m
National Violent Death Reporting System				\$23.5m

LANGUAGE

DOJ

PRESIDENTIAL	HAC	SAC	FINAL
		<p><i>DOJ’s Task Force on Crime Reduction and Public Safety and Subcommittee on Forensics</i>—The Committee directs the Department to provide a report not later than 90 days after enactment of this act with the following: an explanation of the methods and programs by which the DOJ will be assisting the state, local, and tribal forensic science community in tackling the opioid crisis through the work of the Subcommittee on Forensics; a plan as to how the Office of Forensic Investigative Sciences, within the National Institute of Justice, will solicit the input of state, county, local and tribal forensic science service</p>	

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		<p>providers, agencies and practitioners regarding grant programs; and how the DOJ plans to coordinate with NIST's Organization of Scientific Area Committees.</p>	
	<p>DNA initiative—The recommendation includes \$125,000,000 for DNA-related and forensic programs and activities, an increase of \$20,000,000 above the request and the same as the fiscal year 2017 level. Within the funds provided, the Committee provides \$4,000,000 each for Post-Conviction DNA Testing grants and Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Program grants. The Committee expects that OJP will make funding for DNA analysis and capacity enhancement a priority to meet the purposes of the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program. The Committee directs the Department to submit, as part of its spending plan, a plan for the use of all funds appropriated for DNA-related and forensic programs and a report on the alignment</p>	<p>DNA Backlog and Crime Lab Improvements—The Committee is once again extremely disappointed that the Department's budget request slashes funding by \$20,000,000 for critical grant programs to help state and local agencies address their backlogs and test forensic evidence. The Committee continues its strong support for DNA backlog and crime lab improvements by recommending \$125,000,000 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 funds provided, \$117,000,000 is for Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Reduction grants, \$4,000,000 is for Kirk Bloodsworth Post-Conviction DNA Testing grants, and \$4,000,000 is for Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners grants. From within the</p>	

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	<p>of appropriated funds with the authorized purposes of the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program.</p>	<p>funding provided for Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Reduction grants, the Committee expects the Department to prioritize reducing rape kit backlogs, given that it is the primary reason why the Committee continues to provide robust funding for these grants. As clarified in the Justice For All Reauthorization Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-324), the Committee directs the Department to provide not less than 75 percent of the total grant amounts for direct testing activities to reduce the backlog. The Committee further directs DOJ to provide at least 5 percent of funds to law enforcement agencies to conduct audits of their backlogged rape kits and to prioritize testing in those cases in which the statute of limitations will soon expire, as authorized by the Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Reporting Act of 2013 (Public Law 113-4). 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 to the</p>	
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		<p>Committee as part of its spending plan for State and Local Law Enforcement Activities a plan with respect to funds appropriated for DNA-related and forensic programs, including the alignment of appropriated funds with the authorized purposes of the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program.</p>	
<p><i>Community Teams to Address the Sexual Assault Kit (SAK) Backlog</i>—This program addresses a common gap in response to rape and sexual assault at the state, local, and tribal levels by promoting the timely resolution of cases associated with sexual assault kits (SAKs) that have never been submitted for forensic DNA testing or are backlogged at crime labs. Grants awarded through this program support community efforts to identify critical needs in the areas of sexual assault prevention, investigation, prosecution, and victim’s services, and then implement</p>		<p><i>Reducing the Rape Kit Backlog</i>—The Committee’s recommendation includes \$45,000,000 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. The NIJ shall provide competitively awarded grants with a comprehensive community-based approach to addressing the resolution of cases in the backlog. The Committee directs the NIJ to provide a report not later than 90 days after enactment of this act on its progress in developing a strategy and model to serve as best practices for discovering and testing kits, training law enforcement, and supporting victims throughout the</p>	

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<p>strategies to address these needs. The 2018 Budget proposes \$45 million for this program.</p>		<p>process as required by Public Law 113-235.</p>	
		<p><i>Training for Forensic Services</i>—The Committee is interested in solution-based approaches to train local law enforcement officers and utilize available technology to reduce court backlogs and prosecutions. To the extent appropriate, OJP should explore ways to provide resources for multi-jurisdictional forensic service providers, in collaboration with universities and nonprofits, to provide access to forensic expertise, assistance, and continuing education to law enforcement agencies. The Committee encourages OJP to remind awardees that these objectives could also be met through the Byrne-JAG program.</p>	
<p><i>Paul Coverdell Forensic Science</i></p>			<p><i>Paul Coverdell Forensic Science</i>—The alarming proliferation of heroin and synthetic drugs like fentanyl have had a crushing effect on state crime labs, resulting in a</p>

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			<p>significant increase in the backlog. Synthetics in particular take much longer to analyze than traditional drugs and chemicals. Medical examiners and pathologists have also been overwhelmed with the volume of autopsies as a result of heroin and synthetic drug-related overdose deaths. The recommendation provides an additional \$17,000,000 for the Coverdell program to specifically target the challenges the opioid epidemic has brought to the forensics community.</p>
<p>Forensic Science Improvement—Continuous improvement is needed in the forensic sciences, which are crucial to ensuring the accuracy of evidence</p>		<p>Forensic Sciences—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2017 amount for forensic science research. Additionally, the Committee provides \$3,000,000 to support the Organization of Scientific</p>	<p>Conference/Omnibus adopts Senate language</p>

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<p>presented in criminal justice trials. The 2018 Budget proposes \$4 million for this program. Of this amount, \$3 million will be transferred by NIJ to NIST for measurement science and standards in support of forensic science.</p>		<p>Area Committees and \$1,000,000 to support technical merit evaluations previously funded by transfer from DOJ.</p> <p>Forensic Initiative—Due to the sunset of DOJ’s National Commission on Forensic Science on April 23, 2017, direct funding for Scientific Working Groups is provided in Title I under the National Institute of Standards and Technology.</p>	
		<p>Cooperation with State and Local Forensic Crime Laboratory Community—The Committee encourages the DEA to collaborate and share any available resources with state and local forensic crime laboratories in their critical efforts to combat the growing use of synthetic drugs.</p>	
	<p>Competitive grants—The Committee urges the Department to prioritize improving forensic interview training for child abuse</p>	<p>Economic, High-Tech, White Collar, and Cybercrime Prevention—The Committee recommends \$14,000,000 to assist state and local law enforcement agencies in the prevention, investigation, and prosecution of economic, high-tech,</p>	

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	<p>investigation and prosecution professionals.</p> <p><i>Forensics and cybercrime training</i>—The Committee is aware of a number of programs surrounding trafficking offenses, sex crimes, and domestic violence that provide support to state and local law enforcement and prosecutors. The Committee encourages OJP to increase efforts to provide state and local prosecutors with training, particularly train the trainer, and trial experience in cybercrimes and digital evidence.</p> <p>The Committee is also encouraged by efforts to expand the ability of academic forensic technology programs to assist the Department in identifying online crime, hate, and terror groups.</p>	<p>and Internet crimes. Given the importance of protecting our Nation’s new technologies, ideas, and products, the Committee includes the request of \$2,500,000 for competitive grants that help state and local law enforcement tackle intellectual property (IP) thefts, such as counterfeiting and piracy. With the growing prevalence of cybercrimes and the ubiquitous nature of the existence of digital evidence in nearly every crime committed, the Committee is concerned that insufficient training and support of law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges could hinder the investigation and prosecution of cyber and traditional crimes. Within the funds provided, \$1,000,000 is for the continuation of a Cybercrime and Digital Evidence Resource Prosecutor Pilot Program to provide state and local prosecutors with training and trial experience in cybercrimes and digital evidence. Additionally, the Committee recognizes the need to expand opportunities for computer and digital forensics education at both the undergraduate and graduate</p>	
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		<p>levels in order to prepare for these challenges. Within the funds provided, \$1,000,000 shall be dedicated to establish a partnership with an institution for higher learning for the purposes of furthering educational opportunities for students training in computer forensics and digital investigation.</p>	
	<p><i>Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne/JAG) program</i>—The Committee advises that some Byrne/JAG funds be directed to provide newer, more efficient forensics testing tools for rural jurisdictions.</p>		
			<p><i>Compliance with Federal laws</i>—The agreement does not include section 554 of the House bill regarding funding for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP). The agreement adopts Senate language directing the Department to ensure</p>

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			<p>that all applicants for Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants (Byrne-JAG), Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grants, and SCAAP funds are in compliance with all applicable Federal laws</p>
			<p><i>Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) programs</i>—The agreement provides a total of \$330,000,000 for DOJ's CARA programs, an increase of \$227,000,000 above the fiscal year 2017 level, including \$132,000,000 above the fiscal year 2017 level for the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program (COAP). It is expected</p>

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			<p>that the Bureau of Justice Assistance will not only be able to make additional site-based program awards under the existing COAP structure, but will be able to expand COAP offerings to include prevention and education programs for youth, community engagement by law enforcement, response teams to assist children dealing with the aftermath of opioid addiction, and family court programming relating to treatment for opioids. Senate report language on the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) model is adopted.</p>
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CDC

PROGRAM	HAC (House Appropriations Committee)	SAC (Senate Appropriations Committee)	FINAL
<p><i>Opioid Prescription Drug Overdose (PDO) Prevention Activity</i></p>			<p><i>Opioid Prescription Drug Overdose (PDO) Prevention Activity—</i> The agreement includes \$475,579,000, an increase of \$350,000,000, and reflects continued strong support of CDC PDO activities. As such, it reiterates support for the interconnected language in both the House and the Senate reports on this issue. CDC shall use the provided funds to advance the understanding of the opioid overdose epidemic and scale up prevention activities across all 50 states and Washington, DC. The</p>

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			<p>agreement expects that this will include the expansion of case-level syndromic surveillance data, improvements of interventions that monitor prescribing and dispensing practices, better timeliness and quality of morbidity and mortality data, as well as the enhancement of efforts with medical examiners and coroner offices. CDC shall promote the use of Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs), including implementation of activities described in the National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting Act of 2005 as amended by the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016. This shall include</p>
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			<p>continuing to expand efforts to enhance the utility of PDMPs in states and communities, making them more interconnected, real-time, and usable for public health surveillance and clinical decision making. CDC shall also promote alternative surveillance programs for states and communities that do not have a PDMP. CDC is encouraged to work with the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology to enhance the integration of PDMPs and electronic health records. Finally, CDC shall use \$10,000,000 of the funds provided to conduct an opioid nationwide awareness</p>
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			and education campaign.
<i>National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS)</i>			<i>National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS)</i> — The agreement includes an increase in funding to expand the NVDRS to all 50 states and the District of Columbia, which will allow researchers, practitioners, and policymakers to get a more complete understanding of violent deaths in the United States.