

Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations (CFSO)

AAFS UPDATE 2020

The Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations (CFSO)



- IAI
- AAFS
- ASCLD
- AAPL
- NAME
- SOFT/ABFT

The mission of the CFSO is to speak with a single forensic science voice in matters of mutual interest to its member organizations, 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 offices.

Washington...will it ever be the same?



BUDGET

FY21 (Presidents Budget Submission)

- \$10m Coverdell Funding
- \$105m DNA Funding
- \$47m SAKI
- \$43.5m to NIJ for research (including but not dedicated to forensics)
- \$4m SAFE (Sexual Assault Forensic Exam)
- \$19m for other forensic science activities
- \$0 NIST OSAC

Budget Status

FY20

(FINAL)

- **Coverdell funding \$30m**
- **DNA funding \$132m**
 - **Debbie Smith \$102m**
 - **State and Local \$19m**
 - **Kirk Bloodsworth \$7m**
 - **SAFE \$4m**
 - **SAKI \$47.5m**
- **OSAC \$3.15m, Forensic Technical Merit \$1m**
- **Enhanced State Opioid Overdose Surveillance (ESOOS) for 50 states**

Budget Results

FY19

(October 2018-September 2019)

- **\$30m in Coverdell funding (\$11m above authorization)**
- **\$132m in DNA funding**
- **\$48m SAKI**
- **\$3m in funding for NIST OSAC**
- **\$1m Forensic technical merit**
- **Fully funded Enhanced State Opioid Overdose Surveillance (ESOOS) for 50 states**

National Forensic Science Week

Legislation is in recognition of the importance of forensic science in the criminal justice community

FY20

- H.Res.572, pending (Sponsored by Representative Fulcher—ID)
- S.Res.320, passed Senate (Sponsored by Senator Crapo – ID)

• FY21

- Briefed Hill to introduce early this year

• Community recognizes this with:

- Outreach to policy makers and stakeholders (tours/meetings)
- Engagement with community (tours/presentations)
- Rewards to acknowledge practitioners (lunches, awards, fun)

H.R. 777, Debbie Smith Act

- 12/30/2019 Became PL 116-104
- Three versions moved between the House and Senate
 - Straight reauthorization included in the Violence Against Women Act
 - S. 820, includes oversight language and GAO recommendations
 - H.R. 777, includes only oversight language-became law
- GAO provided Congress a letter ensuring implementation of its recommendation

Fentanyl Rescheduling-S. 3201

- ‘Temporary Reauthorization and Study of the Emergency Scheduling of Fentanyl Analogues Act’.
 - Bill was held up due to concerns about research and minimum mandatory sentencing
 - The House held a 3 hour hearing to discuss the concerns
 - The legislation was passed:
 - Extends scheduling to May 6, 2021
 - Calls for a GAO study to evaluate class control of fentanyl-related substances to include:
 - The definition of the class of fentanyl related substances including the process by which the definition is formulated
 - Review impact of controls on public health and safety
 - Review the impact of international regulatory controls of supply
 - Impact of screening at points of entry
 - Recommend best practices
 - Review impact by classification on scientific and biomedical research
 - Evaluate process used to obtain or modify authorization to conduct research
- Seeking input from outside groups during study period of 1 year

Scarlett's Sunshine Act

- S. 1130 (Mark up set for October 31) and H.R. 2271 (pending and need co-sponsors)
- Improves national guidelines and data consistency by directing the CDC to authorize grants to state and local agencies to amend guidelines for sudden infant death investigation to be inclusive of sudden unexpected deaths of children under age 5 years.
- Authorizes funding for essential grants including:
 - \$8 Million annually to improve the completion of comprehensive death scene and autopsy investigations for cases of sudden unexpected deaths in infancy and childhood.
 - \$2 Million annually to provide training grants for the specialized training required for pediatric death scene investigation training.
 - \$15 Million annually to support states in reviewing 100% of child deaths and to develop and implement prevention strategies.
 - \$1 Million annually to enhance the national fatality review case reporting system.
 - \$33 Million over 5 years to support evidence-based approaches for educational programs, and outreach activities focused on decreasing the risk factors that contribute to sleep-related SUID.
- Establishes new monitoring measures by requiring biennial reports to Congress to include the absolute number and incidence of SUID/SUDC, actions undertaken, and any new recommendations.

Legislative Initiatives – Early Stages and Continuing

- Reauthorization Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Act
 - Increase funding to match or exceed appropriations
 - Address accreditation matter
 - ACTION: Please review for potential edits
- Potential Opioid legislation in Energy & Commerce Committee
 - ACTION: please provide needs of community for potential hearing and legislation. Note focus is database.
- OFS
- OSAC Codification
 - House (hearing and legislation yet to be introduced)
 - Senate (draft legislation)

Legislative Initiatives – Early Stages and Continuing

- OSAC Codification

- House (hearing and legislation yet to be introduced)
 - The AAFS pleased to be invited by the United States Congress House Science Committee to testify about the accomplishments of the forensic science community over the last ten years. AAFS worked with CFSO, its lobbying arm, to provide a witness and ensure the community was well represented.
<https://science.house.gov/hearings/raising-the-bar-progress-and-future-needs-in-forensic-science>

- Senate (draft legislation)

Legislative Efforts Highlights

Multiple meetings in Washington DC which included:

- Senate and House Judiciary Committees
- Senate and House Appropriations Committees
- House Energy and Commerce Committee (Senate request pending)
- House and Senate Science Committees
- Personal offices of numerous Congressmen and Senators
- Leadership in House and Senate

Legislative Efforts Highlights

Multiple meetings in Washington DC which included:

- NIJ, OJP, DOJ, BJA, OVW, OAG, ODAG, NHTSA, OMB, GAO, NIST, CDC
- House Science Committee staff (support of OSAC and general overview)
- Multiple meetings on forensic needs assessment at DOJ
- Meetings with NIJ regarding Pathologist shortages and forensic scientist workforce shortages
- CFSO OSAC 2.0+ strategy session in Washington DC with CFSO members
- Participated in NIST Quality Assurance conference in Washington DC
- Participated in planning survey of federally funded FSSPs meeting at RTI
- AAAS Meeting on 10 years post NAS report in Washington DC

Publications and News Releases

General:

- [Comments to the federal register for the USDA Hemp regulations open comment period](#)
- [CFSO Press Release on DOJ Interim Policy on Genealogy](#)
- [CFSO FY20 June 2019 Forensic Update](#)
- [Stakeholders Letter on Byrne JAG in FY20 with signatures](#)
- [CFSO Recognizes NAS Tenth Anniversary](#)

Needs Assessment:

- [The Forensic Science Community Needs \\$1 Billion Dollars Annually \(December 20, 2019\)](#)
- [ASCLD Comments to NIJ's 2019 Needs Assessment Report \(December 20, 2019\)](#)
- [AAFS Response to Needs Assessment Release](#)
- [IAI Needs Assessment Response 2019](#)

Needs Assessment Released—December 2019

- Listening Sessions
- Draft editing
- Publicity
- Legislative Strategy

REPORT TO CONGRESS

**Needs Assessment of Forensic Laboratories
and Medical Examiner/Coroner Offices**

Newsletters to membership:

- September 2019—
 - **House Science, Space, and Technology Forensic Science Hearing**
 - **National Forensic Science Week**
 - **House Committee on Energy and Commerce Hearing**
 - **Debbie Smith Bill Reauthorization Update**
- October 2019—
 - **Support for DOJ Policy on Molecular Genealogy**
 - **House Science, Space, and Technology Forensic Science Hearing**
 - **Debbie Smith Act Reauthorization Update**
 - **FY20 Federal Forensic Science Budget Update**
- January 2020—
 - **Forensic Science Needs Assessment Published**
 - **Debbie Smith Act Reauthorization Final**
 - **FY20 Federal Forensic Science Budget Final**

FEDERAL EFFORTS FLN-TWG

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ), in partnership with the Forensic Technology Center of Excellence (FTCoE) at RTI International (Research Triangle Institute), has formed the Forensic Laboratory Needs - Technology Working Group (FLN-TWG). The FLN-TWG will support NIJ's mission to improve knowledge and understanding of the forensic technology needs of federal, state, local, and tribal forensic practitioners and crime laboratories.

- Black/White Box Studies
- Technology transfer
- Research and other needs of community

Value of Partnership

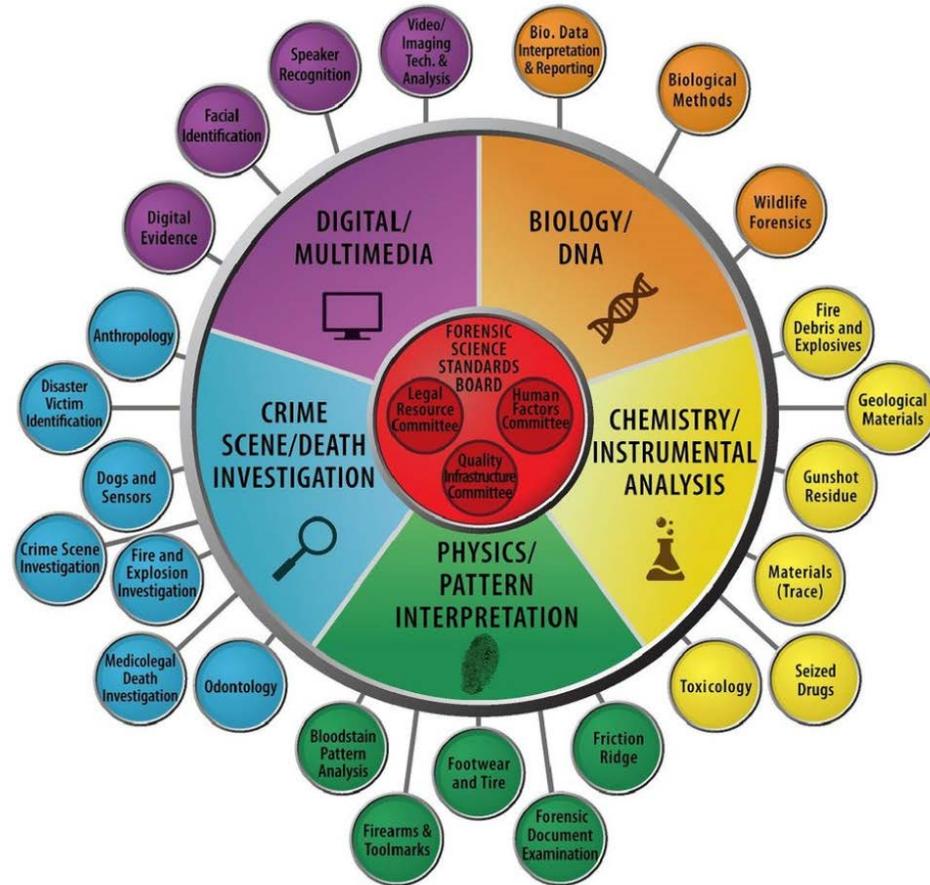
- Accreditation Initiative (ASCLD/IAI)
- Puerto Rico (ASCLD/AAFS Anthropology/NAME)
- ISO TAG (AAFS ASB/ASCLD/IAI)
- Trauma and Stress Working Group (ASCLD/AAPL/AAFS)

OTHER EFFORTS—(AAPL)

- Arnold Ventures (January 2019)
 - Prison Reform- Looking for partners to develop ideas on how to transform the corrections system
 - Grant in March 2019 "Planning Initiative to Build Bridges Between Jail and Community-Based Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder"
 - Publication of several papers on Vision for Prison Reform, Levers of Change in Parole Release
- Charles Koch Foundation
 - Providing grants to examine effect of sentencing reform on individuals, families and communities as well as the causes, costs and consequences
- Urban Institute
 - Roundtable on Prison Research and Innovation in DC Nov. 1 (live streamed)

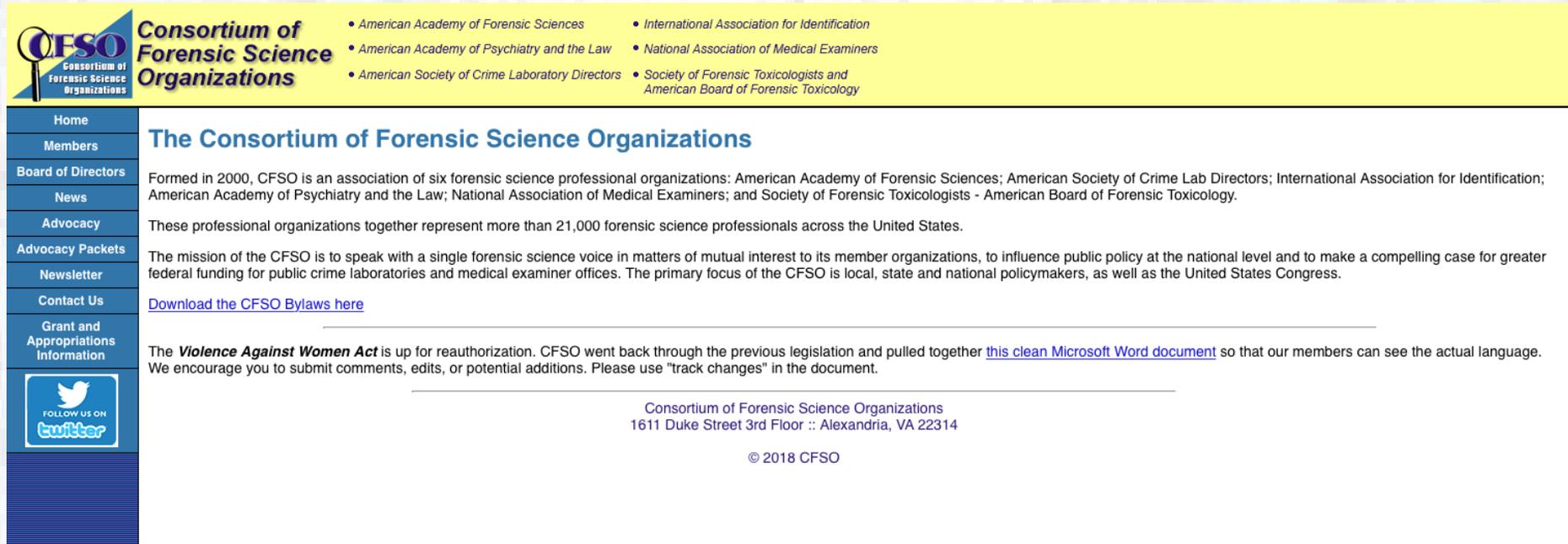
OSAC 2.0

Presently OSAC 1.0



Resources

- Visit our website: CFSO.org



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations (CFSO). The header features the CFSO logo and the text "Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations". Below the logo, there is a list of member 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, and Society of Forensic Toxicologists and American Board of Forensic Toxicology.

The main content area is titled "The Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations" and includes the following text:

Formed in 2000, CFSO is an association of six forensic science professional organizations: American Academy of Forensic Sciences; American Society of Crime Lab Directors; International Association for Identification; American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law; National Association of Medical Examiners; and Society of Forensic Toxicologists - American Board of Forensic Toxicology.

These professional organizations together represent more than 21,000 forensic science professionals across the United States.

The mission of the CFSO is to speak with a single forensic science voice in matters of mutual interest to its member organizations, 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 offices. The primary focus of the CFSO is local, state and national policymakers, as well as the United States Congress.

[Download the CFSO Bylaws here](#)

The **Violence Against Women Act** is up for reauthorization. CFSO went back through the previous legislation and pulled together [this clean Microsoft Word document](#) so that our members can see the actual language. We encourage you to submit comments, edits, or potential additions. Please use "track changes" in the document.

Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations
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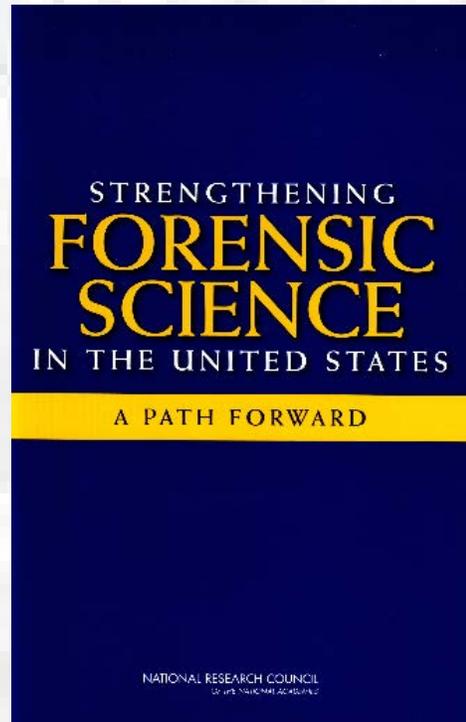
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The left sidebar contains navigation links: Home, Members, Board of Directors, News, Advocacy, Advocacy Packets, Newsletter, Contact Us, and Grant and Appropriations Information. There is also a "FOLLOW US ON twitter" button.

- Watch for newsletters and emails from CFSO through your CFSO Rep

Ten year anniversary of the NAS Report (AAAS Meeting)

- NCFS
- OSAC
- Black Box Studies
- SoFS
- FTCoE
- Needs Assessment
- AAAS Reports
- PCAST Report
- GAO Reports



- NIJ/NIST Investments in R&D
- NIJ/BJA Grant Funding Increases
- DAG Forensic Science Advisor
- FLN-TWG
- Increased Congressional Interest
- Interest from other Federal Agencies
- Higher Prioritization by Federal Government
- More Accreditation and Certification

Things to watch for:

- Forensic Grants at DOJ moving to BJA
- Forensic Needs Assessment Follow-up
- Fordham Law School Training (June 2020)
- FLN-TWG Meetings and Publications
- National Forensic Science Week (September 2020)
- NAAG/ASCLD Puerto Rico Forensic Science Training (December 2020)
- Survey of Federally Funded Laboratories (including digital forensics labs)