

FAQs

FY 2023 DNA CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT FOR BACKLOG REDUCTION (CEBR) PROGRAM UPDATES AND CHANGES FAQs

What is the DNA CEBR Program?

The DNA CEBR Program provides funding to states and units of local government with existing crime laboratories that conduct DNA analyses to increase the capacity of publicly funded forensic DNA and DNA database laboratories to process more DNA samples for entry into the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), thereby helping to reduce the number of forensic DNA and DNA database samples awaiting analysis and/or prevent a backlog of forensic and database DNA samples.

Why are changes being made to the FY23 DNA CEBR Program solicitation?

Updates are being made to the FY23 DNA CEBR Program to align with 34 U.S.C. 40701: The Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program.

What are the changes being made to the FY23 DNA CEBR solicitation?

While allowable uses for funding will continue to support the testing of crime scene and database samples for entry into CODIS and to increase the capacity of laboratories to process samples for CODIS, there will be four additional eligibility requirements. These additional requirements, as well as the eligibility requirements from FY22, will be streamlined on a certification form to be signed by the chief executive officer of the state or unit of local government. See page 2.

Will the secondary allocation of funding for “test all” sexual assault kit testing continue to be available under the FY23 DNA CEBR program?

No, there will no longer be funding available for “test all” sexual assault kit testing. That portion of funding will instead be competed in FY23 for grantees to maximize the effective utilization of DNA technology to solve crimes and protect public safety.



BJA
Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice

ABOUT BJA

BJA helps America's state, local, and tribal jurisdictions reduce and prevent crime, lower recidivism, and promote a fair and safe criminal justice system. BJA provides a wide range of resources, including grants and funding, training and technical assistance, to law enforcement, courts and corrections agencies, treatment providers, reentry practitioners, justice information sharing professionals, and community-based partners to address chronic and emerging criminal justice challenges nationwide. To learn more about BJA, visit bja.ojp.gov or follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/DOJBJA) and Twitter ([@DOJBJA](https://twitter.com/DOJBJA)).

BJA is a component of the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs.

How will the changes to the FY23 DNA CEBR Program solicitation impact applicants?

The application process will be streamlined in JustGrants, primarily using an eligibility certification form. Applicants will need to have their chief executive officer sign this form that includes the following new eligibility requirements referenced on page 1:

- A. Specify the portion of funding [minimum of 40% of the award amount] that shall be used to carry out DNA analyses of samples from crime scenes for inclusion in CODIS.
- B. Specify the portion of funding that shall be used to increase the capacity of the laboratory to carry out DNA analyses of database and crime scene samples.
- C. Provide assurances that the state or unit of local government has implemented, or will implement, not later than 120 days after the date of such application, a comprehensive plan for the expeditious DNA analyses of samples in accordance with the purposes of the solicitation.
- D. Provide assurances that the DNA section of the laboratory to be used to conduct DNA analyses has a written policy that prioritizes the analysis of, to the extent practicable and consistent with public safety considerations, samples from homicides and sexual assaults.

Additionally, a portion of funding will be made available to interested applicants in a competitive

manner to maximize the effective utilization of DNA technology to solve crimes and protect public safety. This portion of the program is designed to enhance the ability of jurisdictions to enact meaningful change to improve their capacity and/or timeliness to process DNA samples for entry into CODIS.

When will these changes go into effect?

These changes will take place with the posting of the FY23 DNA CEBR Program solicitation, pursuant to congressional appropriations. These changes will not impact previous awards made under the DNA CEBR Program.

Will additional information be released about these changes to the DNA CEBR Program?

BJA will host several public webinars in the upcoming months. Each webinar will have time set aside for questions and answers. Notifications of these webinars will be posted to the BJA website at bja.ojp.gov. In addition, BJA encourages interested applicants to subscribe to receive e-notifications on funding opportunities at: <https://bja.ojp.gov/subscribe>. BJA also strongly advises applicants to familiarize themselves with Grants.gov and JustGrants at: <http://justicegrants.usdoj.gov>.

If you have any further questions, please reach out to the DNA CEBR Team at: forensic.dnacapacity@ojp.usdoj.gov.