BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (NOFO) OVERVIEW

FY25 PAUL COVERDELL FORENSIC SCIENCE IMPROVEMENT — FORMULA GRANTS PROGRAM

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

GRANTS.GOV:
OCTOBER 27, 2025

JUSTGRANTS:
NOVEMBER 3, 2025

Who may apply:

- State governments.

Why Apply:

Receive funding to improve forensic science and medical examiner/coroner services, including services provided by forensic science laboratories operated by states and units of local government.

Maximum per award:

For the formula-based program, the amounts per state are available at: bja.ojp.gov/funding/fy25-coverdell-formula-funds.pdf

BJA encourages the following entities to apply:

- Convening or governing bodies that can apply on behalf of one or more entities.

Examples of strategies/ activities that can be funded:

- Improve the quality and timeliness of forensic science or medical examiner/ coroner services.
- Eliminate any backlog in the analysis of forensic science evidence.
- Train, assist, and employ forensic laboratory personnel and medicolegal death investigators.
- Address emerging forensic science issues and technology.
- Educate and train forensic pathologists.
- Facilitate accreditation.
- Address the specific challenges related to the proliferation of opioids and synthetic drugs.

Where to get more information about this opportunity:

Visit https://bja.ojp.gov/program/coverdell/overview for more information about the program and bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-bja-2025-172447 for full funding information.

Tips for Success:

- **Start early!** To apply, you must first have a valid registration in the System for Award Management (SAM). **Registration and renewal can take up to 10 business days** to complete. Register at: sam.gov/content/home.
- For **questions** about the program's requirements or the application process, see the full Notice of Funding Opportunity at www.ojp.gov/funding/docs/bja-2025-172447.pdf.
- Visit the **BJA Funding Webinars** page at bja.ojp.gov/events/funding-webinars for applicant and grantee trainings.
- **Subscribe** for email notifications from BJA about funding opportunities and other news at: bja.ojp.gov/subscribe-news-bja.
- To be in the know about funding opportunities across the Office of Justice Programs, sign up to receive **Justice Programs News & Funding** at www.ojp.gov/news/justice-programs-news-funding and/or the weekly **Funding News** at public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDOJOJP_COMMS/subscriber/new?topic_id=USDOJOJP_COMMS_25.

How to apply and when:

Submit a two-step application.

1. Register in Grants.gov and follow the prompts to submit the SF-424 form by October 27, 2025.
2. Then complete the full application in JustGrants.usdoj.gov by November 3, 2025. The application's major elements are:
   a. The **proposal abstract** that summarizes the problem you wish to address with your project (no more than 400 words).
   b. The **proposal narrative** that describes your project's strategies, activities, and major deliverables as well as your capacity to address the problem.
   c. The **web-based budget** form that details how you will allocate the grant funds by task, date, and responsible person.

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, funding, and 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 X (@DOJBJA). BJA is a component of the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs.