

BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE (BJA)

Planned Changes to FY2023 DNA Capacity Enhancement for Backlog Reduction Program

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This webinar will begin shortly



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

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Purpose of Webinar

- Communicate to potential applicants about planned changes to the FY2023 DNA Capacity Enhancement for Backlog Reduction (CEBR) Program



Agenda

- History of DNA CEBR
- The Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program
- Planned changes in FY2023
- What's next
- Q&A



DNA Capacity Enhancement for Backlog Reduction (CEBR)

Program History:

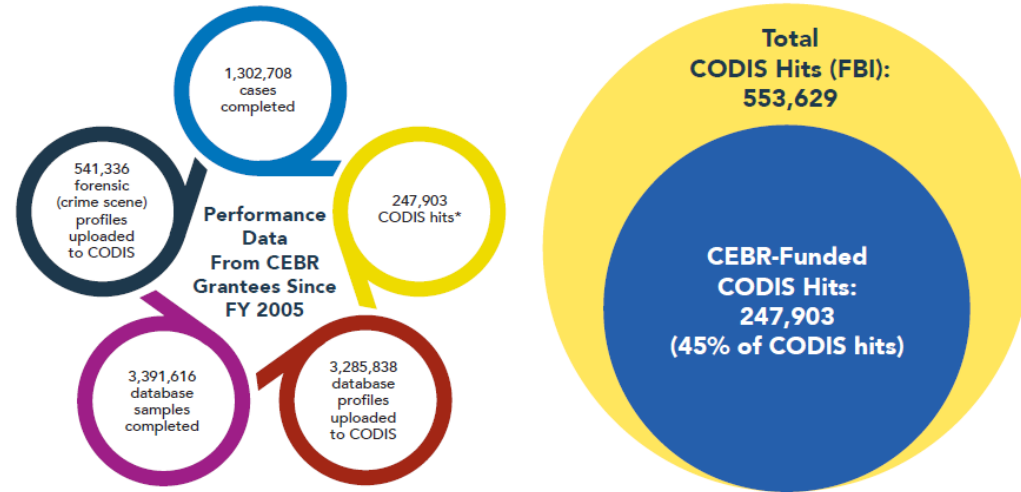
- Authorized originally through the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act 2000 and reauthorized through the years as the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program.
- Funds are for public accredited crime labs with access to the FBI's Combined DNA Index System (CODIS).
- Administered as a Formula.

Fiscal Year	Number of Awards	Total Funding
2011	116	\$88,707,086
2012	117	\$74,347,305
2013	125	\$74,495,175
2014	122	\$71,578,465
2015	122	\$65,777,030
2016	132	\$63,399,849
2017	131	\$61,127,904
2018	127	\$67,826,527
2019	131	\$78,557,480
2020	136	\$80,749,275
2021	131	\$89,609,209

DNA Capacity Enhancement for Backlog Reduction (CEBR)

Funding under this program supports the following purposes:

1. To carry out, for inclusion in the Combined DNA Index System, DNA analyses of database samples collected under applicable legal authority.
2. To carry out, for inclusion in the Combined DNA Index System, DNA analyses of forensic case (e.g., “crime scene”) samples.
3. To increase the capacity of publicly funded forensic DNA and DNA database laboratories.



34 USC 40701: The Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program

§40701. The Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program

- **(a) Authorization of grants**
- The Attorney General may make grants to eligible States or units of local government for use by the State or unit of local government for the following purposes:
 - (1) To carry out, for inclusion in the Combined DNA Index System of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, DNA analyses of samples collected under applicable legal authority.
 - (2) To carry out, for inclusion in such Combined DNA Index System, DNA analyses of samples from crime scenes, prioritizing, to the extent practicable consistent with public safety considerations samples from rape kits, samples from other sexual assault evidence, and samples taken in cases without an identified suspect.
 - (3) To increase the capacity of laboratories owned by the State or by units of local government to carry out DNA analyses of samples specified in paragraph (1) or (2).



Alignment of DNA CEBR with The Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program

What does this mean to applicants?

- Changes in eligibility
- Alignment in uses of funds with the purposes of the program

Anything else?

- BJA will also work to streamline the application and provide additional trainings to help applicants better understand the process.
- Certification will outline eligibility requirements and will need to be signed by the chief executive officer of the State or unit of local government.
- Secondary allocation for “Test All” legislation for sexual assault kit testing will instead be distributed in a competitive manner to help individual applicants maximize the effective utilization of DNA technology to solve crimes and protect public safety.



FY2023 DNA CEBR Planned Eligibility Changes



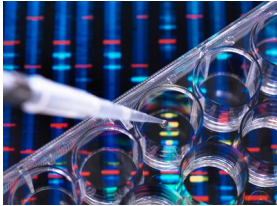
- Specify the portion of funding [*minimum of 40% of the award amount*] that shall be used to carry out DNA analyses of samples from crime scenes for inclusion in CODIS.
- Specify the portion of funding [*if applicable*] that shall be used to carry out DNA analyses of samples collected under applicable legal authority for inclusion in CODIS.
- 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 for inclusion in CODIS.



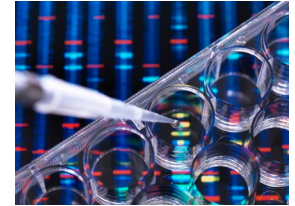
FY2023 DNA CEBR Planned Eligibility Changes



- 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.
- 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.



Alignment in Uses of Funds Examples



All uses of funding must be tied back to processing samples for CODIS and increasing the capacity to process samples for CODIS.

– Kinship?

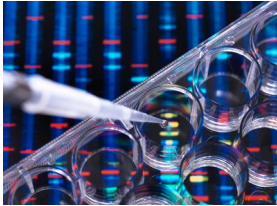
- Most expenses related to kinship testing/analysis would not be allowable, however, certain circumstances may justify acceptable uses of funding. If unsure, please ask.

– Y-STR and mito?

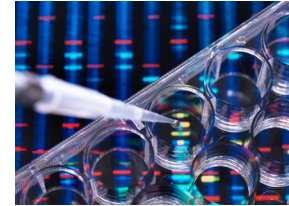
- Most expenses related to Y-STR and/or mito testing/analysis would not be allowable, however, certain circumstances may justify acceptable uses of funding. For example, testing of human remains, family reference samples, or familial searching purposes (if allowable in your state) would be acceptable. If unsure, please ask.

– Genetic Genealogy and SNPs?

- Not acceptable.



Alignment in Uses of Funds Examples



All uses of funding must be tied back to processing samples for CODIS and increasing the capacity to process samples for CODIS.

– Accreditation?

- Expenses related to maintaining the scope of accreditation for NDIS approved technologies is acceptable. Expanding a scope for non-NDIS approved technologies is not acceptable. If unsure, please ask.

– Conferences and trainings?

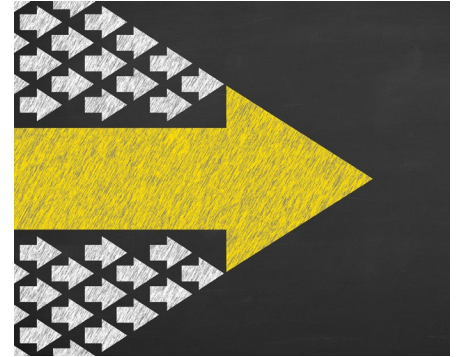
- Most would still be acceptable if related to processing samples for CODIS or increasing the laboratory to process samples for CODIS. If unsure, please ask.

– Validations?

- Most would still be acceptable. If unsure, please ask.

Streamlining

- Streamline the content of application narrative
- Provide webinar training
- Provide examples of narratives and necessary content
- Eligibility statement will be on one form that must be signed by the chief executive officer of the State or unit of local government





What's Next?



- A. Announcement and request for feedback at the SWGDAM meeting in July 2022.
- B. This is the first public webinar outlining the planned changes for FY2023.
- C. BJA website for DNA CEBR has been updated with a FAQ document outlining the primary FY2023 changes. <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/dna-cebr/overview>
- D. Scheduled to speak at FBI's CODIS conference and will hold two more webinars (dates TBD) to outline changes.
- E. Changes will take place with the FY2023 CEBR solicitation, pursuant to Congressional appropriations and will not impact awards that have already been made.

Thank you! Questions?

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