

BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE FACT SHEET

FY23 DNA CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT FOR BACKLOG REDUCTION (CEBR) GUIDANCE

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) has made updates to the FY23 DNA Capacity Enhancement for Backlog Reduction (CEBR) Program solicitation to align with 34 USC 40701: The Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program. BJA is committed to continuing the goals of the CEBR Program to provide funding to states and units of local government with existing crime laboratories that conduct DNA analysis 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.

In aligning CEBR with The Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program, there will be additional requirements for program eligibility. For more information, please see [FY23 Program Updates and Changes](#). One of the requirements is that applicants must certify the portion of funding (40% minimum) used to carry out DNA analyses of samples from crime scenes for inclusion in CODIS. BJA developed guidance for grantees to evaluate uses of FY23 award funds in preparation for this eligibility certification. The following chart is intended to be a guide and may not capture every scenario an applicant may encounter with respect to allowable funded activities. If you have any further questions, please reach out to the DNA CEBR Team at forensic.dnacapacity@ojp.usdoj.gov.



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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 Twitter ([@DOJBJA](https://twitter.com/DOJBJA)). BJA is a component of the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs.



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	Personnel (salary/fringe, overtime)*	Training/Travel	Equipment, Software (including LIMS), and Associated Maintenance Contracts
Analysis of Crime Scene Samples for CODIS	Personnel conducting DNA analysis/analyses. May also include DNA-related QA activities (e.g., technical leader activities), QC activities (e.g., technician activities) that must occur in a laboratory to facilitate routine analysis of CODIS-eligible crime scene samples.	To satisfy QAS accreditation requirements for continuing education.	Equipment and software (and associated maintenance contracts) that are currently in use to facilitate analysis of CODIS-eligible crime scene samples or to replace obsolete, inoperative, or malfunctioning instruments/software/computers.
Increasing Capacity of Lab To Analyze Crime Scene Samples for CODIS	Personnel performing validation work or new analyst training (i.e., their primary responsibility is not testing crime scene samples).	In relation to newly validated protocol or procedure that would not meet QAS accreditation requirements for continuing education.	New instrument(s)/software/computers (and associated maintenance contracts).

	Supplies (e.g., lab coats, gloves, amplification kits, lab wipes)	Outsourcing/ Contracts	Accreditation Activities	Direct Administrative Expenses	Renovations
Analysis of Crime Scene Samples for CODIS	To facilitate DNA analysis/analyses of CODIS-eligible crime scene samples and may also include DNA-related QA activities (e.g., proficiency testing) and QC activities (e.g., technician activities) that must occur in a laboratory to facilitate routine analysis of CODIS-eligible crime scene samples.	Testing (or review) of CODIS-eligible crime scene samples.	Activities to maintain current accreditation.	Up to 3% of the award.	N/A
Increasing Capacity of Lab To Analyze Crime Scene Samples for CODIS	Training and validation.	Validation work or processing efficiency studies (e.g., Lean Six Sigma).	Activities to expand scope of accreditation.	N/A	Upgrade existing laboratory and office space in the forensic biology and DNA section.

* NOTE – Funds for grant-funded personnel whose primary responsibility is the DNA analysis of crime scene samples that are dedicating less than 50% of their time to training or validation activities for a new procedure may be considered as “Analysis of Crime Scene Samples for CODIS”