

BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE FACT SHEET

PROSECUTING COLD CASES USING DNA

Program Summary

Designed to aid prosecutors, the Prosecuting Cold Cases Using DNA Program provides funding to support agencies in the resolution of violent crime cold cases.

Program Objectives

- Prosecution of cold cases involving violent crime where suspects have been identified through DNA evidence.
- Decrease in the number of unresolved violent crime cold cases awaiting prosecution.

Program Funding & Awards

Award Year	# of Awards	Total Amount
FY 2019	2	\$970,239
FY 2020	10	\$4,700,000
FY 2021	13	\$6,955,000

Authorizing Language:

Justice Served Act of 2018, Pub. L. No 115-257, H.R. 4845, 115th Cong.:
"Increasing the capacity of state and local prosecution offices to address the backlog of violent crime cases in which suspects have been identified through DNA evidence" and "to address cold cases."

Program Accomplishments

- Multiple suspect profiles uploaded to CODIS, IAFIS/AFIS.
- Overtime granted to work cold cases.
- Numerous cases with suspect DNA identified are pending prosecution.
- Roughly six investigative leads have been produced via forensic genetic genealogy work.

- Nine suspects have been charged and are awaiting trial.
- Roughly 52 cases have been uploaded to ViCAP.

Program Requirements

- A prosecutorial body must be a fully engaged project partner.
- Suspects' DNA profiles have already been obtained (can be known or unknown suspects).
- Forensic genetic genealogy must follow the DOJ interim policy.

Additional Information

- BJA Program Web Page: <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/prosecuting-cold-cases-using-dna-technology/overview>
- Subscribe: <https://bja.ojp.gov/subscribe>

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

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