

BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE FACT SHEET

PROSECUTING COLD CASES USING DNA

The Prosecuting Cold Cases Using DNA Program is designed to aid prosecutors and provides funding to support agencies in the resolution of violent crime and 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

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 and IAFIS/AFIS.
- Overtime granted to work cold cases.
- Numerous cases with suspect DNA identified are pending prosecution.
- Three suspects have been charged and are awaiting trial.

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 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

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) helps to make American communities safer by strengthening the nation's criminal justice system. BJA's grants, training and technical assistance, and policy development services provide government jurisdictions (state, local, tribal, and territorial) and public and private organizations with the cutting edge tools and best practices they need to support law enforcement, reduce violent and drug-related crime, and combat victimization.

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