

FY 2024 POSTCONVICTION TESTING OF DNA EVIDENCE PROGRAM

IMPORTANT DEADLINES



GRANTS.GOV:
APRIL 29, 2024

JUSTGRANTS:
MAY 6, 2024

Who May Apply:

State, county, city, or township governments, as well as public and state-controlled institutions of higher education

Why Apply:

Receive funding to defray the costs associated with postconviction DNA testing in cases of violent felony offenses (as defined by state law) in which actual innocence might be demonstrated. This includes activities such as reviewing suitable postconviction cases, locating and analyzing biological evidence, improving the preservation of biological evidence, and modernizing record retention for relevant postconviction cases.

Maximum per Award:

- Up to \$1,000,000 for Purpose Area 1 (case reviews and DNA testing)
- Up to \$500,000 for Purpose Area 2 (preservation of biological evidence and modernization of record storage)

BJA encourages the following entities to apply:

- Agencies that have not previously received BJA funding.
- Convening or governing bodies that can apply on behalf of one or more entities.

Examples of strategies/activities that can be funded:

- Review postconviction cases to identify those in which DNA testing could prove the innocence of a person convicted of a violent felony offense.
- Perform DNA analysis of appropriate biological evidence and report and review the DNA test results.
- Locate biological evidence associated with postconviction cases.
- Modernize evidence retention practices for biological evidence in accordance with best practices.
- Modernize and digitize the storage of existing files and records in adjudicated cases.

Where to get more information about this opportunity:

Visit bja.ojp.gov/program/postconviction-testing-dna-evidence/overview for more information about the program and bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-bja-2024-172014 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 solicitation at: bja.ojp.gov/funding/O-BJA-2024-172014.pdf for information on who to contact.
- Visit **BJA Funding Webinars** at: bja.ojp.gov/events/funding-webinars and review the "Federal Funding Process: First Steps to Applying, How to Prepare Now, and Other Considerations."
- **Subscribe** for email notifications from BJA about funding opportunities and other news at: bja.ojp.gov/subscribe-newsfrombjaj.
- To be in the know about funding opportunities across the Office of Justice Programs, sign up to receive **JUSTINFO** at: www.ojp.gov/news/justinfo 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](https://grants.gov) and follow the prompts to submit two forms by April 29, 2024.
- (2) Then complete the full application in JustGrants.usdoj.gov by May 6, 2024. 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](https://twitter.com/DOJBJA)). BJA is a component of the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs.

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