

# FY25 PAUL COVERDELL FORENSIC SCIENCE IMPROVEMENT – COMPETITIVE GRANTS PROGRAM

## IMPORTANT DEADLINES



**GRANTS.GOV:**  
OCTOBER 27, 2025

**JUSTGRANTS:**  
NOVEMBER 3, 2025

### Who may apply:

- State governments through State Administering Agencies (SAAs).
- City or township, and county governments.

### Why Apply:

Receive funding to improve forensic science and medical examiner/coroner services—including services provided by forensic science laboratories operated by states and units of local government—and improve timeliness of services and reduce forensic analysis backlogs.

### Maximum per award:

- Up to \$500,000 per award.

### 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:

- Improve the quality and timeliness of forensic science or medical examiner/coroner services.
- Eliminate any backlog in the analysis of forensic science evidence.
- Train, assist, and employ forensic laboratory personnel and medicolegal death investigators.
- Address emerging forensic science issues and technology.
- Educate and train forensic pathologists.
- Facilitate accreditation.
- Address the specific challenges related to the proliferation of opioids and synthetic drugs.

### Where to get more information about this opportunity:

Visit <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/coverdell/overview> for more information about the program and <https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-bja-2025-172472> 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](https://sam.gov/content/home).
  - For **questions** about the program’s requirements or the application process, see the full Notice of Funding Opportunity at [www.ojp.gov/funding/docs/bja-2025-172472.pdf](https://www.ojp.gov/funding/docs/bja-2025-172472.pdf).
  - Visit the **BJA Funding Webinars** page at [bja.ojp.gov/events/funding-webinars](https://bja.ojp.gov/events/funding-webinars) for applicant and grantee trainings.
  - **Subscribe** for email notifications from BJA about funding opportunities and other news at: [bja.ojp.gov/subscribe-news-bja](https://bja.ojp.gov/subscribe-news-bja).
  - To be in the know about funding opportunities across the Office of Justice Programs, sign up to receive **Justice Programs News & Funding** at [www.ojp.gov/news/justice-programs-news-funding](https://www.ojp.gov/news/justice-programs-news-funding) and/or the weekly **Funding News** at [public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDOJOJP\\_COMMS/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=USDOJOJP\\_COMMS\\_25](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDOJOJP_COMMS/subscriber/new?topic_id=USDOJOJP_COMMS_25).
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**How to apply and when:**

Submit a two-step application.

1. Register in [Grants.gov](https://grants.gov) and follow the prompts to submit the SF-424 form by October 27, 2025.
  2. Then complete the full application in [JustGrants.usdoj.gov](https://JustGrants.usdoj.gov) by November 3, 2025. 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.
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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](https://bja.ojp.gov) or follow us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/DOJBJA](https://www.facebook.com/DOJBJA)) and X (@DOJBJA). BJA is a component of the Department of Justice’s Office of Justice Programs.