



Missouri Department of Public Safety

FY 2025 Paul Coverdell National Forensic Science (PCNFS) Improvement Grant

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

Funding Issued By:

U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)

Funding Issued Through:

Missouri Department of Public Safety

Funding Opportunity Title:

FY 2025 PCNFS

Introduction: The Missouri Department of Public Safety is pleased to announce the funding opportunity for the FY 2025 Paul Coverdell National Forensic Science Improvement Grant (PCNFS). The purpose of the PCNFS Improvement Grant is to improve forensic science and medical examiner/coroner services, including services provided by laboratories operated by states and units of local government.

Objectives: A state or unit of local government that receives a Coverdell grant must use the grant for one or more of the following six purposes:

1. To carry out all or a substantial part of a program intended to improve the quality and timeliness of forensic science or medical examiner/coroner services in the state, including those services provided by laboratories operated by the state and those operated by units of local government within the state.
2. To eliminate a backlog in the analysis of forensic science evidence, including, among other things, a backlog with respect to firearms examination, latent prints, impression evidence, toxicology, digital evidence, fire evidence, controlled substances, forensic pathology, questioned documents, and trace evidence.
3. To train, assist, and employ forensic laboratory personnel and medicolegal death investigators, as needed, to eliminate such a backlog.
4. To address emerging forensic science issues (such as statistics, contextual bias, and uncertainty of measurement) and emerging forensic science technology (such as high throughput automation, statistical software, and new types of instrumentation).
5. To educate and train forensic pathologists.
6. To fund medicolegal death investigation systems to facilitate accreditation of medical examiner and coroner offices and certification of medicolegal death investigators.

Important Note: PCNFS funding was created to help the forensic science community address the specific challenges that crime laboratories are confronting related to the proliferation of opioids and synthetic drugs. To address these issues, the goal is to allocate approximately **59 percent** of available funds to specifically target the challenges that opioid and synthetic drugs have brought to the forensic science community.

Agencies are encouraged to participate in the [National Forensic Laboratory Information System \(NFLIS\)](#). NFLIS is a program of the Drug Enforcement Administration, Diversion Control Division, and systematically collects drug identification results and associated information from drug cases submitted to and analyzed by participating federal, state, and local forensic science laboratories with drug chemistry sections.

Potential Environmental Impact Coversheet and Checklist – National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

Each applicant is to submit a BJA Programmatic Coversheet and Checklist with its application to assist BJA in assessing the potential environmental impacts of the activities proposed for funding by the applicant. Specifically, the applicant is expected to:

- Carefully read the [Programmatic Environmental Assessment](#)
- Complete the coversheet and the attached [Programmatic Checklist](#)
- NEPA and BJA's NEPA Process: [NEPA Guidance](#)

Period of Performance: 18 months

Projected Period of Performance Start Date: January 1, 2026

Projected Period of Performance End Date: June 30, 2027

Funding Instrument: Contract (Subaward Agreement)

Eligible Applicants:

Board of Police Commissioners – Kansas City, MO	\$79,297.00
Missouri State Highway Patrol, Crime Lab	\$114,045.00
St. Charles County, Crime Lab	\$23,169.00
St. Louis County, Crime Lab	\$29,154.00
City of St. Louis, Police Division – Crime Lab	\$66,010.00

To be eligible for funding the applicant agency must be compliant with the following statutes:

☐ **Section 590.650 RSMo – Vehicle Stops Report**

Pursuant to 590.650.3 RSMo, each law enforcement agency shall compile the data described in subsection 2 for the calendar year into a report to the attorney general and each law enforcement agency shall submit the report to the attorney general no later than March 1 of the following calendar year.

NOTE: Failure to submit the Vehicle Stops (Racial Profiling) Report will result in the automatic denial of the application.

☐ **Section 590.700 RSMo – Written Policy on Recording of Custodial Interrogations**

Pursuant to 590.700.4 RSMo, each law enforcement agency shall adopt a written policy to record custodial interrogations of persons suspected of committing or attempting to commit felony crimes as outlined in subsection 2.

- ❑ **Section 43.544 RSMo – Written Policy on Forwarding Intoxication-Related Traffic Offenses**
Pursuant to Section 43.544.1 RSMo, each law enforcement agency shall adopt a policy requiring arrest information for all intoxication-related traffic offenses be forwarded to the central repository as required by Section 43.503 RSMo.

- ❑ **Section 590.1265 RSMo – Police use of Force Transparency Act of 2021**
Pursuant to Section 590.1265 RSMo each law enforcement agency shall report data submitted under subsection 3 of this section to the department of public safety. *For purposes of grant eligibility, law enforcement agencies will be considered non-compliant if they have not submitted Use of Force reports for three or more months in the previous 12 months.*

NOTE: Show Me Crime Reporting provides a no cost option for agencies to comply with Section 590.1265 RSMo. Agencies that are not currently compliant with Section 590.1265 RSMo will not be eligible to apply until they have registered with Show Me Crime Reporting and have begun submitting Use of Force reports.
<https://showmecrime.mo.gov/CrimeReporting/ForcePage.html>

- ❑ **Section 43.505 RSMo – Uniform Crime reporting (UCR)**
Pursuant to Section RSMo 43.505, each law enforcement agency in the state shall (1) Submit crime incident reports to the department of public safety on forms or in the format prescribed by the department; and (2) Submit any other crime incident information which may be required by the department of public safety. *Agencies not compliant at the time of application will be ineligible for funding. For purposes of grant eligibility, law enforcement agencies will be considered non-compliant if they have not submitted MIBRS reports for three or more months in the previous 12 months.*

NOTE: Show Me Crime Reporting provides a no cost option for agencies to comply with Section 43.505 RSMo. Agencies that are not currently compliant with Section 43.505 RSMo will not be eligible to apply until they have registered with Show Me Crime Reporting and have begun submitting MIBRS reports.
<https://showmecrime.mo.gov/CrimeReporting/MIBRSRegistration.html>

- ❑ **Section 590.030 RSMo – Rap Back Program Participation**
Pursuant to Section 590.030 RSMo, all law enforcement agencies shall enroll in the state and federal Rap Back programs on or before January 1, 2022 and continue to remain enrolled. The law enforcement agency shall take all necessary steps to maintain officer enrollment for all officers commissioned with that agency in the Rap Back programs. An officer shall submit to being fingerprinted at any law enforcement agency upon commissioning and for as long as the officer is commissioned with that agency.

- ❑ **Death in Custody Reporting Act of 2013**
Death in Custody Reporting Act (DCRA) - The Death in Custody Reporting Act of 2013 (DCRA; Pub. L. No. 113-242) requires states to report to the Attorney General information regarding the death of any person who is detained, under arrest, or in the process of being arrested, enroute to be incarcerated, or incarcerated at a municipal or county jail, state prison, state-run boot camp prison, boot camp prison that is contracted by the state, any state or local contract facility, or other local or state correctional facility (including any juvenile facility). SAAs are responsible for collecting data on a quarterly basis from local entities including local jails, law enforcement agencies, medical examiners, and other state agencies. If an agency experiences a death in custody event, timely submissions of the information on the Death in Custody Reporting Act data collection template are requested to be sent to dpscjle@dps.mo.gov or via fax to (573) 526-9012.

Examples of reportable and non-reportable death in custody scenarios can be found at <https://dps.mo.gov/dir/programs/dpsgrants/dcra.php>.

❑ **Section 513.653 RSMo – Federal Equitable Sharing Funds**

Pursuant to Section 513.653 RSMo Law enforcement agencies using federal forfeiture system, report of federal seizures and the proceeds therefrom: Each law enforcement agency involved in using the federal forfeiture system under federal law shall file a report regarding federal seizures and the proceeds therefrom. Such report shall be filed annually by February fifteenth for the previous calendar year with the state auditor's office. The report for the calendar year shall consist of a copy of the federal form entitled "ACA Form – Equitable Sharing Agreement and Certification" which is identical to the form submitted in that year to the federal government. Any law enforcement agency that intentionally or knowingly fails to comply with the reporting requirement contained in this section shall be ineligible to receive state or federal funds, which would otherwise be paid to such agency for law enforcement, safety, or criminal justice purposes.

Ineligible Applicants: Any agency not listed as an eligible applicant. Those that do not meet the above listed requirements:

Eligible Cost Categories: Eligible applicants may request funding under the following approved budget categories:

- Salary/Benefits of laboratory employees
- Overtime/Benefits for laboratory staff
- Education, Training, and Certification of laboratory staff
- Equipment
 - Computerization
 - Lab Equipment
- Supplies/Operations
 - Accreditation
- Note on use of funds for forensic genealogy searches: program activity involving forensic genetic genealogical DNA analysis and searching (FGGS) is subject to the DOJ [Interim Policy on Forensic Genetic Genealogical DNA Analysis and Searching](#) or to the final policy, when issued. See Performance Measures for additional required grantee reporting on FGGS activities.

Unallowable Cost Items:

- Funds to conduct research
- Expenses other than those listed above
- Costs for any new facility
- Recipient administrative expenses that exceed 10% of total grant Award.
- Use of funds for the purchase and/or lease of vehicles
- The use of BJA grant funds for unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), including, and all accompanying accessories to support UAS/UAV
- Land Acquisition
- Compensation of Federal Employees
- Travel of Federal Employees
- Bonuses or Commissions
- Prohibited and Controlled Equipment pursuant to program statute
- Lobbying
- Fundraising

- Corporate Formation
- State and Local Sales Taxes
- Cost Incurred Outside the Project Period
- Certain Conference/Meeting Hosting Related Expenses to include: meeting room/audio-visual services (lesser of \$25 per day per attendee or \$20,000), logistical planners (lesser of \$50 per attendee or \$8,750), programmatic planners (lesser of \$200 per attendee or \$35,000), food and beverage (generally not allowed), and refreshments (generally not allowed).
- Aircraft
- First Class Travel
- Indirect Costs of conferences, symposia, and workshops including entertainment, sports, visas, passport charges, tips, bar charges, beverages, personal telephone calls, or laundry charges.
- Military-Type Equipment
- Radios and Radio-Related Equipment not compliant with the Missouri Statewide Interoperability Network (MOSWIN)
- Vessels
- Weapons and Ammunition

NEPA Requirements:

All recipients of funding under this award must comply with NEPA and other related federal environmental impact analyses requirements in the use of grant funds. Accordingly, prior to obligating funds for any of the activities specified below, the grantee must first ensure compliance with OJP NEPA procedures.

The specified activities requiring environmental analysis are:

- New construction
- Any renovation or remodeling of a property located in an environmentally or historically sensitive area, including property
 - Listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, or
 - Located within a 100-year flood plain, a wetland, or habitat for an endangered species
- A renovation that will change the basic prior use of a facility or significantly change its size
- Research and technology whose anticipated and future application could be expected to have an effect on the environment
- Implementation of a program involving the use of chemicals (including the identification, seizure, or closure of clandestine methamphetamine laboratories)
- Carefully read the [Programmatic Environmental Assessment](#).
- Complete the [coversheet and the attached Programmatic Checklist](#)
- [NEPA and BJA's NEPA Process](#)

Application and Submission Information:

1. Key Dates and Times

- **Application Start Date: October 8, 2025**
- **Application Submission Deadline: October 22, 2025**
- **Agreeing to Terms and Conditions of the Award**

By submitting an application, applicants agree to comply with the requirements of this NOFO and the terms and conditions of the Subaward Agreement, should they receive an award.

Applications will only be accepted through the Missouri Department of Public Safety (DPS) online WebGrants System. <https://dpsgrants.dps.mo.gov/index.do>

As part of the FY 2025 PCNFS application, each eligible applicant must complete all application forms and provide all required documentation:

1. Contact Information
2. Project Form
3. Budget
4. Named Attachments
 - a. Lab Accreditation
 - b. NEPA Checklist
 - c. Most Recent Audit
 - d. Other
 - e. Other
 - f. Other

Department of Public Safety Contacts:

DPS Grants Specialist
Elizabeth Leuckel
(573) 751-1318
Elizabeth.Leuckel@dps.mo.gov

DPS Program Supervisor
Chelsey Call
(573) 526-9203
Chelsey.call@dps.mo.gov

DPS Program Manager
Joni McCarter
(573) 526-9020
Joni.McCarter@dps.mo.gov