

BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE

FY24 Competitive DNA Capacity Enhancement for Backlog Reduction (CEBR)

Grantee Orientation

December 12, 2024





Congratulations!



Introductions

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Training and Technical Assistance Provider

- Forensics TTA led by RTI International
- Jason Chute jchute@rti.org www.forensicstta.org



TTA Goals

- Assisting BJA grantees in accomplishing strategic goals and objectives across forensic disciplines.
- Proactively engaging grantees to monitor progress and develop materials based upon agency needs.
- Supporting sustainability through implementation of new and enhancement of existing policies/practices.

Support Activities

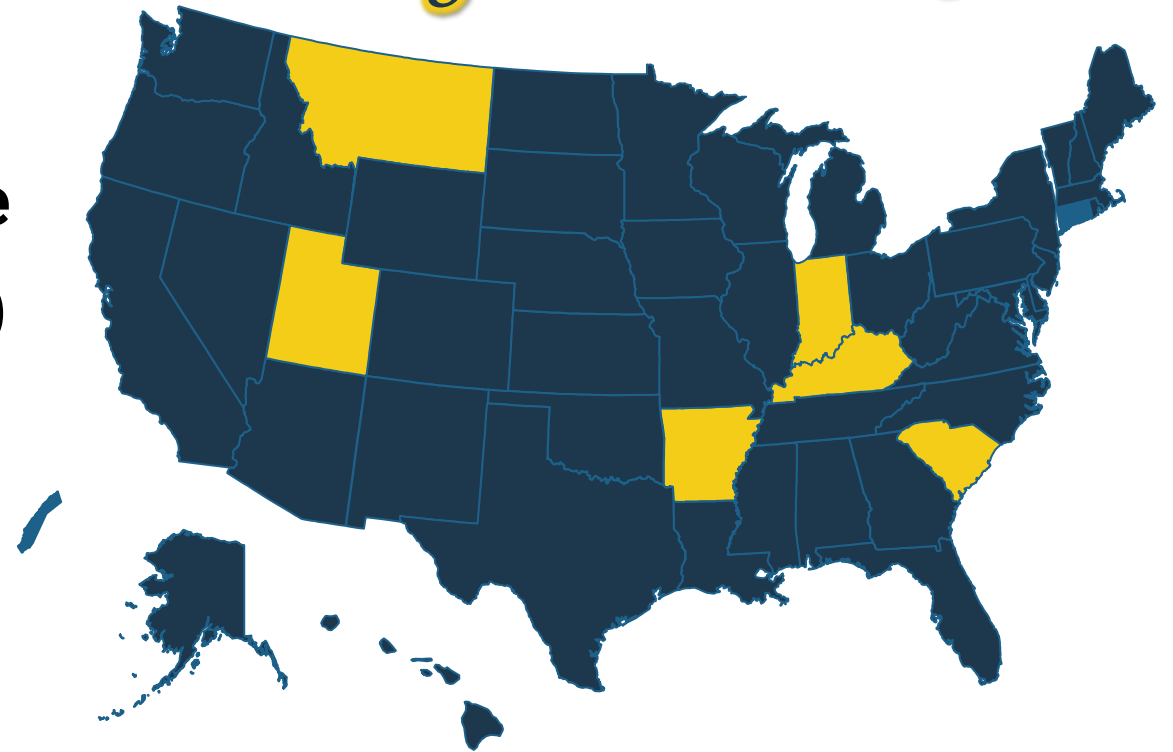
- National Grantees Meeting
- Onsite and virtual engagements
- Peer-to-peer connections
- Online learning (webinars, written briefs, working groups)
- Social media



FY 2024 Grantees

- **Indiana State Police**
- **Arkansas Crime Laboratory**
- **Kentucky Department of State Police**
- **State Law Enforcement Division (SC)**
- **Utah Department of Public Safety**
- **Montana Department of Justice**

Congratulations!



Grantees

Grantee agencies will be called on one by one to introduce themselves.

Please select one individual per agency to introduce the team and let us know:

- Name of your team members
- Brief description of your project



Agenda

- BJA Overview
- Program Overview
- Next Steps
- Additional Training
- Resources
- Q&A





BJA Overview

U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance

Mission: BJA's mission is to provide leadership and services in grant administration and criminal justice policy development to support state, local, and tribal justice strategies to achieve safer communities. BJA works with communities, governments, and nonprofit organizations to reduce crime, recidivism, and unnecessary confinement, and promote a safe and fair criminal justice system.

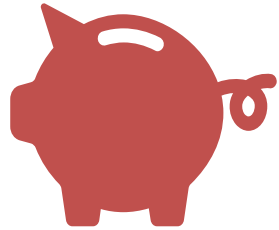


<https://bja.ojp.gov/>

Karhlton F. Moore, BJA Director



How BJA Supports the Field



Investments

Provide diverse funding to accomplish goals.



Sharing Knowledge

Research, develop, and deliver what works to build capacity and improve outcomes.



Engagement

Consult, connect, and convene.





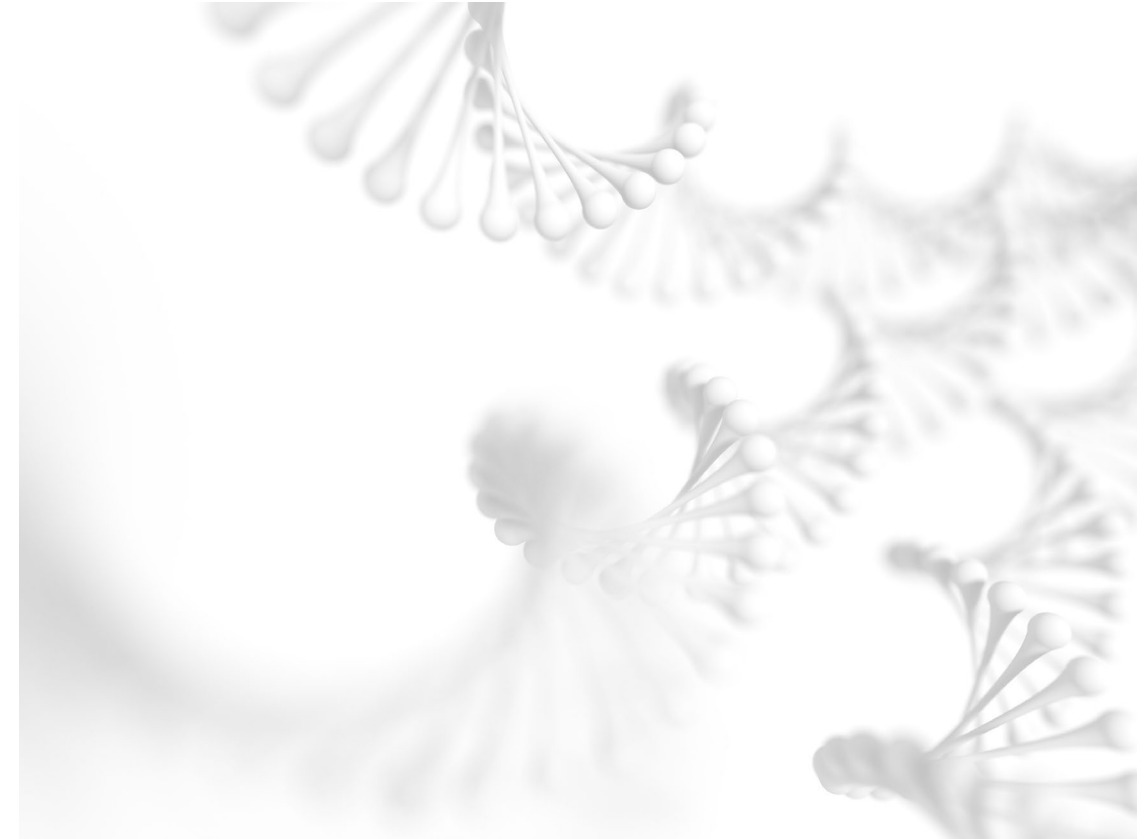
Program Overview

FY24 Competitive CEBR Program

The overarching goal of BJA's FY 2024 Competitive DNA CEBR Program is to maximize the effective utilization of DNA technology to solve crimes and protect public safety by states and units of local government with eligible crime laboratories or laboratory systems.

Main Objectives:

1. Increase the capacity of laboratories to process Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) eligible crime scene samples in accredited, publicly funded forensic DNA laboratories through the use of DNA technology.
2. Increase laboratory efficiency for processing CODIS eligible crime scene samples analyzed in accredited, publicly funded forensic DNA laboratories through the use of DNA technology.



FY 2024 Competitive CEBR Highlights

This was a competitively solicited program. As such, you were funded based, in part, on the original project that was proposed.

Unlike the Formula CEBR Program, where you can change your project in the middle of the period of performance, with Competitive CEBR you may not deviate from your original project goals.



Supporting Your Program



BJA POLICY TEAM

Provide national leadership in criminal justice policy, training, and technical assistance to further the administration of justice.



BJA PROGRAMS TEAM

Grant monitoring and administration assistance to ensure success and compliance. Primary point of contact.



BJA PPI TEAM

Sets program goals and collects performance measures data to assess achievement of those goals. All BJA grantees collect and report performance data.



TTA PROVIDER

Assist BJA grantees in accomplishing strategic goals and objectives.

Working Effectively Together

Share updates about your project—we appreciate those emails!

We are available to troubleshoot or talk through issues you encounter.

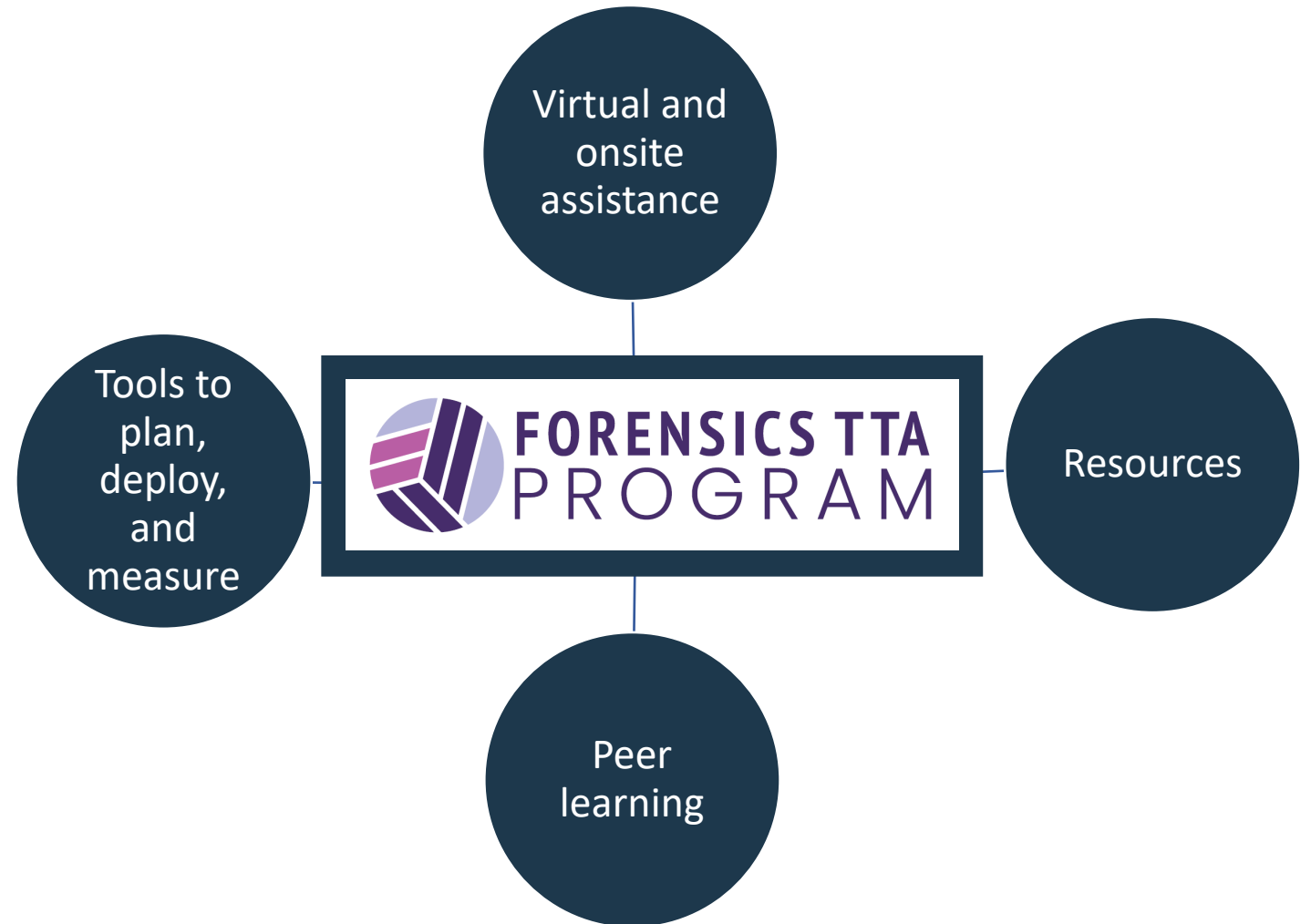
Programs Office State Policy Advisors talk to the BJA Policy Office and the TTA provider all the time. The more we know, the better we can support you.

If a request is a little unusual, it's okay to email or call and talk it through before you spend time submitting it.



TTA

- Quarterly virtual convenings
- Annual virtual grantee meetings
- Online resources
- No cost to grantees





Next Steps

Two Parts to Success

1

Manage the award to comply with all conditions.

2

Implement the DNA technology.



Grant Agreement

Review for special conditions to be resolved

- Changes in Key Personnel (41)
- CODIS/NDIS (44)
- Final Progress Report (50)
- NEPA (54)

- > Project Information
- > Financial Information
- ✓ Award Conditions

This award is offered subject to the conditions or limitations set forth in the Award Information, Project Information, Financial Information, and Award Conditions.



Meaningful access requirement for individuals with limited English proficiency

The recipient, and any subrecipient at any tier, must take reasonable steps to ensure that individuals with limited English proficiency (LEP) have meaningful access to their programs and activities to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of national origin, including discrimination against individuals with LEP. Such steps may require providing language assistance services, such as interpretation or translation services. The Department of Justice guidance on compliance with this requirement may be found at "Guidance to Federal Financial Assistance Recipients Regarding Title VI Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination Affecting Limited English Proficient Persons" (67 Fed. Reg. 41455-41472) (<https://www.federalregister.gov/d/02-15207>) and is incorporated by reference here.



Compliance with general appropriations-law restrictions on the use of federal funds (FY 2024)



FY24 Competitive CEBR Specific Requirements

- Grantees are required to attend the virtual BJA Forensics Programs Grantees Meeting held annually by Forensics TTA. Up to 3 key personnel may attend the conference.



FY 2024 Competitive CEBR Performance Management

- Performance reports are required semi-annually

- Like Formula CEBR, the responses are input in PMT and uploaded to JustGrants

- Link to measures
<https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/performance-measures>

- Measures for reporting are either drop-down options or qualitative responses



What are the Competitive CEBR Performance Measures?

34. What did your laboratory purchase with grant funding? *Select all that apply.*

- A. Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS)
- B. Laboratory robotics
- C. Analysis software
- D. Probabilistic genotyping software
- E. Supplies for a new process or procedure
- F. Other (explain) _____

35. What is the primary anticipated effect this will have on your laboratory in the short term (6–12 months)? *Select only one.*

- A. Reduce turnaround time
- B. Increase capacity
- C. Increase CODIS uploads
- D. Other (explain) _____

36. What is the primary anticipated effect this will have on your laboratory in the long term? *Select only one.*

- A. Reduce turnaround time
- B. Increase capacity
- C. Increase CODIS uploads
- D. Other (explain) _____



What are the Competitive CEBR Performance Measures?

40. If the implementation of the technology/technologies is not complete, when is the implementation planned to occur?

- A. 3 months
- B. 6 months
- C. 12 months
- D. Other (explain) _____

41. Did the implementation meet the expectations set forth in question 35? Explain.

COMPETITIVE GRANT CLOSEOUT

Only competitive grant recipients complete this section of the questionnaire. If you are not a competitive grant recipient, skip to the next section.

1. Based on the technology implemented under this grant, quantify the impact on laboratory operations (i.e., reduction in turnaround time, increase throughput because of robotics, etc.).



Allowable Uses of Funds

All expenditures under this program must relate directly to maximizing the effective utilization of DNA technology to solve crimes and protect public safety by states and units of local government with eligible crime laboratories or laboratory systems.



Some examples include:

Salary and benefits of additional employees, temporary personnel or OT for individuals to support the objective of the program.

Equipment and/or software related to the objectives of the program

Contracts to achieve the objectives of the program (e.g., warranty for newly purchased instrumentation, validation studies)

Laboratory supplies that support the objectives of the program



Unallowable Uses of Funds

Salaries/benefits other than listed in permissible uses of funds

Travel other than that related to the program objectives

Education that is of primary benefit to an individual, personal development, or training not related to the program objectives



Trial Testimony

**Construction/
Renovation**

Prohibited and controlled equipment, consistent with Executive Order 14074, per OJP policy



Direct administrative expenses that exceed 3% of the federal portion of the award

Equipment that has not been approved for use by NDIS

Unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), including unmanned aircraft vehicles (UAV), and all accompanying accessories to support UAS or UAV



Next 30 Days



Meet with the main players in your agency involved in managing your award: grant management, financial management and principal investigator.



Work on clearing award conditions and finalizing the budget (if revisions were necessary).



Next 60 Days



Continue meeting monthly to review timeline, budgets and availability of funds.



Review performance measures, access PMT and ensure you meet progress report deadlines.





Upcoming Trainings and Meetings

Trainings

- Managing Your Award
 - Thursday, January 15, 2025 (tentative)
 - Thursday, February 13, 2025 (tentative)
- Performance Measures
 - January 2025 (date TBD)
- Civil Rights Obligations (date TBD)

<https://bja.ojp.gov/events/grantee-training-series>

Meetings

- Virtual Grantee's Meeting (*tentatively* June 2025)
- FTTA Discussion Forums (quarterly)





Resources



Recipient Resources

<https://www.ojp.gov/funding/implement/overview>

Once you receive an award notification that your application was selected for funding, it's time to get to work. The OJP Recipient Resources provide instructions and training from implementing to closing your award.

Need help managing your OJP award? [↗](#)

NEW! Do You Have Questions About JustGrants? Register to Attend a [Virtual Q&A Session](#) [↗](#)

- [Legal Notices](#)
- [OJP Grants Overview](#)
- [OJP Training Guiding Principles for Grantees and Subgrantees](#)
- [JustGrants Login](#)
- [JustGrants Informational Website](#)
- [JustGrants Training](#)

Financial and Grant Reporting Resources [↗](#)

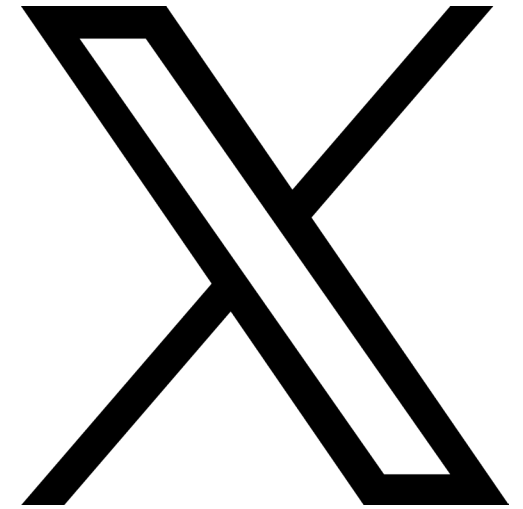
- Real Property Reporting resources:
 - [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
 - [Facility Utilization for Reporting Period Addendum](#)
 - [Instructions for the SF-429 Real Property Status Report](#)
 - [Real Property Status Report Attachment A \(General Reporting\) SF-429-A](#)
- [DOJ Grants Financial Guide](#)
- [OJP Financial Guide](#)
- [Guide to Procurement Procedures for Recipients of DOJ Grants and Cooperative Agreements](#)
- [Policy and Guidance for Conference Approval, Planning, and Reporting](#)
- [FFATA Subaward Reporting Webcast](#)
- [Federal Financial Report \(SF-425\) Instructions](#) and [Fillable Form](#) for OJP
- [Federal Financial Report \(SF-425\) for COPS Office](#)
- [Audit Confirmation Request Form](#)
- [Grant Performance Measurement and Progress Reporting Information](#)

Grant System Resources [↗](#)

- [JustGrants](#)
- [JustGrants Resources](#)
- [JustGrants Training](#)
- [IT State and Territory Points of Contact](#)

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- **X:** <https://x.com/DOJBJA>
- **YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/dojbja>
- Use the QR code to subscribe to “**Justice Matters**” and “**News From BJA**” to receive the latest information from BJA and the field.
- For information on funding opportunities, publications, and initiatives, visit **BJA’s website:** www.bja.ojp.gov.



Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice

Q&A



Please submit questions using the Q&A feature.

