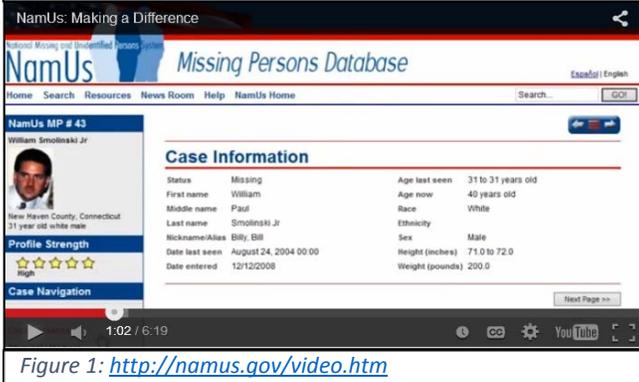


## OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

### Program Name: National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs)

#### FY 2017 Request

Total Funding: \$3.5M  
Vs. FY 2016 Enacted: +\$3.5M



The screenshot shows the NamUs website interface. At the top, it says "NamUs: Making a Difference" and "National Missing and Unidentified Persons System". Below that is the "Missing Persons Database" header. The main content area displays a case profile for "NamUs MP # 43" for William Smolinski Jr. The profile includes a photo, a "Profile Strength" indicator (5 stars), and a "Case Information" table. The table lists: Status: Missing; First name: William; Middle name: Paul; Last name: Smolinski Jr; Nickname/Alias: Billy, Bill; Date last seen: August 24, 2004 00:00; Date entered: 12/12/2008; Age last seen: 31 to 31 years old; Age now: 40 years old; Race: White; Ethnicity: White; Sex: Male; Height (inches): 71.0 to 72.0; Weight (pounds): 200.0. Below the table is a "Case Navigation" section. At the bottom of the screenshot, there is a video player with a timestamp of 1:02 / 6:19 and a caption: "Figure 1: <http://namus.gov/video.htm>".

#### Program Description

**Purpose:** To locate and identify missing persons and previously unidentified human remains. On any given day, 80,000-90,000 individuals are actively listed as missing persons with law enforcement.

The volume of these cases poses a significant challenge to law enforcement, medical examiners, coroners, and family members searching to locate missing loved ones.

The National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) is a national centralized repository and resource center that was created to improve access to information combining online case repositories with case management, forensic analyses and analytical resources.

NamUs has three databases:

1. **Missing Persons** – information can be entered by anyone, but is verified before appearing in the system. Users can print missing persons posters, receive free biometric collection and testing assistance, and link to state clearinghouses, medical examiner and coroner offices, law enforcement agencies, victim assistance groups, and pertinent legislation.
2. **Unidentified Persons** – information entered by medical examiners and coroners about people who have died and whose bodies have not been identified. Anyone can search this database using characteristics such as sex, race, distinct body features and even dental information.
3. **Unclaimed Persons** - information about deceased persons who have been identified by name, but for whom no next of kin or family member has been identified or located to claim the body for burial or other disposition. Only medical examiners and coroners may enter cases in the unclaimed persons database, but it is searchable by the public using a missing person's name and year of birth.

**Authorizing Legislation:** Created through Department of Justice appropriations acts

**Administering Agency:** National Institute of Justice (NIJ)

**DOJ Strategic Objective 3.1:** Promote and strengthen relationships and strategies for the administration of justice with law enforcement agencies, organizations, prosecutors, and defenders through innovative leadership and programs

**Who Can Apply for Funding and How Funds are Distributed:** Through a competitive process, an initial award was made for up to \$2.5M for a 12-month period. Supplements have been made available depending on resources, strategic priorities, and satisfactory completion of each phase, stage, or task associated with the award. For the initial competitive solicitation, eligibility included states, territories, units of local government, federally recognized Indian tribal governments, nonprofit organizations, and institutions of higher education.

#### Program Goals:

Current funding is barely sufficient for the management of NamUs. Additional funding is needed to maximize NamUs' capabilities, including:

- Expanding the capabilities of NamUs to handle “critical incidents” such as mass shootings, a bombing, or natural disasters. Reconciliation and reunification of persons injured or displaced is a challenge for state and local agencies during mass casualty, large-scale, or multi-state incidents.
- Increasing training and outreach since the success of NamUs is highly dependent on stakeholder input and involvement.
- Evaluating evolving needs and assessing national trends with respect to vulnerable populations such as cognitively impaired missing adults, sex trafficking victims, substance abusers, and migrants.
- Effectively gathering and processing data analytics, especially information generated from advancing technology related to biometrics.

**Accomplishments:**

- NamUs has helped to resolve over 1,150 missing person cases and over 600 unidentified person cases.
- The NamUs Missing Persons website ([www.findthemissing.org](http://www.findthemissing.org)) alone has received over 14 million visitors who have contributed over 24,500 missing person reports; and its Unidentified Persons website ([www.identifyus.org](http://www.identifyus.org)) has received over 4.6 million visitors and contains almost 13,000 unidentified person reports, with new cases being added in weekly.
- NamUs has been the recipient of numerous awards including the Excellence in Technology Award from the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) (2009); an Apex Award for a NamUs video (2009); Computerworld Honors Laureate (2010); the August Vollmer Excellence in Forensic Science Award from the IACP (2011); the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal (2011); and the Paul H. Chapman Award from the Foundation For Improvement of Justice Inc. (2012).

**FY 2017 Proposed Policy Changes to the Program:** N/A

**FY 2017 Proposed Funding Changes to the Program:**

- Funding is needed to maintain and expand the NamUs system. See Program Goals above.
- Many federal agencies with programs that deal with missing and unidentified persons would like to expand NamUs including DHS, Department of State, HHS-Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team, NTSB, DoD, and other DOJ components.

**Application and Award History**

(\$ in millions)	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
Amount Appropriated	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3.5M
Total Funding Awarded*	\$2.2M	\$3.7M	\$5.0M	TBD	TBD
Number of Applications	N/A	N/A	N/A	TBD	TBD
Number of Awards**	1	1	1	1	TBD

\*The creation, expansion, and management of the NamUs program has been supported by other appropriations available to NIJ.

\*\* Supplemental awards were made in these fiscal years.

**For additional information, please visit: [NIJ Missing Persons](http://NIJ.MissingPersons) or [NamUs.gov](http://NamUs.gov).**