

OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

Program Name: Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program

FY 2017 Request

Total Funding:	\$0
Vs. FY 2016 Enacted:	-\$13.5M

Program Description

Purpose: To help improve the quality and timeliness of forensic science and medical examiner-coroner services. Among other things, funds may be used to eliminate a backlog in the analysis of forensic evidence such as firearms and fingerprints, and to train and employ forensic laboratory personnel.

Authorizing Legislation: Title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (sections 201 and 202), Part BB, codified at 42 U.S.C. & 3797j-3797o (the Coverdell law).

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: States and units of local government. States may be eligible for both “base” (formula) and competitive funds. Units of local government within states may be eligible for competitive funds and may apply directly to NIJ. Any state application for funding must be submitted by the Coverdell State Administering Agency.

Allocation Method: Seventy-five percent of the total funding provided for Coverdell program in each fiscal year is awarded to states through a formula grant process on the basis of population. The remaining 25% of funding is awarded to state and units of local government through a competitive, peer-reviewed grants process.

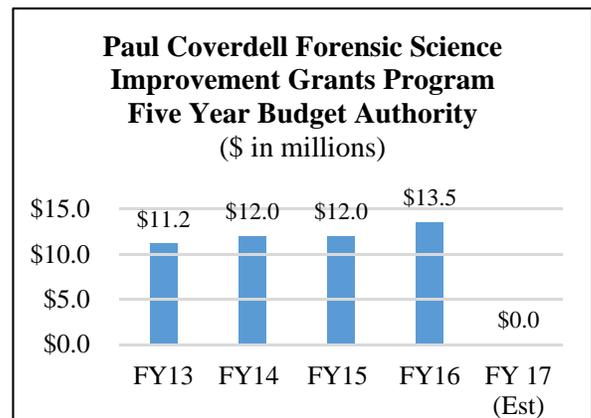
Program Goals:

None. This program is recommendation for elimination.

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

FY 2017 Proposed Funding Changes to the Program:

Recent appropriations have not been large enough to support meaningful improvements to forensic science capabilities at the state and local government levels. As such, the Department is requesting the elimination of this program so that resources can be redirected to higher priority forensic sciences programs and activities that can better meet the current needs of its state, local, and tribal partners.



For additional information, please visit the [NIJ website](#).