



# Department of Justice



## Office of Justice Programs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2020

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### **PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL KATHARINE T. SULLIVAN ANNOUNCES \$45 MILLION IN AWARDS TO SUPPORT TESTING, TRACKING OF SEXUAL ASSAULT KITS**

WASHINGTON – Office of Justice Programs Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Katharine T. Sullivan today announced awards of more than \$45 million to help law enforcement agencies and crime labs process sexual assault evidence and increase the number of sexual assault kits submitted to crime labs in order to solve more crimes, including cold cases.

OJP’s Bureau of Justice Assistance made 36 grants to support the National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI), an effort to strengthen jurisdictions’ capacity to act on evidence resulting from rape kits, and three grants to the Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence – Inventory, Tracking and Reporting (SAFE-ITR) program.

“Far too many people endure the physical and emotional trauma of a sexual assault only to have evidence of the crime remain unanalyzed,” said Sullivan. “These grants will help investigators get these kits to labs, where they can be tested, used to solve crimes and ultimately bring justice to victims.”

With this year’s funding, SAKI has committed more than \$238 million to 70 sites across 44 states. As of December 2019, SAKI sites had uploaded 20,005 eligible DNA profiles to the FBI’s Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), where the profiles have found 9,892 matches to offenders and additional crimes, including long-standing cold cases. From 2016, SAFE – ITR has distributed 19 awards valued at nearly \$8 million.

“We are committed to supporting the SAKI and SAFE – ITR programs, which empower law enforcement to identify and remove rapists from our streets through the analysis of critical forensic evidence,” said Kendel Ehrlich, Acting Director of BJA. “These grants will help state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies reduce the number of unsubmitted sexual assault kits, expand their capacity for handling forensic evidence in the future, resolve more sexual assault cases and bring a measure of justice to victims of sexual assault.”

For a complete list of individual grant programs, amounts amounts, and the jurisdictions that will receive funding, click [here](#).

Additional information about Fiscal Year 2020 grant awards made by the Office of Justice Programs can be found online at the [OJP Awards Data webpage](#).

The Office of Justice Programs, directed by Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Katharine T. Sullivan, provides federal leadership, grants, training and technical assistance, and other resources to improve the nation’s capacity to prevent and reduce crime, assist victims and

enhance the rule of law by strengthening the criminal and juvenile justice systems. More information about OJP and its components can be found at [www.ojp.gov](http://www.ojp.gov).

The year 2020 marks the 150th anniversary of the Department of Justice. Learn more about the history of our agency at [www.Justice.gov/Celebrating150Years](http://www.Justice.gov/Celebrating150Years).

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