



E53 National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Programs to Support the Forensic Community: Strategies for Stronger Proposals in a Competitive Environment

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The goals of this presentation are to: (1) learn about National Institute of Justice (NIJ) programs that support the forensic science community; (2) learn how to read an NIJ solicitation and what key areas to focus on; and, (3) learn how to write a stronger competitive proposal.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by providing information about funding opportunities, both competitive and non-competitive, through the NIJ.

There are various types of federal funding opportunities and, generally speaking, they can be broken down into two types: competitive and non-competitive. Non-competitive funding can come in the form of formula grants or sole-source grants/contracts. Competitive funding is just that: competitive. This presentation will focus on competitive funding opportunities issued by the NIJ for research or direct-service assistance related to forensic pathology and medical examiner/coroner services.

This presentation will discuss four programs issued by the NIJ that support the forensic community: (1) Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program; (2) Using DNA to Identify the Missing Program; (3) National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs); and, (4) Research and Development in Forensic Science for Criminal Justice Purposes Program. The NIJ program managers for each of these programs will discuss the specifics of each, including purpose, eligibility, and emphasis on how to write to the selection criteria. Common mistakes and best practices will be reviewed. Requirements including, but not limited to, the program narrative and budget documents will be discussed. A brief overview of NIJ's current forensic pathology research and development and assistance portfolio will also be provided. The goal of this presentation is to provide attendees with an overview of the current NIJ programs that support the forensic science community and to equip attendees with the knowledge and skills to write stronger grant proposals responsive to these programs.

Funding Opportunities, Eligibility, Best Practices