

PAUL COVERDELL FORENSIC SCIENCE IMPROVEMENT ACT PROGRAM
Component: 40.30.523

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Act (Coverdell) Program provides funding to 20 of California's accredited local crime laboratories, two medical examiners' offices, one coroner's office, and the California Department of Justice's Bureau of Forensic Services to improve the quality, timeliness, and credibility of forensic science services over current operations.

Funds are to be used to reduce backlogged forensic cases and improve the turnaround times for case analysis. Coverdell funds also provide opportunities for training in both technical and personal skills to California's forensic scientists to improve laboratory efficiency and to provide competent courtroom testimony.

All crime laboratories must validate their eligibility by certifying their accreditation status with a Forensic Crime laboratory organization or appropriate certifying body. The crime laboratories must also certify that they have a plan in place to conduct an independent, external investigation into allegations of serious negligence or misconduct by laboratory employees or contractors.

The Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Act Program is authorized by Title I of the Omnibus Safe Streets and Crime Control Act of 1968, Part BB, codified at 42 U.S.C. §§3797j-3797o and pursuant to Public Law 106-561, 107-272, and 108-405.

FUNDS AWARDED

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Types of Funding</u>	<u>Total Funding</u>
FY 2014/15	Forensic Science Improvement Act (FSIA) FFY14	\$ 772,620
FY 2015/16	FSIA FFY15	\$ 824,473
FY 2016/17	Unknown	

2014/15 PERFORMANCE STATISTICS*

- 286 Number of forensic science personnel that attended training.
- 5 Number of medical examiner personnel that attended training.

*(Statistics cover the period of 1/1/15 through 6/30/15)

2015/16 PERFORMANCE STATISTICS

Not Available

2016/17 PERFORMANCE STATISTICS

Not Applicable