

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY

### OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

#### Notice of Availability of Funds

**Take notice** that in compliance with N.J.S.A. 52:14-34.4, the Department of Law and Public Safety (LPS), through the Division of State Police, hereby announce the availability of the following grant program funds:

- I. Name of Program:** Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant Program.
- II. Purpose:** The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance continues its efforts to improve the quality and timeliness of forensic science and medical examiner/coroner's office services, including services provided by laboratories operated by state and/or units of local government.
- III. Available Funding:** LPS is a recipient of a U.S. Department of Justice, FY23 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant Program. Funding will be made available to applicants through a competitive process on a reimbursement basis. Pursuant to the availability of federal funding, the anticipated amount of grant funding available is \$50,000. The anticipated funding period for each award is October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025. LPS reserves the right not to make any subawards or to make subawards in an amount less than requested.
- IV. Organizations which may apply:** The FY23 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant Program is only available to State and local units of government. Applicants **must** demonstrate, prior to receiving award funds, that any forensic laboratory system that will receive any portion of the grant amount either is accredited or will (or will be required to) prepare and apply for accreditation consistent with the Coverdell law. Eligibility is subject to review and approval by the Division of State Police and LPS.

## **V. Safe policing and law enforcement subrecipients**

Any State, local, college, or university law enforcement agencies that apply for this funding must be certified by an approved independent credentialing body or have started the certification process before they can receive a subaward. To become certified, law enforcement agencies must meet two mandatory conditions: (1) the agency's use of force policies adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws; and (2) the agency's use of force policies prohibit chokeholds except in situations where use of deadly force is allowed by law. For detailed information on this certification requirement, see <https://cops.usdoj.gov/SafePolicingEO>.

## **VI. Examples of eligible use of grant funds:**

1. Projects that promote overall improvement in the quality of operations and/or the timeliness of forensic science or medical examiner services provided in the State. This may include services provided by laboratories operated by the State and services provided by laboratories operated by units of local government. The reduction of forensic analysis backlogs is considered an improvement in timeliness of services.
2. Projects that will eliminate a backlog in the analysis of forensic science evidence such as; firearm examination; latent prints; impression evidence; toxicology; digital evidence; fire evidence; controlled substances; forensic pathology; questioned documents and trace evidence.
3. Projects that will train, assist, and employ forensic laboratory personnel and medicolegal death investigator, as needed to eliminate such backlog.
4. Projects that will address emerging forensic science issues (such as statistics, contextual bias, and uncertainty of measurement) and emerging forensic science technology (such as high throughput automation, statistical software, and new types of instrumentation).
5. Projects that will educate and train forensic pathologists.

6. Projects that will fund medicolegal death investigation systems to facilitate accreditation of medical examiner and coroner offices and certification of medicolegal death investigators.

**VI. Selection Criteria:** All applications will receive an initial review to ensure the proposal meets minimum standards. This will be followed by an evaluation of the project to determine if it meets the intent of the grant and the expected results and outcomes identified in the Subaward Program Guidance and Application Kit. Only applications meeting all requirements will be considered complete and be reviewed.

**VII. Application Process:** The application kit will provide application and submission instructions, required forms, scoring guidelines and restrictions applicable to this grant.

**VIII.** All applications must be submitted via email no later than 4:00 P.M. on April 1, 2024. Applications must be sent with the subject line **FY 2023 Paul Coverdell Application** to Avis Byrd at: [Avis.Byrd@njsp.gov](mailto:Avis.Byrd@njsp.gov). Applicants will be notified of approval or disapproval of applications approximately 60 days after the application deadline.

**IX. Contact:** Please direct all questions to:

Avis Byrd

Grants Program Management Unit

New Jersey State Police

Division Headquarters

1034 River Road, W. Trenton, NJ 08628

609-882-2000 ext. 6197

[Avis.Byrd@njsp.gov](mailto:Avis.Byrd@njsp.gov)

**X. Subject to Appropriations:** Please note that funding allocations and individual subaward amounts are subject to change. Subrecipients shall recognize and agree that both the initial provision of funding and the continuation of such funding under a grant agreement is expressly depending upon the availability to LPS of funds appropriated by the State or Federal legislature from State and/or Federal revenue or such other funding sources as may be applicable. A failure of LPS to make any payment under a grant agreement or to observe and perform any condition on its part to be performed under a grant agreement as a result of the failure of the State or Federal legislature to appropriate funds shall not in any manner constitute a breach of a grant agreement by LPS or an event of default under a grant agreement and LPS shall not be held liable for any breach of a grant agreement because of the absence of available funding appropriations. In addition, future funding shall not be anticipated from LPS beyond the duration of the award period set forth in a grant agreement and in no event shall a grant agreement be construed as a commitment by LPS to expend funds beyond the termination date set in a grant agreement.