



UNTESTED SEXUAL ASSAULT EVIDENCE GRANT - BACKLOG REDUCTION (USAEG-BR) PROGRAM

The Untested Sexual Assault Evidence Grant – Backlog Reduction Program administered by the California Department of Justice (DOJ) provides funding to city and county agencies in California to assist in processing untested sexual assault evidence. A total of \$1.814 million in new grant funding is available statewide.

Interested agencies are encouraged to learn more about the grant program, the eligibility criteria, and the Request for Application (RFA) process. The grant application period closes June 15, 2021.

Background

The Budget Act of 2018 (SB 862) appropriated funding to the DOJ to provide assistance with eliminating existing statewide sexual assault evidence backlogs by providing grants for local law enforcement agencies, medical facilities and crime laboratories to process (i.e., submit and test) untested sexual assault evidence.

Eligibility Criteria

Any city or county agency within California is eligible to apply for grant funds to facilitate the processing of untested sexual assault evidence. Eligible agencies may include city and county medical facilities and law enforcement agencies that submit sexual assault evidence to a testing laboratory, as well as city and county crime laboratories that perform DNA testing.

Priority will be given to applications that propose to eliminate an existing backlog of untested sexual assault evidence. All applicants that are deemed eligible will receive grant funding for costs incurred to process untested sexual assault evidence.

Grant Proposal

The DOJ will award grant funds to eligible local law enforcement agencies, medical facilities and crime laboratories that apply for funds through an RFA.

Applicants are limited to one application per disbursement cycle.

Eligible agencies must submit a complete application to the DOJ by June 15, 2021 at 5:00 PM. No late applications will be accepted. Applications should be emailed to USAEG-BR@doj.ca.gov.

The complete application package shall not exceed four pages in length and shall include the following:

- Application Cover Sheet
- Letter of Intent
- Project Budget

An incomplete grant application will be disqualified and not reviewed by the Merits Review Committee.

To learn more about the grant or to obtain a copy of the RFA, please visit: oag.ca.gov/usaeg-br

Funding Details

A total of \$1.814 million in grant funding is available. Grant funds are not designed to sustain a project, but are rather intended to supplement existing funds in order to help agencies with the processing of untested sexual assault evidence. Funds may only be used to facilitate the processing (i.e., submission and testing) of untested sexual assault evidence.

All grantees shall provide a dollar-for-dollar match to any grant funds awarded. A Grantee's cash match is the direct project expense the Grantee will provide as its contribution to the Grant project. A Grantee's cash match may include Personal Services, Equipment, and Operating Expenses.

Agencies who are interested in applying for funds should request an amount based on their need. In the event that requests exceed available funds, all approved requests will be evaluated and reduced uniformly.

The grant period begins July 1, 2021 and ends June 30, 2023.

Questions concerning the application process may be directed to the DOJ at USAEG-BR@doj.ca.gov.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Which agencies are eligible to apply for the Untested Sexual Assault Evidence Grant - Backlog Reduction Program?

Local law enforcement agencies, medical facilities and crime laboratories within the State of California that have untested sexual assault evidence are eligible to apply for this grant program. Priority will be given to applications to eliminate existing backlogs of untested sexual assault evidence. Applications must be submitted to the DOJ by June 15, 2021.

What types of activities are eligible for reimbursement through this grant?

Activities that are eligible for reimbursement through this grant include those involved with *submission* of sexual assault evidence to a testing lab, as well as those involved with *testing* of sexual assault evidence. Grant funds must be used to supplement existing funds for program activities and *not replace* (supplant) funds appropriated for the same purpose.

What is the maximum amount of funding an agency can request?

A total of \$1.814 million is available for this grant. While there is no maximum amount of funding that can be requested, an agency should request an amount based on need. In the event that requests exceed the available funds, all approved requests will be evaluated and reduced uniformly.

This grant requires a dollar-for-dollar match from the grant recipient. What does that mean?

As their contribution to the grant project, local law enforcement agencies, medical facilities and crime laboratories that receive grant funds must provide dollar-for-dollar matching funds. The funds awarded to the grant recipient and the grant recipient's matching funds must be used for activities related to submission of sexual assault evidence to a testing lab and/or testing of sexual assault evidence.

When will applicants selected for funding be notified of an award?

Applicants selected for funding will be notified of an award by July 1, 2021.

When does the grant period expire?

The performance period for this grant ends on June 30, 2023.

Are agencies able to re-apply for this grant in the future?

No. Agencies will not be able to re-apply for this grant in the future.

However, the DOJ will be announcing the application process for a different local assistance grant for the processing of sexual assault evidence in the amount of \$313,000 from the Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund (Assembly Bill 280, Stats. 2017, ch. 698).