

§ 14136a. Sexual assault forensic exam program grants

(a) In general

The Attorney General shall make grants to eligible entities to provide training, technical assistance, education, equipment, and information relating to the identification, collection, preservation, analysis, and use of DNA samples and DNA evidence by medical personnel and other personnel, including doctors, medical examiners, coroners, nurses, victim service providers, and other professionals involved in treating victims of sexual assault and sexual assault examination programs, including SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner), SAFE (Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner), and SART (Sexual Assault Response Team).

(b) Eligible entity

For purposes of this section, the term “eligible entity” includes—

- (1) States;
- (2) units of local government; and
- (3) sexual assault examination programs, including—
 - (A) sexual assault nurse examiner (SANE) programs;
 - (B) sexual assault forensic examiner (SAFE) programs;
 - (C) sexual assault response team (SART) programs;
 - (D) State sexual assault coalitions;
 - (E) medical personnel, including doctors, medical examiners, coroners, and nurses, involved in treating victims of sexual assault; and
 - (F) victim service providers involved in treating victims of sexual assault.

(c) Authorization of appropriations

There are authorized to be appropriated \$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019 to carry out this section.

(Pub. L. 108-405, title III, §304, Oct. 30, 2004, 118 Stat. 2273; Pub. L. 110-360, §4, Oct. 8, 2008, 122 Stat. 4009; Pub. L. 113-182, §4, Sept. 29, 2014, 128 Stat. 1918.)

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the DNA Sexual Assault Justice Act of 2004 and also as part of the Justice for All Act of 2004, and not as part of Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 which enacted this chapter.

AMENDMENTS

2014—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 113-182 substituted “2015 through 2019” for “2009 through 2014”.

2008—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 110-360 substituted “2009 through 2014” for “2005 through 2009”.

§ 14136b. DNA research and development

(a) Improving DNA technology

The Attorney General shall make grants for research and development to improve forensic DNA technology, including increasing the identification accuracy and efficiency of DNA analysis, decreasing time and expense, and increasing portability.

(b) Demonstration projects

The Attorney General shall make grants to appropriate entities under which research is car-

ried out through demonstration projects involving coordinated training and commitment of resources to law enforcement agencies and key criminal justice participants to demonstrate and evaluate the use of forensic DNA technology in conjunction with other forensic tools. The demonstration projects shall include scientific evaluation of the public safety benefits, improvements to law enforcement operations, and cost-effectiveness of increased collection and use of DNA evidence.

(c) Authorization of appropriations

There are authorized to be appropriated \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2009 to carry out this section.

(Pub. L. 108-405, title III, §305, Oct. 30, 2004, 118 Stat. 2273.)

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the DNA Sexual Assault Justice Act of 2004 and also as part of the Justice for All Act of 2004, and not as part of Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 which enacted this chapter.

§ 14136c. National Forensic Science Commission

(a) Appointment

The Attorney General shall appoint a National Forensic Science Commission (in this section referred to as the “Commission”), composed of persons experienced in criminal justice issues, including persons from the forensic science and criminal justice communities, to carry out the responsibilities under subsection (b) of this section.

(b) Responsibilities

The Commission shall—

- (1) assess the present and future resource needs of the forensic science community;
- (2) make recommendations to the Attorney General for maximizing the use of forensic technologies and techniques to solve crimes and protect the public;
- (3) identify potential scientific advances that may assist law enforcement in using forensic technologies and techniques to protect the public;
- (4) make recommendations to the Attorney General for programs that will increase the number of qualified forensic scientists available to work in public crime laboratories;
- (5) disseminate, through the National Institute of Justice, best practices concerning the collection and analyses of forensic evidence to help ensure quality and consistency in the use of forensic technologies and techniques to solve crimes and protect the public;
- (6) examine additional issues pertaining to forensic science as requested by the Attorney General;
- (7) examine Federal, State, and local privacy protection statutes, regulations, and practices relating to access to, or use of, stored DNA samples or DNA analyses, to determine whether such protections are sufficient;
- (8) make specific recommendations to the Attorney General, as necessary, to enhance the protections described in paragraph (7) to ensure—