

(2) the integration of tribal AMBER Alert systems into State AMBER Alert systems.

**(b) Activities**

Activities funded by grants under the program under subsection (a) may include—

(1) the development and implementation of education and training programs, and associated materials, relating to AMBER Alert communications plans;

(2) the development and implementation of law enforcement programs, and associated equipment, relating to AMBER Alert communications plans;

(3) the development and implementation of new technologies to improve AMBER Alert communications;

(4) the integration of State or regional AMBER Alert communication plans with a territorial government or an Indian tribe; and

(5) such other activities as the Attorney General considers appropriate for supporting the AMBER Alert communications program.

**(c) Federal share**

**(1) In general**

Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Federal share of the cost of any activities funded by a grant under this section may not exceed 50 percent.

**(2) Waiver**

If the Attorney General determines that American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands of the United States, or an Indian tribe is unable to comply with the requirement under paragraph (1), the Attorney General shall waive such requirement.

**(d) Distribution of grant amounts on geographic basis**

The Attorney General shall, to the maximum extent practicable, ensure the distribution of grants under the program under subsection (a) on an equitable basis throughout the various regions of the United States, including territories of the United States.

**(e) Administration**

The Attorney General shall prescribe requirements, including application requirements, and standards to improve accountability and transparency for grants awarded under the program under subsection (a).

**(f) Definition of Indian tribe**

In this section, the term “Indian tribe” means a federally recognized Indian tribe or a Native village, Regional Corporation, or Village Corporation (as those terms are defined in section 1602 of title 43).

**(g) Authorization of appropriations**

(1) There is authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Justice \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2019 to carry out this section and, in addition, \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2019 to carry out paragraphs (3) and (4) of subsection (b).

(2) Amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in paragraph (1) shall remain available until expended.

(Pub. L. 108–21, title III, §304, Apr. 30, 2003, 117 Stat. 663; Pub. L. 115–166, §2, Apr. 13, 2018, 132

Stat. 1274; Pub. L. 116–283, div. H, title C, §10001(c), Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 4862.)

**Editorial Notes**

**CODIFICATION**

Section was formerly classified to section 5791c of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

**AMENDMENTS**

2021—Subsec. (b)(4). Pub. L. 116–283, §10001(c)(1), inserted “a territorial government or” after “with”.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 116–283, §10001(c)(2), amended subsec. (c) generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Federal share of the cost of any activities funded by a grant under the program under subsection (a) may not exceed 50 percent.

“(2) WAIVER OF FEDERAL SHARE.—If the Attorney General determines that an Indian tribe does not have sufficient funds available to comply with the Federal share requirement under paragraph (1) for the cost of activities funded by a grant for the purpose described in subsection (b)(4), the Attorney General may increase the Federal share of the costs for such activities to the extent the Attorney General determines necessary.”

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 116–283, §10001(c)(3), inserted “, including territories of the United States” before period at end.

2018—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 115–166, §2(1), amended subsec. (a) generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “The Attorney General shall carry out a program to provide grants to States for the development or enhancement of programs and activities for the support of AMBER Alert communications plans.”

Subsec. (b)(4), (5). Pub. L. 115–166, §2(2), added par. (4) and redesignated former par. (4) as (5).

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 115–166, §2(3), designated existing provisions as par. (1) and inserted heading, substituted “Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Federal” for “The Federal”, and added par. (2).

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 115–166, §2(4), substituted “and standards to improve accountability and transparency for grants awarded under” for “for grants under”.

Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 115–166, §2(6), added subsec. (f). Former subsec. (f) redesignated (g).

Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 115–166, §2(5), (7), redesignated subsec. (f) as (g) and, in par. (1), substituted “2019” for “2004” in two places and “paragraphs (3) and (4) of subsection (b)” for “subsection (b)(3)”.

**§ 20505. Limitation on liability**

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b), the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, including any of its officers, employees, or agents, shall not be liable for damages in any civil action for defamation, libel, slander, or harm to reputation arising out of any action or communication by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, its officers, employees, or agents, in connection with any clearinghouse, hotline or complaint intake or forwarding program or in connection with activity that is wholly or partially funded by the United States and undertaken in cooperation with, or at the direction of a Federal law enforcement agency.

(b) The limitation in subsection (a) does not apply in any action in which the plaintiff proves that the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, its officers, employees, or agents acted with actual malice, or provided information or took action for a purpose unrelated to an activity mandated by Federal law. For

purposes of this subsection, the prevention, or detection of crime, and the safety, recovery, or protection of missing or exploited children shall be deemed, per se, to be an activity mandated by Federal law.

(Pub. L. 108-21, title III, §305, Apr. 30, 2003, 117 Stat. 664.)

#### Editorial Notes

##### CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 5791d of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

### CHAPTER 207—COMBATING DOMESTIC TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

Sec.	
20701.	Prevention of domestic trafficking in persons.
20702.	Establishment of a grant program to develop, expand, and strengthen assistance programs for certain persons subject to trafficking.
20703.	Victim-centered child human trafficking deterrence block grant program.
20704.	Grant accountability.
20705.	Enhancing State and local efforts to combat trafficking in persons.
20706.	Senior Policy Operating Group.
20707.	Definitions.
20708.	Grants for specialized human trafficking training and technical assistance for service providers.
20709.	Combat Human Trafficking Act.
20709a.	Holistic training for Federal law enforcement officers and prosecutors.
20709b.	Encouraging a victim-centered approach to training of Federal law enforcement personnel.
20709c.	Training of tribal law enforcement and prosecutorial personnel.
20710.	Education and outreach to trafficking survivors.
20711.	Establishing a national strategy to combat human trafficking.

#### § 20701. Prevention of domestic trafficking in persons

##### (a) Program to reduce trafficking in persons and demand for commercial sex acts in the United States

##### (1) Comprehensive research and statistical review and analysis of incidents of trafficking in persons and commercial sex acts

###### (A) In general

The Attorney General shall use available data from State and local authorities as well as research data to carry out a biennial comprehensive research and statistical review and analysis of severe forms of trafficking in persons, and a biennial comprehensive research and statistical review and analysis of sex trafficking and unlawful commercial sex acts in the United States, and shall submit to Congress separate biennial reports on the findings.

###### (B) Contents

The research and statistical review and analysis under this paragraph shall consist of two separate studies, utilizing the same statistical data where appropriate, as follows:

(i) The first study shall address severe forms of trafficking in persons in the United States and shall include, but need not be limited to—

(I) the estimated number and demographic characteristics of persons engaged in acts of severe forms of trafficking in persons; and

(II) the number of investigations, arrests, prosecutions, and incarcerations of persons engaged in acts of severe forms of trafficking in persons by States and their political subdivisions.

(ii) The second study shall address sex trafficking and unlawful commercial sex acts in the United States and shall include, but need not be limited to—

(I) the estimated number and demographic characteristics of persons engaged in sex trafficking and commercial sex acts, including purchasers of commercial sex acts;

(II) the estimated value in dollars of the commercial sex economy, including the estimated average annual personal income derived from acts of sex trafficking;

(III) the number of investigations, arrests, prosecutions, and incarcerations of persons engaged in sex trafficking and unlawful commercial sex acts, including purchasers of commercial sex acts, by States and their political subdivisions; and

(IV) a description of the differences in the enforcement of laws relating to unlawful commercial sex acts across the United States.

##### (2) Trafficking conference

###### (A) In general

The Attorney General, in consultation and cooperation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall conduct an annual conference in each of the fiscal years 2006, 2007, and 2008, and thereafter conduct a biennial conference, addressing severe forms of trafficking in persons and commercial sex acts that occur, in whole or in part, within the territorial jurisdiction of the United States. At each such conference, the Attorney General, or his designee, shall—

(i) announce and evaluate the findings contained in the research and statistical reviews carried out under paragraph (1);

(ii) disseminate best methods and practices for enforcement of laws prohibiting acts of severe forms of trafficking in persons and other laws related to acts of trafficking in persons, including, but not limited to, best methods and practices for training State and local law enforcement personnel on the enforcement of such laws;

(iii) disseminate best methods and practices for training State and local law enforcement personnel on the enforcement of laws prohibiting sex trafficking and commercial sex acts, including, but not limited to, best methods for investigating and prosecuting exploiters and persons who solicit or purchase an unlawful commercial sex act; and