



**U.S. Department of Justice**  
Office of Justice Programs  
*National Institute of Justice*

*Washington, D.C. 20531*

Dear Colleagues:

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ), the research agency of the U.S. Department of Justice, is pleased to announce the posting of two funding opportunities in the area of forensic science research and development:

- Research and Development in Forensic Science for Criminal Justice Purposes
- Graduate Research Fellowship in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

These programs support NIJ's mission by sponsoring research to provide objective, independent, evidence-based knowledge and tools to meet the challenges of crime and justice, particularly at the State and local levels. In fiscal year 2015, NIJ awarded more than \$30 million to support forensic science research and development. Of all proposals received, nearly 34% of Research and Development proposals and 64% of Graduate Research Fellowship proposals with relevance to forensic science were funded. Funding for fiscal year 2016 is pending congressional appropriation.

**Research and Development in Forensic Science for Criminal Justice Purposes**

This solicitation seeks proposals for basic or applied research and development projects that will: (1) increase the body of knowledge to guide and inform forensic science policy and practice, or (2) result in the production of useful materials, devices, systems, or methods that have the potential for forensic application. The intent of this program is to direct the findings of basic scientific research, research and development in broader scientific fields applicable to forensic science, and ongoing forensic science research toward the development of highly discriminating, accurate, reliable, cost-effective, and rapid methods for the identification, analysis, and interpretation of physical evidence for criminal justice purposes.

The solicitation can be found at: <http://nij.gov/funding/Documents/solicitations/nij-2016-4305.pdf> or through Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Number: NIJ-2016-4305.

**Application deadline: February 1, 2016.**

**Graduate Research Fellowship in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics**

This solicitation seeks applications to fund accredited academic institutions to support graduate research leading to doctoral degrees in areas that are relevant to ensuring public safety, preventing and controlling crime, and ensuring the fair and impartial administration of criminal justice in the United States.

The solicitation can be found at: <http://nij.gov/funding/Documents/solicitations/nij-2016-4320.pdf> or through Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Number: NIJ-2016-4320.

**Application deadline: December 15, 2015.**

**Submission Process:** Proposals in response to this Dear Colleague Letter must meet the requirements of the Research and Development in Forensic Science for Criminal Justice Purposes solicitation or the Graduate Research Fellowship in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics solicitation, and be submitted to Grants.gov by February 1, 2016 or December 15, 2015, respectively. General information on applying for NIJ awards can be found at [www.nij.gov/funding/Pages/welcome.aspx](http://www.nij.gov/funding/Pages/welcome.aspx).

**Additional information:** Find more information about NIJ's forensic science R&D programs (including previously funded projects) at: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/topics/forensics/welcome.htm>. Technology needs of the forensic science community can be found at <http://www.nij.gov/topics/forensics/pages/forensic-operational-requirements.aspx>. If you have any questions about NIJ's forensic science R&D programs or this Dear Colleague Letter, please inquire at [forensic.research@usdoj.gov](mailto:forensic.research@usdoj.gov).

Sincerely,

Gerald LaPorte  
Director, Office of Investigative and Forensic Sciences  
National Institute of Justice