

BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE

# National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative

FY 2024 Grantee Orientation

February 19, 2025





**Congratulations!**



# Introductions

# BJA Policy Office Staff

- **Carey Hendricks**

Senior Policy Advisor

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- **Hope Zagaria**

Policy Advisor

[Hope.Zagaria@usdoj.gov](mailto:Hope.Zagaria@usdoj.gov), 202-812-6420

- **Hannah Barcus**

Senior Forensic Analyst (*Contractor*)

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# BJA Programs Office Staff

- **Caroline Shriver**  
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- **Brandon Mitchell**  
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[Brandon.Mitchell3@usdoj.gov](mailto:Brandon.Mitchell3@usdoj.gov), 202-802-4623



# BJA Performance Management Staff

- **Eva Juarez**

Planning, Performance, and Impact (*Contractor*)

[Evangelica.Juarez@usdoj.gov](mailto:Evangelica.Juarez@usdoj.gov), (323) 385-1908



- **Armonee Avent**

Planning, Performance, and Impact (*Contractor*)

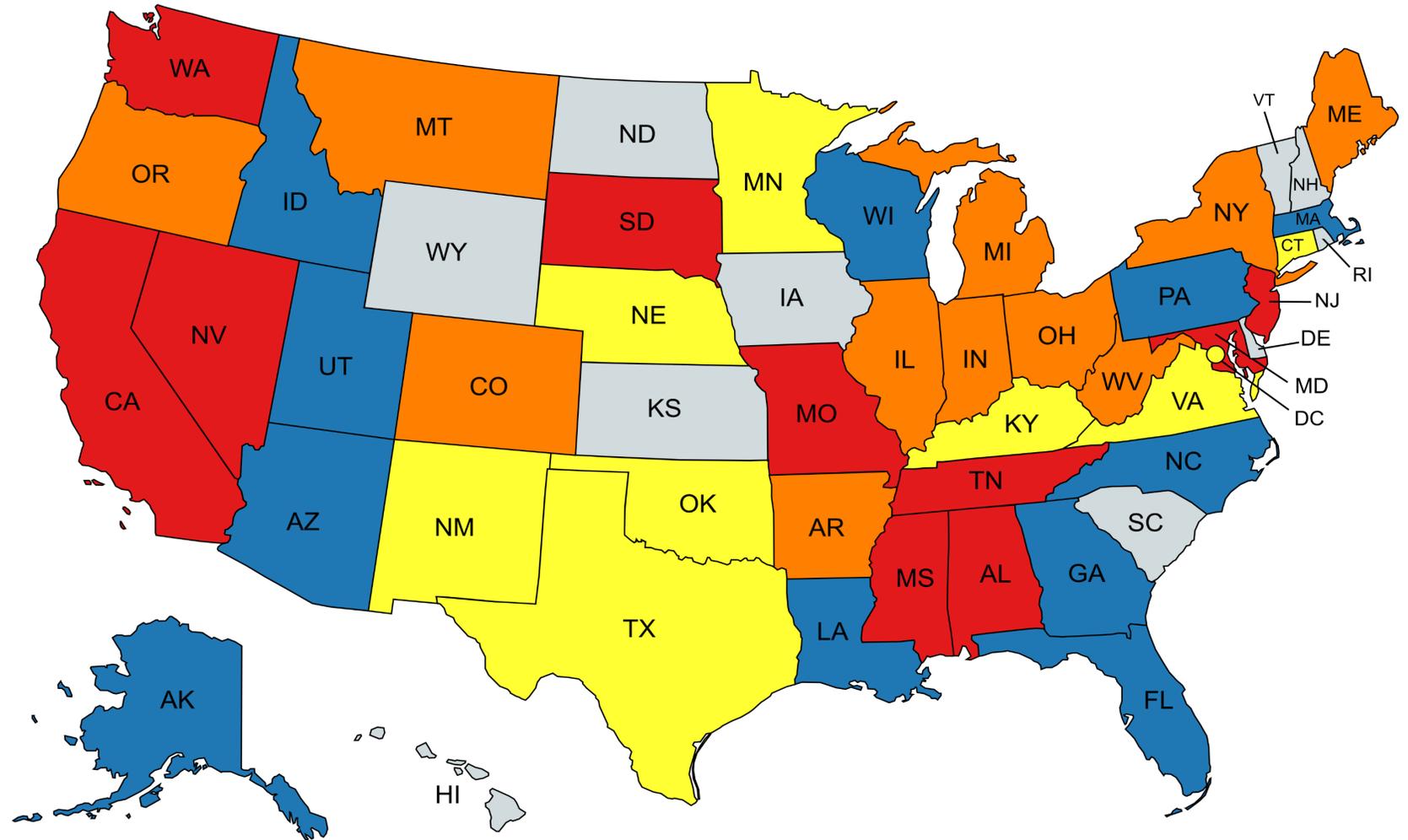
[Armonee.Avent@usdoj.gov](mailto:Armonee.Avent@usdoj.gov)



# Programs Office Assignments

## SAKI - Programs

- Caroline
- Brandon
- Kathy
- Wendy



# Training and Technical Assistance Providers

- **SAKI TTA**  
Research Triangle Institute (RTI)  
[SAKITTA@rti.org](mailto:SAKITTA@rti.org)
- **SAKI TTA – Forensic DNA Services**  
The University of North Texas  
Health Science Center (UNTHSC)  
[Robert.Moore@unthsc.edu](mailto:Robert.Moore@unthsc.edu)



# FY 2024 Grantees

- **Purpose Area 1**

- HARRIS COUNTY
- SAN JOSE, CITY OF
- OKLAHOMA STATE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
- CRIME & DELINQUENCY PA COMMISSION ON
- LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY, NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF
- CUMBERLAND, COUNTY OF
- COUNTY OF FULTON
- WV JUSTICE & COMMUNITY SERVICES
- MARICOPA COUNTY ATTORNEYS OFF
- CITY OF TULSA
- FRESNO, CITY OF

- **Purpose Area 3**

- DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY ARKANSAS
- TENNESSEE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
- LOUISIANA STATE POLICE

- **Purpose Area 4**

- CITY OF TUCSON
- FAYETTEVILLE, CITY OF
- BALTIMORE COUNTY MARYLAND
- SEATTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
- STATE ATTORNEYS' OFFICE-17TH CIRCUIT
- DALLAS COUNTY



# FY 2024 Grantees

- **Purpose Area 5**
  - CITY OF DULUTH
- **Purpose Area 6**
  - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY STATE UTAH
  - DALLAS COUNTY



# Agenda

- BJA Overview
- Program Overview
- Next Steps
- Additional Training
- Resources
- Q&A





# BJA Overview

# U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance

**Mission:** BJA's mission is to provide leadership and services in grant administration and criminal justice policy development to support state, local, and tribal justice strategies to achieve safer communities. BJA works with communities, governments, and nonprofit organizations to reduce crime, recidivism, and unnecessary confinement, and promote a safe and fair criminal justice system.



<https://bja.ojp.gov/>



# How BJA Supports the Field



## Investments

Provide diverse funding to accomplish goals.



## Sharing Knowledge

Research, develop, and deliver what works to build capacity and improve outcomes.



## Engagement

Consult, connect, and convene.





# Program Overview

# Program Overview

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Create a multi-disciplinary response that ensures just resolution of violent cold case crimes, particularly those that are sexually motivated, through a victim-centered approach.

Support multidisciplinary response teams to inventory, track, and expeditiously test previously unsubmitted SAKs (including partially tested kits) and secondary evidence as appropriate

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Collect and test lawfully owed DNA from qualifying individuals as well as develop policies surrounding arrestee DNA collection

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Produce necessary protocols and policies to improve collaboration among laboratories, police, prosecutors, and victim service providers

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Provide resources to address the sexual assault investigations and prosecutions that result from evidence and CODIS hits produced by tested SAKs

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Optimize victim notification protocols and services

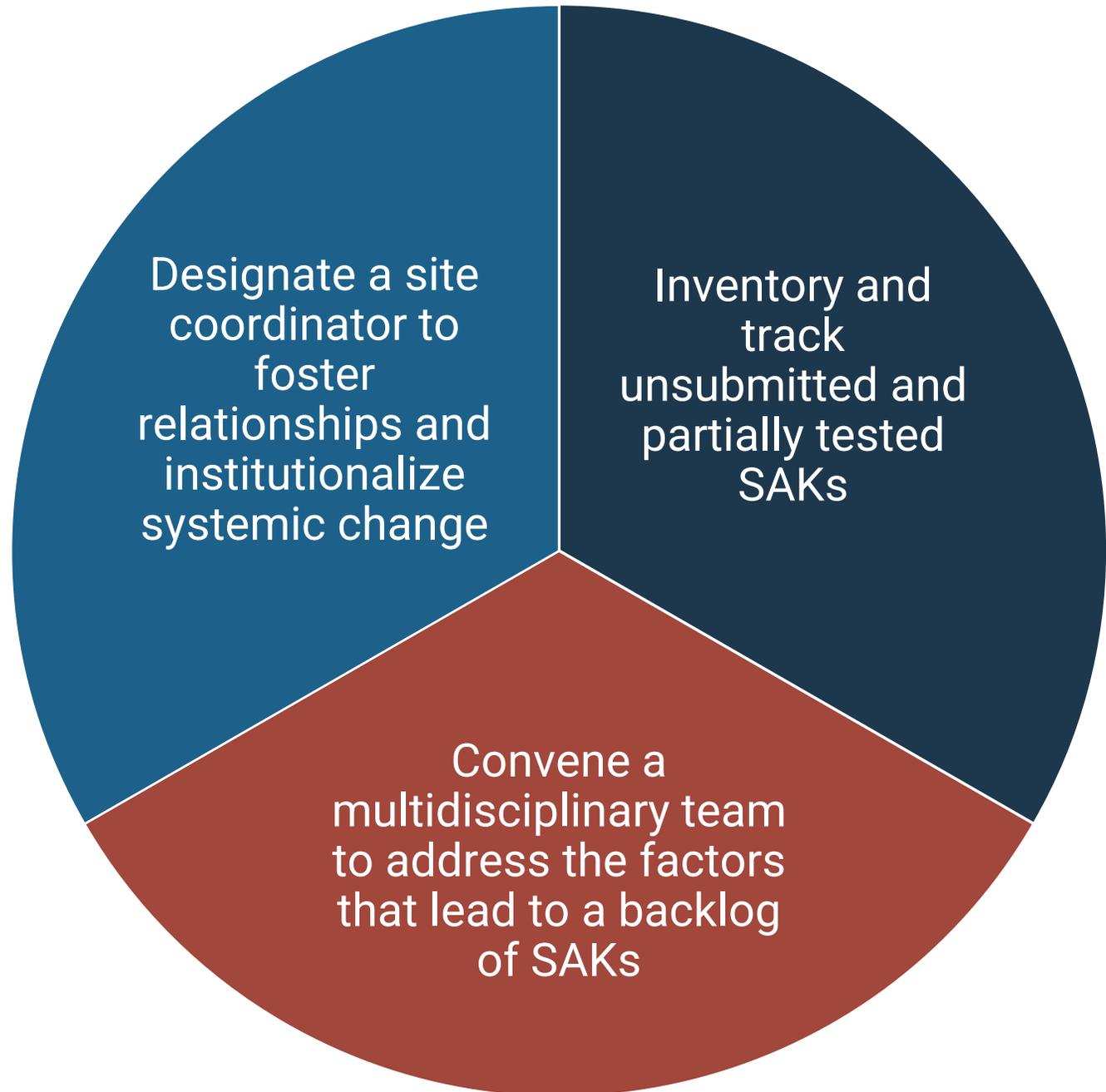
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Address the lack of criminal justice resources for other violent cold case crimes

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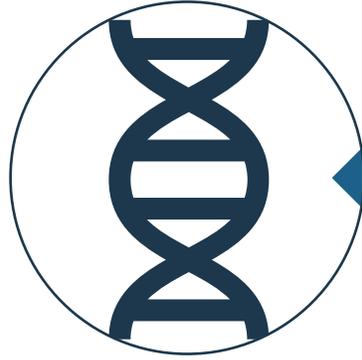


# BJA SAKI Model



Bureau of Justice Assistance  
U.S. Department of Justice

# PA1, PA2 and PA4 Goals and Objectives



Test unsubmitted and partially tested SAKs with CODIS eligible and advanced DNA methods to generate new investigative leads



Conduct follow up investigation(s) and prosecution(s) to identify and hold accountable offenders responsible for sexually-motivated crimes



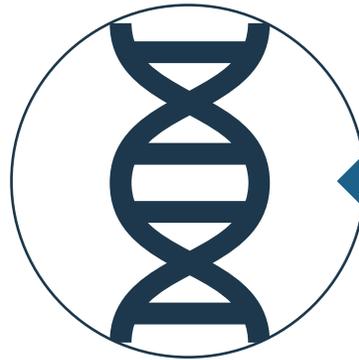
Develop and implement trauma-informed victim engagement and notification policies



# PA3 Goals and Objectives



Conduct a census of individuals who legally owe a DNA sample for inclusion in CODIS



Collect, DNA test, and upload to CODIS lawfully owed DNA samples



Assess and improve the systemic and organizational processes that contributed to missed collections

# PA5 Goals and Objectives



Further assess and improve the systemic and organizational processes that contributed to backlogged sexual assault cases



Formalize improvements laying the groundwork for sustainable change in the community's response to sexual assault



# PA6 Goals and Objectives



Test forensic evidence with CODIS eligible and advanced DNA methods to generate new investigative leads in cold case violent crimes



Conduct follow up investigation(s) and prosecution(s) to identify and hold accountable individuals responsible for violent crimes



Develop and implement trauma-informed family and victim engagement and notification policies



# Deliverables

- PA1 and PA2– certified inventory of unsubmitted and partially tested SAKs
- PA 3 – detailed lawfully owed DNA census plan
- PA 3 – Final Summary report
- PA 6 – certified inventory of violent cold case crimes anticipated to be worked under award

## Reminders!

Templates: Pre-developed inventory and census forms available through TTA provider

Due Date: 6 months after budget approval



# Supporting Your Program



## BJA POLICY TEAM

Develops grant programs and directs technical assistance to advance the field's public safety goals.



## BJA PROGRAMS TEAM

Grant monitoring and administration assistance to ensure success and compliance. Primary point of contact.



## BJA PPI TEAM

Sets program goals and collects performance measures data to assess achievement of those goals. All BJA grantees collect and report performance data.



## TTA PROVIDER

Provides subject matter expertise and project management support. Conduit to BJA Policy Team.

# SAKI TTA

- Every grantee has a designated point of contact
- Routine virtual meetings
- Annual in person convening
- No cost to grantees





# Next Steps

# Two Parts to Success

1

Manage the award to comply with all conditions.

2

Perform project objectives.



**SAKI**  
SEXUAL ASSAULT  
KIT INITIATIVE  
Reform. Accountability. Justice.

# Grant Agreement

Check your award for special conditions to be resolved

- #37 – Submission of BJA published materials
- #48 – Inventory Completion: associated with 75%-100% withholding of funds

- > Project Information
- > Financial Information
- ✓ Award Conditions

This award is offered subject to the conditions or limitations set forth in the Award Information, Project Information, Financial Information, and Award Conditions.



Meaningful access requirement for individuals with limited English proficiency

The recipient, and any subrecipient at any tier, must take reasonable steps to ensure that individuals with limited English proficiency (LEP) have meaningful access to their programs and activities to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of national origin, including discrimination against individuals with LEP. Such steps may require providing language assistance services, such as interpretation or translation services. The Department of Justice guidance on compliance with this requirement may be found at "Guidance to Federal Financial Assistance Recipients Regarding Title VI Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination Affecting Limited English Proficient Persons" (67 Fed. Reg. 41455-41472) (<https://www.federalregister.gov/d/02-15207>) and is incorporated by reference here.



Compliance with general appropriations-law restrictions on the use of federal funds (FY 2024)



# Program Specific Requirements



Quarterly Office Hours with SAKI TTA and BJA



Attendance by key personnel at annual Grantee's Meeting



Enter/Update all qualifying cases processed with SAKI funding into ViCAP by end of grant period



All DNA analysis (excluding FGG) must be performed by a laboratory accredited to the FBI Quality Assurance Standards



Know requirements regarding the use of Forensic Genetic Genealogy (FGG) under SAKI



# FY24 Example Permissible Uses of Funds

Forensic testing  
activities

Personnel  
Costs/Overtime

Soft Interview  
Rooms

SAK Evidence  
Tracking Systems

Travel/training

Crime/intelligence  
analysis

Enhancement to  
victim services

Computer  
equipment





# Unallowable Uses of Funds



Salaries, benefits, or overtime for staff who are not directly engaged in the project

Laboratory equipment

Portable investigative equipment

Police Vehicles

Tuition

Renovation/  
Construction

Rental costs for space

Costs for general cold case investigations — those that do not involve UCR, Part 1 violent crimes



# SAKI Forensic Genetic Genealogy Requirements

- Award recipients utilizing SAKI funds for FGG must adhere to the **United States Department of Justice Interim Policy: Forensic Genetic Genealogical DNA Analysis and Searching.**
- Refer to page 15 of the **FY 24 SAKI Solicitation** for a full list of requirements



# SAKI FGG **Highlighted** Requirements

1. SAKI funding may not be used for the tree building portion of FGG unless this activity is being conducted in-house by the awardee. The awardee must leverage the FBI's free resources for the tree building portion of FGG if the awardee does not have in-house genealogy capabilities.

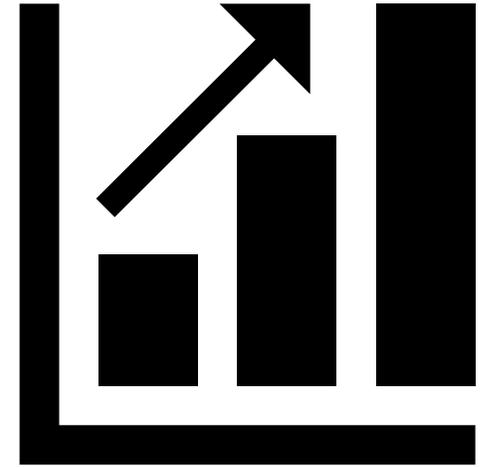
Exceptions to this requirement can be granted – must contact BJA to receive any exception approvals.

2. The case must be submitted for entry into ViCAP and Namus (as applicable) before proceeding with FGG.



# SAKI Performance Measures

- Reported quarterly in the Performance Measurement Tool (PMT)
- Performance Measure questions: <https://bjaojp.gov/funding/performance-measures/saki-pa1-2-measures.pdf>
- PMT HelpDesk: [bjapmt@usdoj.gov](mailto:bjapmt@usdoj.gov)
- PMT report gets uploaded to JustGrants once completed
- Justice Grants System (JustGrants) User Support: [JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov](mailto:JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov)



# Next 30 Days

- ✓ OCF0 will review your budget and send it back via a GAM in JustGrants.
- ✓ Work with your SAKI TTA POC to address inventory-related withholdings (they will reach out).
- ✓ Review the FY24 solicitation and your proposal.
- ✓ Think about sequencing and procurement, if applicable.
- ✓ Sign up for OJP/BJA trainings, e.g., JustGrants.





# Upcoming Trainings and Meetings

# Trainings

Check here for updates and recordings of BJA grantee trainings:

<https://bja.ojp.gov/events/grantee-training-series>

# Meetings

- Annual SAKI Grantee's Meeting (Location and Date- TBD)
- Quarterly Office Hours with SAKI TTA and BJA





# Resources



# Recipient Resources

<https://www.ojp.gov/funding/implement/overview>

Once you receive an award notification that your application was selected for funding, it's time to get to work. The OJP Recipient Resources provide instructions and training from implementing to closing your award.

## Need help managing your OJP award? [🔗](#)

**NEW!** Do You Have Questions About JustGrants? Register to Attend a [Virtual Q&A Session](#) [🔗](#)

- [Legal Notices](#)
- [OJP Grants Overview](#)
- [OJP Training Guiding Principles for Grantees and Subgrantees](#)
- [JustGrants Login](#)
- [JustGrants Informational Website](#)
- [JustGrants Training](#)

## Financial and Grant Reporting Resources [🔗](#)

- Real Property Reporting resources:
  - [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
  - [Facility Utilization for Reporting Period Addendum](#)
  - [Instructions for the SF-429 Real Property Status Report](#)
  - [Real Property Status Report Attachment A \(General Reporting\) SF-429-A](#)
- [DOJ Grants Financial Guide](#)
- [OJP Financial Guide](#)
- [Guide to Procurement Procedures for Recipients of DOJ Grants and Cooperative Agreements](#)
- [Policy and Guidance for Conference Approval, Planning, and Reporting](#)
- [FFATA Subaward Reporting Webcast](#)
- Federal Financial Report (SF-425) [Instructions](#) and [Fillable Form](#) for OJP
- [Federal Financial Report \(SF-425\) for COPS Office](#)
- [Audit Confirmation Request Form](#)
- [Grant Performance Measurement and Progress Reporting Information](#)

## Grant System Resources [🔗](#)

- [JustGrants](#)
- [JustGrants Resources](#)
- [JustGrants Training](#)
- [IT State and Territory Points of Contact](#)

# Free DNA testing available

- Funded by BJA
- Identification efforts on UHR cases with sexual nexus
- Contact:  
[Robert.Moore@unthsc.edu](mailto:Robert.Moore@unthsc.edu)

### Funded DNA Testing for SAKI Grantee Agencies for Unidentified Human Remains from Sexually Motivated Homicide Cases

*All work performed on site (no subcontracting)*



#### Contact Us

For general information, requests for FRS collection kits or to schedule a submission:  
CHI Evidence Unit  
MissingPersons@unthsc.edu  
800.763.3147  
[unthsc.edu/chi](http://unthsc.edu/chi)

For law enforcement, medical examiners or justices of the peace:  
Investigative Support Unit  
Robert.Moore@unthsc.edu  
Director, Investigative Support  
817.735.7943

#### DNA Services

ISO/IEC 17025, FBI Quality Assurance Standards

- STR/Y-STR and Mitochondrial DNA development
- CODIS upload and search
- SNP development/FGG, using massively parallel sequencing to identify UHRs (when STR and mitochondrial DNA profiles in CODIS do not lead to identification)
- Family Reference Sample (FRS) testing

#### Investigative Support Services

- Investigative Genetic Genealogy (experienced staff)
- LE Investigative Assistance (retired LE detectives)

#### DNA Technologies

- Qiagen/Verogen Kintelligence Kit using MiSeq FGx Sequencing
- Microarray
- Whole Genome Sequencing (coming soon)

Center for Human Identification  
at The University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth  
3500 Camp Bowie Blvd. | Fort Worth, Texas 76107  
[unthsc.edu/chi](http://unthsc.edu/chi) | [@unthsc\\_chi](https://twitter.com/unthsc_chi)

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# BJA SAKI

## National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI)

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### Overview [↗](#)

The National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) provides funding to:

- Support multidisciplinary community response teams to inventory, track, and expeditiously test previously unsubmitted sexual assault kits (SAKs).
- Collect and test lawfully owed DNA from offenders/arrestees.
- Produce necessary protocols and policies to improve collaboration and promote sustainable reform among laboratories, police, prosecutors, and victim service providers.
- Provide resources to address the cold case sexual assault investigations and prosecutions that result from evidence and Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) hits produced by tested SAKs.
- Optimize victim notification protocols and services.

SAKI also provides [training and technical assistance \(TTA\)](#) <sup>18</sup>. The TTA provider (RTI International) is charged with assisting jurisdictions in establishing sustainable change in practices, protocols, and policies as they relate to untested SAKs and sexual assault response. While each jurisdiction encounters unique challenges and circumstances, common issues are identified across all site grantees. BJA collaborated with the TTA provider to produce an online toolkit/guide to provide direction and a centralized source of evidence-based practices and relevant TTA resources that can be leveraged by all jurisdictions grappling with the challenge of not only untested SAKs, but downstream investigative/prosecutorial resources.

### Why This Matters [↗](#)

#### Overview

About the Program

Funding

Grantees

Resources

Archives

Success Spotlight:

[Serial Rapist Receives Life Sentence in First Genetic Genealogy Jury Trial in Dallas County History](#)

Blog post: [Achieving Justice for Sexual Assault Survivors in Georgia](#)

<https://bja.ojp.gov/program/saki/overview>

# SAKI TTA



Search

TOOLKIT HOME SHARE BRIEFCASE

## TOOLKIT

Customize your own training materials by building your briefcase and sharing with others. Each category touches upon your work, and we encourage you to explore all of them.

### EXPLORE

Browse below or Search above to find resources.

### SAVE

Log in and use this icon to add items to your Briefcase.

### SHARE

Click the Share icon to share resources now or later.

Evidence Tracking	Multidisciplinary Response	Forensics	Engaging Victims
Victim Care	Investigation	Prosecution	Research and Evaluation

<https://sakitta.org>

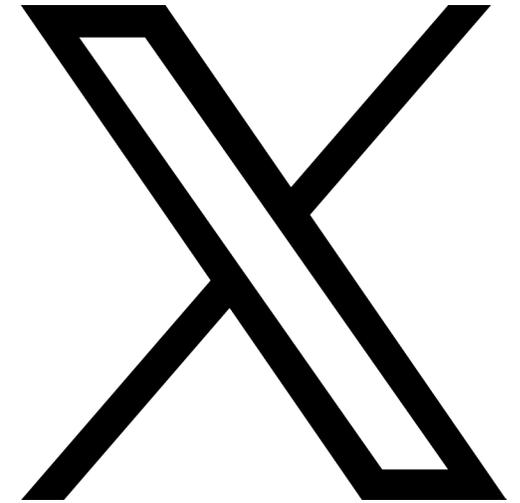
SAKInitiative

Sexual Assault Kit Initiative



# Stay Connected!

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- **YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/dojbja>
- Use the QR code to subscribe to “**Justice Matters**” and “**News From BJA**” to receive the latest information from BJA and the field.
- For information on funding opportunities, publications, and initiatives, visit **BJA’s website:** [www.bja.ojp.gov](http://www.bja.ojp.gov).



# Q&A



Please submit questions using the Q&A feature

