



# NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE PUBLIC LABS RESEARCH SOLICITATION



## Introduction

The Research and Evaluation for the Testing and Interpretation of Physical Evidence in Publicly Funded Forensic Laboratories (Public Labs) program's intent is to fund projects that direct the findings of research and evaluation toward the identification of the most efficient, accurate, reliable, and cost-effective methods for the identification, analysis, and interpretation of physical evidence for criminal justice purposes.

With this solicitation, the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) seeks applications for research and evaluation projects that will:

- Identify and inform the forensic community of best practices through the evaluation of existing laboratory protocols.
- Have a direct and immediate impact on laboratory efficiency and assist in making laboratory policy decisions.

## Program Overview

The Public Labs program is specifically targeted toward applicants from or partnered with publicly funded laboratories and has the following objectives:

- Assessing existing laboratory protocols.
  - » Improve understanding of the rationales underpinning existing laboratory processes.
- Evaluating emerging methods.
  - » Assess the value of emerging laboratory processes.

**Deadline: May 18, 2020**

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## Eligibility

NIJ welcomes public-private partnerships through this program. Applicants must be, or be partnered with, publicly funded forensic science laboratories that are currently accredited by an independent accrediting or certifying forensic science organization. Publicly funded forensic science laboratories include state, regional, county, municipal, and tribal agencies. For detailed eligibility information, please refer to the solicitation document.

## Applying

In advance of NIJ releasing the 2020 solicitation, we are calling on public laboratories, universities, and other research organizations to submit contact information to foster collaboration and/or partnerships to assist in preparing an application for the forthcoming solicitation.

Are you a postgraduate researcher with an interest in forensics? If so, the NIJ has a program that can help you gain experience in working forensic labs with real-world applications. Postgraduate researchers are encouraged to access the contact information posted on the web page to link with potential research opportunities.

As part of our "Research and Evaluation for the Testing and Interpretation of Physical Evidence in Publicly Funded Forensic Laboratories" program, we encourage applicant laboratories to consider partnering with another research organization and funding a postgraduate (master's or doctorate) fellowship as part of their proposal.

Learn more at [nij.ojp.gov/funding/research-and-evaluation-publicly-funded-forensic-laboratories](https://nij.ojp.gov/funding/research-and-evaluation-publicly-funded-forensic-laboratories)