



Audit of the Office of Justice Programs Bureau of
Justice Assistance Paul Coverdell
Forensic Science Improvement Grants
Awarded to the Oregon State Police,
Salem, Oregon



AUDIT DIVISION

25-088

SEPTEMBER 2025

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

Redactions were made to the full version of this report for privacy reasons. The redactions are contained in Appendix 2, the grantee's response, and are of individuals' names.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Audit of the Office of Justice Programs Bureau of Justice Assistance Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Awarded to the Oregon State Police, Salem, Oregon

Objectives

The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) Bureau of Justice Assistance awarded the Oregon State Police (OSP) two grants totaling \$606,662 for the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program. The objectives of this audit were to determine whether costs claimed under the grants were allowable, supported, and in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, guidelines, and terms and conditions of the award; and to determine whether the grantee demonstrated adequate progress towards achieving program goals and objectives.

Results in Brief

As a result of our audit, we concluded that OSP's Forensic Services Division (FSD) utilized grant funds on toxicology analysis. However, we found that OSP did not achieve a stated grant goal of completing 80 percent of its toxicology samples under 30 days during either grant periods within our audit scope. Instead, OSP processed only 32 percent of its toxicology samples under 30 days as of July 24, 2025. We were not able to reconcile FSD's submitted reports to its financial or programmatic records or systems. As such, we identified areas for improvement in OSP's procedures related to performance and financial reporting.

Recommendations

Our report contains three recommendations to OJP. We requested response to our draft audit report from OSP and OJP, and these can be found in Appendices 2 and 3, respectively. Our analysis of those responses is included in Appendix 4.

Audit Results

The purposes of the two OJP grants we reviewed were to improve forensic science and medical examiner and coroner services, including services provided by laboratories operated by the state of Oregon and units of local government. The FSD's goal was to use grant funds for overtime to help reduce the FSD's toxicology sample backlog and complete 80 percent of its toxicology sample requests under 30 days, contract with an external toxicology laboratory to analyze post-mortem samples, and purchase laboratory software and supplies. The project period for the 15PBJA-22-GG-02016-COVE and 15PBJA-23-GG-00975-COVE grants were from October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2024, and October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2025, respectively. As of July 3, 2025, OSP drew down a cumulative amount of \$404,995 for the two grants we audited.

Program Goals and Accomplishments

We determined that, although the FSD successfully reduced its toxicology backlog, the FSD did not fully meet its stated goal of reducing the average turnaround time from submission to delivery of results. Also, the FSD could not support the metrics in its performance reports. Finally, the FSD reported inaccurate and inconsistent metrics, which could hinder the Bureau of Justice Assistance from adequately assessing its progress towards achieving program goals.

Grant Financial Management

We determined that the FSD used grant funds to pay for overtime, to fund the analysis of post-mortem samples by an external toxicology laboratory, and to purchase software and supplies for the laboratory as it was approved to do. We did not identify any issues with FSD's expenditures, drawdowns, or its management of the grant budget. However, we found that OSP's Federal Financial Reports were inaccurate.

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	1
The Grantee	1
OIG Audit Approach	2
Audit Results.....	3
Program Performance and Accomplishments	3
Program Goals and Objectives	3
Required Performance Reports	4
Grant Financial Management	5
Grant Expenditures	6
Federal Financial Reports	6
Conclusion and Recommendations	8
APPENDIX 1: Objectives, Scope, and Methodology	9
Objectives	9
Scope and Methodology.....	9
Internal Controls.....	9
APPENDIX 2: Oregon State Police’s Response to the Draft Audit Report	11
APPENDIX 3: Office of Justice Programs Response to the Draft Audit Report	13
APPENDIX 4: Office of the Inspector General Analysis and Summary of Actions Necessary to Close the Audit Report.....	17

Introduction

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) completed an audit of two grants awarded by the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program (Coverdell Grant Program) to the Oregon State Police (OSP) in Salem, Oregon. Between September 2022 and September 2023, OSP was awarded two grants totaling \$606,662, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1

Grants Awarded to OSP

OJP Award Number	Program Office	Award Date	Project Period Start Date	Project Period End Date	Award Amount
15PBJA-22-GG-02016-COVE	BJA	09/28/2022	10/01/2022	09/30/2024	\$293,954
15PBJA-23-GG-00975-COVE	BJA	09/25/2023	10/01/2023	09/30/2025	\$312,708
Total:					\$606,662

Source: DOJ JustGrants.

The BJA Coverdell Grant Program supports states and units of local government by providing them with tools needed to meet the challenges of crime and justice. The Coverdell Grant Program provides funding to improve forensic science and medical examiner and coroner services. The two grants we audited are formula grants.

The Grantee

OSP's Forensic Services Division (FSD) provides scientific, technical, and investigative support to the criminal justice system through the collection and forensic analysis of evidence. The FSD provides the state's only full-service forensic laboratory system and consists of five laboratories located throughout the state in Bend, Central Point, Clackamas, Pendleton, and Springfield. The laboratories provide forensic services to include scientific examination of physical evidence, collection and preservation of evidence, crime scene response, and expert testimony. As of July 2025, the FSD had 133 authorized positions.

The state of Oregon put into effect Measure 110 in February 2021, which reduced the penalties for drug possession. The FSD saw a dramatic decrease in both felony and misdemeanor possession of controlled substances cases and saw a steady increase of toxicology submissions due to an increase in the frequency of traffic stops for impaired driving (drug use while operating a vehicle) and reallocation of law enforcement agency resources from possession cases to impaired driving cases. The FSD utilized the BJA Coverdell Grant Program funds to reduce its backlog of toxicology cases, contract with an external laboratory, and purchase toxicology software and supplies. OSP's Budget Section manages the financial aspects of FSD's grants, including reviewing expenditures against grant budget categories and gathering expenditure information for the Federal Financial Reports and Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards.

OIG Audit Approach

The objectives of this audit were to determine whether costs claimed under the grants were allowable, supported, and in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, guidelines, and terms and conditions of the grant; and to determine whether the grantee demonstrated adequate progress towards achieving the program goals and objectives. To accomplish these objectives, we assessed performance in the following areas of grant management: program performance, financial management, expenditures, drawdowns, and federal financial reports.

We tested compliance with what we considered to be the most important conditions of the grants. The DOJ Grants Financial Guide, 2 C.F.R. § 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards; and the award documents contain the primary criteria we applied during the audit. The results of our analysis are discussed in detail later in this report. Appendix 1 contains additional information on this audit's objectives, scope, and methodology.

Audit Results

Program Performance and Accomplishments

We reviewed required performance reports, grant solicitations, and program narratives, and conducted interviews with representatives from OSP and FSD, to determine whether the FSD demonstrated progress towards achieving the goals and objectives of the audited grants. We also reviewed the FSD's Grant Performance Metrics reports to evaluate their accuracy.

Program Goals and Objectives

For both 15PBJA-22-GG-02016-COVE (22COVE) and 15PBJA-23-GG-00975-COVE (23COVE) grant awards, the FSD explained in its grant applications that there had been a steady increase in pending toxicology requests and FSD's goal was to reduce the related backlog and complete 80 percent of toxicology cases within 30 days. Additionally, under the 22COVE grant, the FSD planned to utilize about half of its grant funds to send post-mortem samples to an external laboratory for processing, thereby allowing FSD resources to be directed to antemortem case samples.¹ In addition, under the 23COVE grant, the FSD planned to also use grant funds to purchase software and supplies for its toxicology work.

The FSD provided evidence that it was successful in reducing its toxicology backlog during the grant periods.

Table 2

Grant Goal - Reduce Backlog

OJP Award Number	Reporting Period	Backlogged Toxicology Cases as of the Start Date of the First Progress Report	Reporting Period	Backlogged Toxicology Cases as of the Last Date for the Final/Most Recent Report	Reduction in Backlog
22COVE	10/01/2022-06/30/2023	4,370	07/01/2024-09/30/2024	2,705	1,665
23COVE	10/01/2023-12/31/2023	2,671	07/01/2024-12/31/2024	2,333	338

Source: OIG analysis of OSP's reported grant performance metrics.

However, we also determined that the FSD had not achieved its goal, under both grants, of processing 80 percent of its toxicology forensic cases in under 30 days. Based on our review of OSP's internal key performance chart, only about 34 percent of toxicology requests were completed in under 30 days as of September 19, 2024, and only about 32 percent of toxicology requests were completed in under 30 days as of July 24, 2025. Also, the FSD's Grant Performance Metrics report for the period ending December 2024, indicated that FSD's average turnaround of sample results was 76.6 days. In response to our inquiries about its performance related to this goal, the FSD Director stated that the goal of completing 80 percent of its toxicology forensic cases in under 30 days was a long-term goal. Thus, we conclude that the FSD never

¹ Antemortem case samples are samples collected from living donors.

anticipated achieving its set goal within the award period, rather they expected reaching the goal by 2037. We confirmed with the BJA grant manager that BJA's understanding of OSP's goal for the grants we audited was that the FSD would complete processing 80 percent of its toxicology forensic case samples within 30 days, not that this was a long-term goal.

We believe that FSD's goal statement was, at best, unclear and implied that the FSD was working towards fully achieving its goal within the grant periods. Thus, we recommend that OJP work with OSP to reevaluate the grant goals and clarify grant expectations and goals for the 15PBJA-23-GG-00975-COVE grant.

Required Performance Reports

According to the DOJ Grants Financial Guide, the funding recipient must ensure that valid and auditable source documentation is available to support the accuracy of all data collected and reported for each performance measure specified in the program solicitation. To verify the information in OSP's performance reports, we selected for testing a judgmental sample of four accomplishments—two reported metrics from each grant—and requested supporting documentation from the FSD. Our sample included accomplishment metrics related to the backlog and overtime, as shown in Table 3. Based on our testing of performance reports, we determined that the FSD could not support the metrics reported, applied inconsistent methodologies, or had reported inaccurate or incomplete data.

Table 3

Grant Performance Metrics

OJP Award Number	Reporting Period	Performance Metric	Reported Performance	Supported Performance	Reconciled? Yes/No
22COVE	January 2024 - June 2024	Overtime	375.25 hours	412.25 hours	No ^a
22COVE	July 2024 - September 2024	Ending backlog ^b	7,975 cases pending for all disciplines 1,629 cases pending for toxicology only	7,887 cases pending for all disciplines 2,705 cases pending for toxicology only	No
23COVE	January 2024 - June 2024	Ending backlog ^b	7,642 cases for all disciplines ^c	7,610 cases for all disciplines 2,991 cases pending for toxicology only	No
23COVE	July 2024 - December 2024	Overtime	270 hours	359.75 hours	No ^a

Source: OIG analysis of OSP's reported grant performance metrics.

Notes:

^a The reported performance did not reconcile with the support; the auditee under-reported its performance.

^b The "Ending backlog" metric is the total number of backlogged cases in all agencies funded by the award, as of the last day of the project's reporting period.

^c This represents FSD's backlogged requests for the entire laboratory (all disciplines). Although the purpose of the grant was to process toxicology samples, the FSD did not report the backlog for only its toxicology department.

The FSD could not support the specific figures it reported for the metrics we reviewed. The laboratory operations manager informed us that supporting documents for the figures used in past performance reports were not retained. When the laboratory operations manager ran new queries of the laboratory management system during the audit, the number of backlog cases differed from the metrics previously reported. It was explained that the variances were due to cancelled requests that occurred after the reports were run. However, when we requested a report of the cancelled requests as support, the number of cancelled requests in the report provided was larger than the variance. With regards to overtime hours funded by the grant, we also found inconsistencies. In one instance, the operations manager explained that an incorrect number of grant-funded overtime hours was reported due to erroneously omitting a month in the reporting period.

We also noted that the FSD's reported metrics were not based on consistent methodology. For example, in one instance, the FSD reported its backlog cases for the entire laboratory and not the backlog cases for toxicology alone. Yet in another instance, the FSD reported the number of backlog cases for both the entire laboratory and toxicology alone. An FSD official stated that BJA's performance metric question "As of the last day of this reporting period, what is the total number of backlogged cases in all agencies funded under this award?" is not specific and appears to ask for the number of backlogged cases for the entire laboratory, not just toxicology, which was the specific focus of the awards we audited. FSD's operations manager stated that the FSD should have consistently reported figures specific to toxicology.

FSD's inconsistent reporting methodology can cause confusion and does not allow BJA to adequately assess FSD's progress towards achieving its goals. The Oregon Accounting Manual discusses the reporting of performance measures as a method to demonstrate accountability and program results to external parties, such as the legislature and the general public. However, the FSD does not have any detailed guidance to ensure it reports accurate and consistent performance metrics. The laboratory operations manager agreed that written guidelines would be helpful to ensure consistency and accuracy, as well as prevent confusion. Thus, we recommend that OJP require OSP to develop and formalize performance reporting procedures and documentation to help ensure program results are accurately reported and supported, as required.

Grant Financial Management

According to the DOJ Grants Financial Guide, all grant recipients and subrecipients are required to establish and maintain adequate accounting systems and financial records and to accurately account for funds awarded to them. To assess OSP's financial management of the grants covered by this audit, we conducted interviews with financial staff, examined policy and procedures, and inspected grant documents. We also reviewed OSP's fiscal years (FY) 2023 and 2024 Single Audit Reports, OJP's Office of the Chief Financial Officer financial monitoring report dated June 24, 2024, and BJA's enhanced programmatic desk review report dated October 15, 2024, to identify any previously reported internal control weaknesses and significant non-compliance issues related to the federal awards we audited.² Finally, we performed testing in the areas

² Non-federal entities that receive federal financial assistance are required to comply with the Single Audit Act of 1984, as amended. The Single Audit Act requires recipients of federal funding above a certain threshold to receive an annual audit of their financial statements and federal expenditures. The audit is referred to as "single" because it includes all federal financial assistance that the entity has received and expended. Under the Uniform Guidance, such entities that expend \$1,000,000 or more in federal funds within the entity's fiscal year must have a single audit performed annually

Continued

that were relevant for the management of this grant, including grant drawdowns, expenditures, and financial reports.

We did not identify reportable issues in OSP's Single Audit Reports or other oversight products. In addition, our review of OSP's drawdown procedures did not reveal reportable matters, and we did not identify concerns related to OSP's management of its grant budget. The results of the remainder of our grant financial management work are described in the following sections of this report.

Grant Expenditures

As of July 3, 2025, OSP had drawn down \$404,995 of the total grant funds awarded. For OSP's 22COVE and 23COVE grants, the expenditures included personnel (salary and fringe benefits), supplies (only for the 23COVE grant), contract with an external laboratory to process post-mortem samples (only for 22COVE grant), and administrative expenses, in accordance with its grant objectives. To determine whether costs charged to the awards were allowable, supported, and properly allocated in compliance with award requirements, we tested a judgmental sample of transactions, including \$14,684 in personnel costs and \$141,977 in non-personnel costs for the 22COVE grant, and \$14,908 in personnel costs and \$46,469 in non-personnel costs for the 23COVE grant. We reviewed documentation, accounting records, and performed verification testing related to grant expenditures. We did not identify any issues related to these costs.

Federal Financial Reports

According to the DOJ Grants Financial Guide, recipients shall report the actual expenditures and unliquidated obligations incurred for the reporting period on each financial report as well as cumulative expenditures. According to OSP's internal policies and procedures, the Grants Accountant prepares the federal financial reports (FFR) quarterly. To determine whether OSP submitted accurate FFRs, we compared the four most recent reports to OSP's accounting records for both the 22COVE and 23COVE grants. We found that one FFR did not match OSP's accounting records for the 22COVE grant and four FFRs did not match OSP's accounting records for the 23COVE grant, as shown in Table 4. The remaining FFRs were accurate.

covering all federal funds expended that year. Prior to October 1, 2024, the threshold for single audit requirements was \$750,000.

Table 4**Discrepancies between OSP's Federal Financial Reports and OSP's Accounting Records**

OJP Award Number	FFR Period	FFR Reported Cumulative Expenditures	Accounting Records Cumulative Expenditures	Difference
15PBJA-22-GG-02016-COVE	04/01/2024 – 06/30/2024	\$269,369	\$239,974	\$29,395
15PBJA-23-GG-00975-COVE	04/01/2024 – 06/30/2024	\$0	\$1,531	(\$1,531)
15PBJA-23-GG-00975-COVE	07/01/2024 – 09/30/2024	\$29,781	\$39,756	(\$9,975)
15PBJA-23-GG-00975-COVE	10/01/2024 – 12/31/2024	\$73,496	\$82,089	(\$8,593)
15PBJA-23-GG-00975-COVE	01/01/2025 – 03/31/2025	\$102,492	\$95,880	\$6,612

Source: OIG analysis of OSP's FFRs and accounting records.

The OSP Grants Accountant explained that the discrepancies between the reported expenditures and the accounting records were due to OSP including expenditure or adjustments outside of the reporting period. Based on our review of accounting records and discussions with OSP personnel, we determined that the causes for the differences were related to OSP using cut-off dates outside the reporting periods or were due to human error. The OSP Grant Financial Procedures manual does not extensively describe the FFR reporting procedures and does not include any controls to verify the accuracy of the figures reported in the FFR. Discrepancies in the FFRs that OSP submits provide OJP with an inaccurate depiction of OSP's expenditures and available funding. Therefore, we recommend that OJP ensure that OSP develop and implement adequate federal financial reporting procedures to help ensure that it submits accurate FFRs.

Conclusion and Recommendations

As a result of our audit testing, we concluded that the FSD was successful in reducing its toxicology backlog during the grant period. However, we determined that the FSD did not achieve its goal of completing the processing of 80 percent of its toxicology forensic cases in under 30 days. Moreover, the FSD could not support the accuracy of performance data submitted to BJA and in some instances the FSD was inconsistent in the methodology it used to report metrics. We also found that although OSP could improve its federal financial reporting procedures, we did not identify issues regarding OSP's expenditures, drawdowns, or its management of the grant budget. We provide three recommendations to OJP to address these deficiencies.

We recommend that OJP:

1. Work with OSP to reevaluate the grant goals and clarify grant expectations and goals for the 15PBJA-23-GG-00975-COVE grant.
2. Require OSP to develop and formalize performance reporting procedures and documentation to help ensure program results are accurately reported and supported, as required.
3. Ensure that OSP develops and implements adequate federal financial reporting procedures to help ensure that it submits accurate FFRs.

APPENDIX 1: Objectives, Scope, and Methodology

Objectives

The objectives of this audit were to determine whether costs claimed under the grants were allowable, supported, and in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, guidelines, and terms and conditions of the grant; and to determine whether the grantee demonstrated adequate progress towards achieving the program goals and objectives. To accomplish these objectives, we assessed performance in the following areas of grant management: program performance, financial management, expenditures, drawdowns, and federal financial reports.

Scope and Methodology

We conducted this performance audit in accordance with Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives.

This was an audit of OJP grants awarded to OSP under the BJA's Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program. In FYs 2022 and 2023, OJP awarded two grants totaling \$606,662, and as of July 3, 2025, OSP had drawn down \$404,995 of the total grant funds awarded. Our audit concentrated on, but was not limited to, the period of October 1, 2022, through July 3, 2025. At the time of our audit, one of the two awards, grant number 15PBJA-22-GG-02016-COVE was completed and grant number 15PBJA-23-GG-00975-COVE was still ongoing.

To accomplish our objectives, we tested compliance with what we consider to be the most important conditions of OSP's activities related to the audited grants. We performed sample-based audit testing for OSP's grant expenditures including personnel charges (salary and fringe benefits), contractor and supply charges, financial reports, and progress reports. In this effort, we employed a judgmental sampling design to obtain broad exposure to numerous facets of the grants reviewed. This non-statistical sample design did not allow projection of the test results to the universe from which the samples were selected. The DOJ Grants Financial Guide; 2 C.F.R. § 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards; and the award documents contain the primary criteria we applied during the audit.

During our audit, we obtained information from the DOJ JustGrants system as well as OSP's accounting system specific to the management of DOJ funds during the audit period. We did not test the reliability of those systems as a whole, therefore any findings identified involving information from those systems were verified with documentation from other sources.

Internal Controls

In this audit, we performed testing of internal controls significant within the context of our audit objectives. We did not evaluate the internal controls of OSP to provide assurance on its internal control structure as a

whole. OSP management is responsible for the establishment and maintenance of internal controls in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200. Because we do not express an opinion on OSP's internal control structure as a whole, we offer this statement solely for the information and use of OSP and OJP.³

We assessed OSP's and FSD's design, implementation, and operating effectiveness of these internal controls. We identified deficiencies that we believe could affect OSP's and FSD's ability to accurately report grant-related financial and performance information. The internal control deficiencies we found are discussed in the Audit Results section of this report. However, because our review was limited to those internal control components and underlying principles that we found significant to the objectives of this audit, it may not have disclosed all internal control deficiencies that may have existed at the time of this audit.

³ This restriction is not intended to limit the distribution of this report, which is a matter of public record.

APPENDIX 2: Oregon State Police's Response to the Draft Audit Report



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

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September 5th, 2025

David J. Gaschke
Regional Audit Manager
San Francisco Regional Audit Office
Office of Inspector General
U.S. Department of Justice
90 7th Street, Suite 3-100
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear David Gaschke,

The Oregon State Police has received and read the draft audit report from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of the Inspector General (OIG), San Francisco Regional Audit Office, dated August 21, 2025. The draft audit report is in reference to the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants awarded to the Oregon State Police (OSP) for both federal fiscal year 2022 (15PBJA-22-GG-02016-COVE) and fiscal year 2023 (15PBJA-23-GG-00975-COVE).

The Oregon State Police's response to the three audit report recommendations is as follows:

Recommendation #1: Office of Justice Programs (OJP) work with OSP to reevaluate the grant goals and clarify grant expectations and goals for the 15PBJ-23-GG-00975-COVE grant.

Oregon State Police agrees with this recommendation and will reevaluate the grant goals and clarify expectations for the FY23 Coverdell grant to continue the reduction of backlog cases. The Forensics Services Division (FSD) at OSP has not yet achieved its grant goal of processing 80 percent of its toxicology forensic cases under 30 days. In September 2024, 34 percent were completed within 30 days and in 2025, 32 percent of toxicology requests were completed within 30 days. The FSD has indicated processing 80 percent within 30 days is a long-term goal and not within one grant award period. OSP and FSD will work with OJP to reevaluate the grant goals and determine short term goals and objectives for the toxicology cases that are applicable to align with grant progress report periods.

Recommendation #2: Require OSP to develop and formalize performance reporting procedures and documentation to help ensure program results are accurately reports and supported, as required.

The Oregon State Police concurs with this recommendation and will formalize procedures and documentation to ensure reports are accurate and provide adequate outcome information. This will include the data collection method used for performance measures and outcomes reported on the progress report, and to assess grant award activities and results achieved. The FSD will determine written detailed guidelines to ensure accurate reporting and consistent performance metrics methodology used.

Recommendation #3: Ensure that OSP develops and implements adequate federal financial reporting procedures to help ensure that it submits accurate FFRs.

Oregon State Police agrees with this recommendation and will improve and implement reporting procedures for federal grants within the agency to ensure FFRs are submitted accurately. OSP will update our current Grant Financial Procedures manual to include additional FFR reporting procedures and also includes internal controls to verify the accuracy of the amounts reported on the FFR.

OSP will work with OJP on all three noted recommendations.

Sincerely,



Kristin Nopp-Swartz
Chief Financial Officer
Oregon State Police

cc: Melonie Threatt, Office of Audit, Assessment, and Management

██████████ Oregon State Police
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APPENDIX 3: Office of Justice Programs Response to the Draft Audit Report



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

Office of Audit, Assessment, and Management

Washington, D.C. 20531

September 15, 2025

MEMORANDUM TO:

David J. Gaschke
Regional Audit Manager
San Francisco Regional Audit Office
Office of the Inspector General

FROM:

Iyauta I. Green
Director

Iyauta Iyeesha Green

Digitally signed by Iyauta Iyeesha Green
Date: 2025.09.15 12:39:29 -04'00'

SUBJECT:

Response to the Draft Audit Report, *Audit of the Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Awarded to the Oregon State Police, Salem, Oregon*

This memorandum is in reference to your correspondence, dated August 21, 2025, transmitting the above-referenced draft audit report for the Oregon State Police (OSP). We consider the subject report resolved and request written acceptance of this action from your office.

The draft report contains **three** recommendations and **no** questioned costs. The following is the Office of Justice Programs' (OJP) analysis of the draft audit report recommendations. For ease of review, the recommendations are restated in bold and are followed by OJP's response.

- 1. We recommend that OJP work with OSP to reevaluate the grant goals and clarify grant expectations and goals for the 15PBJA-23-GG-00975-COVE grant.**

OJP agrees with the recommendation. In its response, dated September 5, 2025, OSP stated that it would reevaluate the grant goals and clarify expectations for Grant Number 15PBJA-23-GG-00975-COVE to continue the reduction of backlog cases. In addition, OSP stated that its Forensics Services Division (FSD) had not yet achieved its grant goal of processing 80 percent of its toxicology forensic cases in under 30 days. OSP also stated that in September 2024, 34 percent of its toxicology forensic cases were completed within 30 days, and that in 2025, 32 percent of its toxicology cases were completed within 30 days. Moreover, OSP stated the FSD had indicated that processing 80 percent of its cases within 30 days is a long-term goal and not expected to be accomplished within one grant award period. Additionally, OSP stated that it would work with OJP to reevaluate the grant goals and determine short-term goals and objectives for the toxicology cases that are applicable to align with grant progress report periods.

Accordingly, we will coordinate with OSP to obtain a copy of its revised grant goals and objectives to clarify expectations for Grant Number 15PBJA-23-GG-00975-COVE.

2. **We recommend that OJP require OSP to develop and formalize performance reporting procedures and documentation to help ensure program results are accurately reported and supported, as required.**

OJP agrees with the recommendation. In its response, dated September 5, 2025, OSP stated that it would formalize procedures and documentation to ensure that its reports are accurate and provide adequate outcome information, to include the data collection method used for performance measures and outcomes reported on the progress report, and to assess grant award activities and results achieved. Moreover, OSP stated that the FSD would develop written detailed guidelines to ensure accurate reporting, and that consistent performance metrics methodology is used.

Accordingly, we will coordinate with OSP to obtain a copy of its written policies and procedures, developed and implemented, to ensure that program results are accurately reported, and that supporting documentation is maintained for future auditing purposes.

3. **We recommend that OJP ensure that OSP develops and implements adequate federal financial reporting procedures to help ensure that it submits accurate FFRs.**

OJP agrees with the recommendation. In its response, dated September 5, 2025, OSP stated that it would improve and implement reporting procedures for federal grants within the agency to ensure that Federal Financial Reports (FFR) are submitted accurately. In addition, OSP stated that it would update its current Grant Financial Procedures Manual to include additional FFR reporting procedures and include internal controls to verify the accuracy of the amounts reported on the FFR.

Accordingly, we will coordinate with OSP to obtain a copy of its written policies and procedures, developed and implemented, to ensure that it submits accurate FFRs.

We appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on the draft audit report. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me on (202) 820-6807.

cc: Maureen A. Henneberg
Deputy Assistant Attorney General

LeToya A. Johnson
Senior Advisor
Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Tammie Gregg
Acting Director
Bureau of Justice Assistance

cc: Michelle Garcia
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cc: Rachel Johnson
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APPENDIX 4: Office of the Inspector General Analysis and Summary of Actions Necessary to Close the Audit Report

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) provided a draft of this audit report to the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) and the Oregon State Police (OSP). The OSP response is incorporated in Appendix 2 and OJP's response is incorporated in Appendix 3 of this final report. In response to our draft audit report, OJP agreed with our recommendations and, as a result, the status of the audit report is resolved. OSP agreed with two recommendations and concurred with one recommendation. The following provides the OIG analysis of the response and summary of actions necessary to close the report.

Recommendations for OJP:

- 1. Work with OSP to reevaluate the grant goals and clarify grant expectations and goals for the 15PBJA-23-GG-00975-COVE grant.**

Resolved. OJP agreed with our recommendation. OJP stated in its response that it will coordinate with OSP to obtain a copy of its revised grant goals and objectives to clarify expectations for Grant Number 15PBJA-23-GG-00975-COVE. As a result, this recommendation is resolved.

OSP agreed with our recommendation and stated in its response that it will reevaluate the grant goals and clarify expectations for the FY 2023 Coverdell grant to continue the reduction of backlog cases. OSP stated that the Forensics Services Division (FSD) has not yet achieved its grant goal of processing 80 percent of its toxicology forensic cases under 30 days. According to OSP, in September 2024, 34 percent were completed within 30 days and in 2025, 32 percent of toxicology requests were completed within 30 days. The FSD has indicated that processing 80 percent of toxicology requests within 30 days is a long-term goal and not applicable to one grant award period. OSP said it will work with OJP to reevaluate the grant goals and determine short term goals and objectives for the toxicology cases that are applicable to align with grant progress report periods.

This recommendation can be closed when we receive evidence that OJP has worked with OSP to reevaluate its grant goals and clarified grant expectations for the 15PBJA-23-GG-00975-COVE grant.

- 2. Require OSP to develop and formalize performance reporting procedures and documentation to help ensure program results are accurately reported and supported, as required.**

Resolved. OJP agreed with our recommendation. OJP stated in its response that it will coordinate with OSP to obtain a copy of its written policies and procedures, developed and implemented, to ensure that program results are accurately reported and that supporting documentation is maintained for future auditing purposes. As a result, this recommendation is resolved.

OSP concurred with our recommendation and stated in its response that it will formalize procedures and documentation to ensure that reports are accurate and provide adequate outcome information. This will include the data collection method used for performance measures and outcomes reported on the progress report and to assess grant award activities and results achieved. The FSD will

develop detailed written guidelines to ensure accurate reporting and consistent performance metrics methodology is used.

This recommendation can be closed when we receive evidence that OSP has developed and formalized performance reporting procedures and documentation to help ensure program results are accurately reported and supported, as required.

3. Ensure that OSP develops and implements adequate federal financial reporting procedures to help ensure that it submits accurate FFRs.

Resolved. OJP agreed with our recommendation. OJP stated in its response that it will coordinate with OSP to obtain a copy of its written policies and procedures, developed and implemented, to ensure that OSP submits accurate FFRs. As a result, this recommendation is resolved.

OSP agreed with our recommendation and stated in its response that it will improve and implement reporting procedures for federal grants within the agency to ensure FFRs are submitted accurately. OSP will update its Grant Financial Procedures manual to include additional FFR reporting procedures and include internal controls to verify the accuracy of the amounts reported on the FFR.

This recommendation can be closed when we receive evidence that OSP has developed and implemented adequate federal financial reporting procedures to help ensure that it submits accurate FFRs.