

tem (commonly referred to as “CODIS”) by an accredited, publicly funded CODIS forensic laboratory awarded a grant under this section may be used only for identifying missing persons and unidentified remains.

(2) Limitation on use

Any biological family DNA reference samples from citizens of the United States or foreign nationals entered into CODIS for purposes of identifying missing persons and unidentified remains may not be disclosed to a Federal or State law enforcement agency for law enforcement purposes.

(Pub. L. 106-177, title II, §203, Mar. 10, 2000, 114 Stat. 36; Pub. L. 116-277, §2(a)(2), Dec. 31, 2020, 134 Stat. 3369.)

Editorial Notes

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 14662 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

AMENDMENTS

2020—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 116-277, §2(a)(2)(A), substituted “an entity described in section 40501 of this title” for “a State”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 116-277, §2(a)(2)(B)(i), substituted “applicant” for “State” in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 116-277, §2(a)(2)(B)(ii), added par. (1) and struck out former par. (1) which read as follows: “report to the National Crime Information Center and when possible, to law enforcement authorities throughout the State regarding every deceased unidentified person, regardless of age, found in the State’s jurisdiction;”.

Subsec. (b)(5). Pub. L. 116-277, §2(a)(2)(B)(iii)-(v), added par. (5).

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 116-277, §2(a)(2)(C), added subsec. (c).

§ 40503. Use of funds

An applicant receiving a grant award under this chapter may use such funds to—

(1) pay for the costs incurred during or after fiscal year 2017 for the transportation, processing, identification, and reporting of missing persons and unidentified remains, including migrants;

(2) establish and expand programs developed to improve the reporting of unidentified persons in accordance with the assurances provided in the application submitted pursuant to section 40502(b) of this title;

(3) hire and maintain additional DNA case analysts and technicians, fingerprint examiners, forensic odontologists, and forensic anthropologists, needed to support such identification programs; and

(4) procure and maintain state of the art multi-modal, multi-purpose forensic and DNA-typing and analytical equipment.

(Pub. L. 106-177, title II, §205, as added Pub. L. 116-277, §2(a)(3), Dec. 31, 2020, 134 Stat. 3369.)

Editorial Notes

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 40503, Pub. L. 106-177, title II, §204, Mar. 10, 2000, 114 Stat. 36, related to uses of funds that

a State received to establish or expand programs developed to improve the reporting of unidentified persons, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 116-277, §2(a)(3), Dec. 31, 2020, 134 Stat. 3369. Such section was formerly classified to section 14663 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as section 40503.

§ 40504. Grants for the assistance of organizations to find missing adults

(a) In general

The Attorney General may make grants to public agencies or nonprofit private organizations, or combinations thereof, for programs—

(1) to assist law enforcement and families in locating missing adults;

(2) to maintain a national, interconnected database for the purpose of tracking missing adults who are determined by law enforcement to be endangered due to age, diminished mental capacity, or the circumstances of disappearance, when foul play is suspected or circumstances are unknown;

(3) to maintain statistical information of adults reported as missing;

(4) to provide informational resources and referrals to families of missing adults;

(5) to assist in public notification and victim advocacy related to missing adults; and

(6) to establish and maintain a national clearinghouse for missing adults.

(b) Regulations

The Attorney General may make such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out this title.¹

(Pub. L. 106-468, title I, §101, formerly §2, Nov. 9, 2000, 114 Stat. 2027; renumbered title I, §101, and amended Pub. L. 115-401, §2(1)-(3), Dec. 31, 2018, 132 Stat. 5336.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This title, referred to in subsec. (b), is title I of Pub. L. 106-468, Nov. 9, 2000, 114 Stat. 2027, which enacted this section and provisions set out as a note under this section. For complete classification of title I to the Code, see Tables.

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of Kristen’s Act, and not as part of Jennifer’s Law which comprises this chapter.

Section was formerly classified to section 14665 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

AMENDMENTS

2018—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 115-401 substituted “this title” for “this Act”.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDING

Pub. L. 106-468, title I, §102, formerly §3, Nov. 9, 2000, 114 Stat. 2028, renumbered title I, §102, and amended by Pub. L. 115-401, §2(1), (2), (4), Dec. 31, 2018, 132 Stat. 5336; Pub. L. 116-277, §2(b), Dec. 31, 2020, 134 Stat. 3370, provided that: “To the extent provided in advance in appropriations Acts, the Attorney General is authorized to use funds appropriated for the operationalization,

¹ See References in Text note below.

maintenance, and expansion of the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) for the purpose of carrying out this Act [enacting this section].”

§ 40505. Reporting on National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) Program

Not later than 18 months after December 31, 2020, and every year thereafter, the Attorney General shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress regarding—

- (1) the number of unidentified person cases processed;
- (2) CODIS associations and identifications;
- (3) the number of anthropology cases processed;
- (4) the number of suspected border crossing cases and associations made;
- (5) the number of trials supported with expert testimony;
- (6) the number of students trained and professions of those students; and
- (7) the turnaround time and backlog.

(Pub. L. 116–277, § 4, Dec. 31, 2020, 134 Stat. 3370.)

Editorial Notes

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains Act of 2019, and not as part of Jennifer’s Law which comprises this chapter.

§ 40506. Authorization of the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System

(a) In general

The Attorney General,¹ shall maintain the “National Missing and Unidentified Persons System” or “NamUs”, consistent with the following:

- (1) The NamUs shall be a national information clearinghouse and resource center for missing, unidentified, and unclaimed person cases across the United States administered by the National Institute of Justice and managed through an agreement with an eligible entity.
- (2) The NamUs shall coordinate or provide—
 - (A) online database technology which serves as a national information clearinghouse to help expedite case associations and resolutions;
 - (B) various free-of-charge forensic services to aid in the identification of missing persons and unidentified remains;
 - (C) investigative support for criminal justice efforts to help missing and unidentified person case resolutions;
 - (D) technical assistance for family members of missing persons;
 - (E) assistance and training by coordinating State and local service providers in order to support individuals and families impacted by the loss or disappearance of a loved one; and
 - (F) training and outreach from NamUs subject matter experts, including assistance with planning and facilitating Missing Person Day events across the country.

¹ So in original. The comma probably should not appear.

(b) Permissible use of funds

(1) In general

The permissible use of funds awarded under this section for the implementation and maintenance of the agreement created in subparagraph (a)(1) include the use of funds—

- (A) to hire additional personnel to provide case support and perform other core NamUs functions;
- (B) to develop new technologies to facilitate timely data entry into the relevant data bases;
- (C) to conduct contracting activities relevant to core NamUs services;
- (D) to provide forensic analyses to support the identification of missing and unidentified persons, to include, but not limited to DNA typing, forensic odontology, fingerprint examination, and forensic anthropology;
- (E) to train State, local, and Tribal law enforcement personnel and forensic medicine service providers to use NamUs resources and best practices for the investigation of missing and unidentified person cases;
- (F) to assist States in providing information to the NCIC database, the NamUs database, or any future database system for missing, unidentified, and unclaimed person cases;
- (G) to report to law enforcement authorities in the jurisdiction in which the remains were found information on every deceased, unidentified person, regardless of age;
- (H) to participate in Missing Person Days and other events to directly support family members of the missing with NamUs case entries and DNA collections;
- (I) to provide assistance and training by coordinating State and local service providers in order to support individuals and families;
- (J) to conduct data analytics and research projects for the purpose of enhancing knowledge, best practices, and training related to missing and unidentified person cases, as well as developing NamUs system enhancements;
- (K) to create and maintain a secure, online, nationwide critical incident response tool for professionals that will connect law enforcement, medico-legal and emergency management professionals, as well as victims and families during a critical incident; and
- (L) for other purposes consistent with the goals of this section.

(c) Amendments to the Crime Control Act of 1990 to require reports of missing children to NamUs

(1), (2) Omitted

(3) Effective date

The amendments made by this subsection shall apply with respect to reports made before, on, or after December 27, 2022.

(Pub. L. 117–327, § 2, Dec. 27, 2022, 136 Stat. 4454.)