



## UNTESTED SEXUAL ASSAULT EVIDENCE GRANT PROGRAM

The Untested Sexual Assault Evidence Grant Program (USAEG) administered by the California Department of Justice (DOJ) provides funding for city and county agencies to conduct audits of their untested victim sexual assault evidence kits. The grant is intended to assist city and county agencies in complying with recently enacted Assembly Bill (AB) 3118. A total of \$794,843.29 in grant funding remains available statewide.

The first grant application period closed on December 14, 2018. With grant funding resources still available, the DOJ is providing a second grant application period, with preference given to those who have not yet received funds under this grant program.

Interested agencies are encouraged to learn more about the USAEG Program, the eligibility criteria, and the Request for Applications (RFA) process. The grant application period opens March 4, 2019, and closes March 29, 2019.

### Background

In September 2018, Governor Jerry Brown signed AB 3118, which amended Penal Code section 680.4 and requires every law enforcement agency, medical facility, crime laboratory, and other specified facilities, to conduct an audit of all untested victim sexual assault evidence kits in their possession and report to the DOJ no later than July 1, 2019. Failure to report audit information to the DOJ by this deadline will be reflected in the DOJ's final AB 3118 report to the legislature.

There is no requirement to apply for the USAEG Program to comply with Penal Code 680.4; rather, the USAEG Program is intended to offset expenses associated with the workload from this mandate. An agency is still required to comply with the requirements in AB 3118 regardless of whether the agency is awarded USAEG Program funds.

### Eligibility Criteria

City and county agencies in the State of California that retain untested victim sexual assault evidence kits are eligible to apply. Preference will be given to those agencies that have not yet received funds under this grant program.

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## Grant Proposal

The DOJ will award grant funds to eligible city and county agencies that apply for funds through an RFA. This RFA is a non-competitive application process that will reimburse eligible agencies for some or all of the costs incurred during the inventory process.

Eligible agencies must submit a complete application to the DOJ by Friday, March 29, 2019.

A complete application package shall include the following:

- Application Cover Sheet
- Letter of Intent
- Project Budget

To obtain a copy of the RFA, please visit: <https://oag.ca.gov/usaeg>.

## Funding Details

A total of \$794,843.29 in grant funding remains available for the 2018 USAEG Program. It provides funds to city and county agencies for the compilation of information on the number of untested victim sexual assault kits statewide.

Grant funds are not designed to sustain a project, but are rather intended to supplement existing funds in order to help agencies comply with AB 3118.

Agencies that are interested in applying for funds should request an amount based on their need. If requests exceed available funds, all approved requests will be reduced uniformly. Funds are available for fiscal year 2018-19 with the grant period ending June 30, 2019.

It is important to note that funds may only be used to compile data on the inventory of untested victim sexual assault evidence kits that were obtained *prior* to October 1, 2018.

All applications must be received by the DOJ by the deadline. No late applications will be considered. Questions concerning the application process may be directed to the DOJ at [USAEG@doj.ca.gov](mailto:USAEG@doj.ca.gov).



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### Frequently Asked Questions

**Do I need to count full victim sexual assault kits that had samples (i.e., a RADS kit) submitted to the Department of Justice (DOJ) via the Rapid DNA Service (RADS) program?**

No. They are considered tested.

**If a kit was biologically screened but not taken through the DNA analysis process is it considered tested?**

No. The intent of the audit is to determine if a kit was taken through the DNA process. A comment that the kit was screened can be added to the Sexual Assault Evidence Kit Inventory Excel spreadsheet provided by the DOJ, but the kit should be considered untested for purposes of the audit.

**Do I need to provide a count for untested suspect sexual assault evidence kits or only for untested victim sexual assault evidence kits?**

As mandated by AB 3118, the DOJ's final report to the legislature will only include a count of untested victim sexual assault evidence kits.

**Do I need to provide a count for kits from abbreviated "VAWA" examinations (those documented on the Cal OES 2-924 form) where the victim does not want to engage with law enforcement?**

Yes. There is a menu option in the provided spreadsheet for reporting that the victim chose not to cooperate with law enforcement.

**What should we consider as a unique identifier for the kits reported?**

If an agency case number was assigned, it can be used as the unique identifier.