



Ohio Sexual Assault Investigations Funding Grant Guidance

The purpose of this funding is to reimburse state and/or local law enforcement and prosecutors for expenses related to sexual assault kit (SAK) testing, results, and related expenses. It is important to note that this includes kits that are collected in suspected drug-facilitated sexual assaults and suspect kits. This funding may be used to build capacity of agencies to complete these types of investigations (e.g., training). Under certain circumstances, other related costs may be covered, and individuals may contact OCJS with questions (see below for contact information).

To access the funds, law enforcement, prosecutors and allied partner agencies will complete an application in the new OCJS online grants management system: <https://ocjsgrants.dps.ohio.gov/s>. Agencies with an active registration can find the application by clicking on the "Grants" button at the top of the screen. Click on the grant you are applying for (Ohio Sexual Assault Investigations Grant Program) and then click on "Apply Now" to start the application. Once the application is submitted, OCJS will review it for approval.

Each user will need their own registration using the **Implementing Agency** Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). To find your agency's UEI number you can visit www.Sam.gov and search for your agency. Or contact your agency's fiscal department for the information. Support material for the OCJS Grants Management System can be accessed at [Support \(ohio.gov\)](http://Support.ohio.gov).

Through the Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE) Program, the Ohio Attorney General's office reimburses hospitals for the cost of the evidence collection exam itself. Any questions on reimbursement for those specific costs should be directed to their office at 614-466-5610 or sent to SAFE@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov.

Individual crime victims may apply for reimbursement of other costs at the [Crime Victims Compensation link](#) and/or by working with a victim service provider. To find the closest provider, please visit <https://oasv.org/get-help/rape-crisis-centers/>.

If you have any questions about access to the grants management system or the completion of the SAK application, please contact Shannon Fisher at 614-728-8732 or slfisher@dps.ohio.gov or Nancy Radcliffe at 614-725-6570 or nsradcliffe@dps.ohio.gov.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Who qualifies for the SAK Investigation Reimbursement from this program?

- Law enforcement (LE) agencies
- Prosecutors, crime labs, and other allied professionals who are working with law enforcement agencies to investigate sexual assault cases involving kit testing and related expenses.

What offenses qualify for reimbursement under this program?

Reimbursement is reserved for those offenses for which a **sexual assault kit, drug-facilitated sexual assault, or suspect kit** was collected as part of a sexual assault investigation.

These offenses may include:

1. 2907.02 Rape
2. 2907.03 Sexual battery
3. 2905.32 Trafficking in persons
4. 2907.04 Unlawful sexual conduct with a minor
5. 2907.05 Gross sexual imposition

If a different sexual offense is charged, please explain why a kit was collected as part of the investigation. It is important to note that kits may be collected from an unnamed or anonymous victim (or suspect).

What costs can my agency be reimbursed for?

Costs that are reimbursable include:

- Costs related to kit testing (for example, lab costs for DFSA testing)
- Mileage/Transportation/Shipping of kit if shipping method maintains chain of custody
- Expert Witness testimony related to kit results
- Training to build capacity around evidence collection
- Other costs may qualify, and agencies are encouraged to contact an OCJS representative to discuss.

It is important to note that this fund does not cover the expenses of a victim or survivor; it is intended for an agency that collects and analyzes evidence and/or investigates a criminal case related to a sexual assault.

What is the process to apply for SAK investigation reimbursements?

To access the funds, law enforcement and allied partner agencies will complete an application in the new OCJS online grants management system. <https://ocjsgrants.dps.ohio.gov/s> Agencies with an active registration can find the application by clicking on the “Grants” button at the top of the screen. Click on the grant you are applying for (Ohio Sexual Assault Investigations Grant Program) and then click on “Apply Now” to start the application. Once the application is submitted, OCJS will review it for approval.

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Where do I find the online Grants Management System?

Information about OCJS grants and the online Grants Management System is located on the Office of Criminal Justice website at www.ocjs.ohio.gov. To visit the online Grants Management System directly, go to Home.ohio.gov

What documentation is acceptable as supporting documentation for expenditures? Examples of supporting documentation to verify expenditures may include time sheets and payroll earnings reports for personnel, mileage logs and payroll reports for travel expenses, invoices for training, supplies, or equipment purchases, and lab receipts.

What is the maximum amount of SAK investigation reimbursement allowed?

Currently, there is no maximum amount per SAK reimbursement request, provided the request does not exceed actual expenditures. Also, there is no application limit per agency. OCJS reserves the right to adjust funding requests based on allowability and availability of funds.

Will there be an audit of these grant funds?

The agency should maintain fiscal documentation, for a minimum of three years after the official end date of the grant, to justify expenditures and proper accounting practices in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations. This documentation may be reviewed by the federal funder, Ohio Auditor of State, or Attorney General's Office. OCJS will review the documentation during an on-site or remote programmatic or fiscal monitoring visit. Supporting documentation for expenditures will be required as part of quarterly reimbursement requests.

Can this reimbursement fund be retroactive to previous SAK investigations?

Yes, reimbursement for SAK investigations can be submitted if the case occurred on or after July 1, 2025.

Where can I find the approved rates list for meals, lodging, and travel?

For per diem, lodging, and travel rates; refer to <https://www.gsa.gov/travel-resources> on the United States General Services website.

Who should I contact to get help with the application process?

Contact OCJS staff for any assistance:

- Shannon Fisher, Grants Planner – 614-728-8732, slfisher@dps.ohio.gov
- Melissa Darby, Director of Grants Administration - 614-728-8740, mbdarby@dps.ohio.gov
- Nancy Radcliffe, Social Science Research Specialist - 614-725-6570, nradcliffe@dps.ohio.gov
- OCJS Main line, 888-448-4842