

NIJ's Forensic Technology Center of Excellence (FTCoE), managed as a cooperative agreement with RTI International, supports the implementation of new forensic technology and best practices by end users and is dedicated to elevating the status of forensic science through advancing technology, sharing knowledge, and addressing challenges. In collaboration with NIJ and the BJA Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program (COAP), FTCoE proposes to develop capabilities that meet the needs of forensic science organizations to improve collaborations across the criminal justice and public health sectors. Specific emphasis will be placed on "dual use" methods and technologies that apply across multiple public safety and public health practitioner communities, such as drug surveillance strategies and reliable drug identification and toxicology.

These efforts will:

- Support first responders with improved field technologies
- Improve cross-system planning and resource allocation through improved drug surveillance
- Enhance partnerships among forensic science organizations and the broader public safety and public health community
- Improve reliable monitoring technologies that will enhance public safety and public health activities beyond the forensic science organizations, including applications to courts, corrections, treatment, diversion, and community supervision.