

Funding sought for DNA Capacity Enhancement Project

Phoenix Police Department, Laboratory Services Bureau
Forensic Biology/DNA Unit

Project Goal:

To reduce DNA analysis turn-around time to less than 30 days and eliminate current DNA backlog

Project Cost:

\$4.6 million total (\$1.4 million requested to begin the project)

Background

The Phoenix Police Department, Laboratory Services Bureau (LSB) faces the same challenges and issues that most crime labs in the United States are facing; overwhelming demand for service and very limited resources to address that demand. As many other labs have done, the LSB has utilized grant funding in an attempt to address these issues. While the LSB has realized success in the short-term with these initiatives, there is still the need to put into place a long-term solution that will see the LSB into a future where DNA results are released within a matter of hours and days instead of months. The LSB recognizes that a long-term solution is the only way in which to address these issues and has identified several opportunities for improvement.

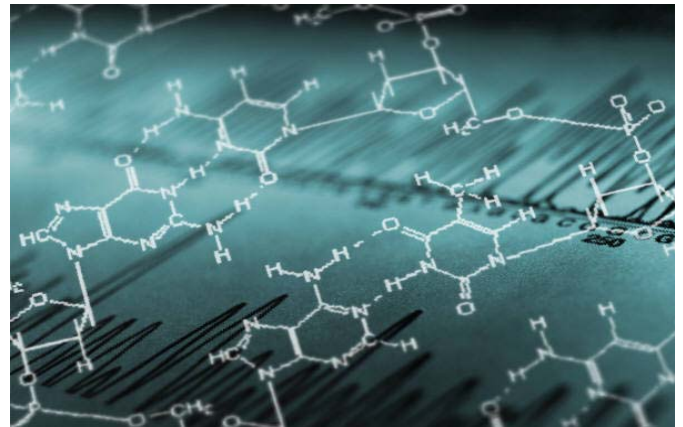
Specifically, these are:

- Increasing analytical capacity to process Forensic Biology/DNA case submissions within 30 days or less.
- Process all pending case submissions for Forensic Biology/DNA (approximately 4,100 cases currently pending.)
- Build and establish organizational infrastructure to provide seamless service to the criminal justice community.

Without addressing these opportunities for improvement, the criminal justice community will continue to be adversely impacted. These

impacts include but are not limited to missed court dates, dismissed cases, preclusion of evidence, release of suspects, re-victimization of victims, and increased cost to tax payers.

The Laboratory intends to work with the Forensic Science Service Ltd. (FSS) to resolve these issues and establish a national model for the United States in implementing long term solutions to address mounting backlogs. The FSS is a world leader in the application and provision of enhanced DNA processes with a 20 year track record of successful innovation and implementation



Project Objectives

1. Eliminate pending case submissions within 2-5 years
2. Increase analytical capacity to 20,000 samples per annum.
3. Reduce case turn around times to 30 days or less.

(continued on reverse)

Solution

The FSS will work with the LSB to deliver a project that will see the implementation of a fully integrated DNA automation process together with a series of workshops and training courses designed to effectively prioritize sample submissions and eliminate unnecessary casework.



Phoenix Police Department Crime Lab

Project Costs	
Equipment	\$614 thousand
Protocols	\$734 thousand
Implementation	\$1.74 million
Training	\$1.44 million
Total	\$4.6 million

Project Time Line	
Equipment purchase	FY 09
Equipment installation	FY 09
Validation	FY 10
Training & Accreditation	FY 10
Total	24 Months

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