

The <u>U.S. Department of Justice</u> (DOJ), <u>Office of Justice Programs</u> (OJP), <u>National Institute of Justice</u> (NIJ) is pleased to announce that it is seeking applications for funding for the FY 2012 DNA Backlog Reduction Program. This program furthers the Department's mission by funding States and units of local government with existing crime laboratories that conduct DNA analysis to process, record, screen, and analyze forensic DNA and/or DNA database samples, and to increase the capacity of public forensic DNA and DNA database laboratories to process more DNA samples, thereby helping to reduce the number of forensic DNA and DNA database samples awaiting analysis.

FY 2012 DNA Backlog Reduction Program

Eligibility

Eligible applicants are States and units of local government that meet the eligibility requirements detailed on page 3.

Deadline

Applicants must register in OJP's Grants Management System (GMS) prior to submitting an application for this funding opportunity. Select the "Apply Online" button associated with the solicitation title. (See "How to Apply," page 16.) All registrations and applications are due 11:59 p.m. eastern time on April 23, 2012. (See "Deadlines: Registration and Application," page 3.)

Contact Information

For technical assistance with submitting an application, contact the Grants Management System Support Hotline at 888–549–9901, option 3, or via e-mail at GMS.HelpDesk@usdoj.gov.

Note: The <u>GMS</u> Support Hotline hours of operation are Monday–Friday from 6:00 a.m. to midnight eastern time, except Federal holidays.

For assistance with any other requirement of this solicitation, contact Mark Nelson, Senior Program Manager, by telephone at 202–616–1960 or by e-mail at Mark.S.Nelson@usdoj.gov, or Charles Heurich, Program Manager, by telephone at 202–616–9264 or by e-mail at Charles.Heurich@usdoj.gov.

Release Date: February 22, 2012

SL000989

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FY 2012 DNA Backlog Reduction Program (CFDA No. 16.741)

Overview

The goal of NIJ's FY 2012 DNA Backlog Reduction Program is to assist eligible States and units of local government to process, record, screen, and analyze forensic DNA and/or DNA database samples, and to increase the capacity of public forensic DNA and DNA database laboratories to process more DNA samples, thereby helping to reduce the number of forensic DNA and DNA database samples awaiting analysis.

Under this FY 2012 program, in general, eligible applicants are given the opportunity, based on their individual needs, to determine what portion of their anticipated funding should be used for capacity building purposes and what portion should be used for analysis of forensic DNA and/or DNA database samples. Supplemental funding anticipated to be made available under this program to applicants that operate State-designated DNA database laboratories is expected to be used to meet unfunded needs of the DNA database laboratory, but these supplemental funds may be used for other allowable purposes (e.g., forensic DNA sample analysis or laboratory capacity enhancement), should the needs of the DNA database laboratory be satisfied by other means.

Under certain circumstances, NIJ may find it necessary to revise this solicitation, including with respect to estimated award amounts and programmatic requirements (e.g., permissible uses of funds). Applicants are strongly encouraged to check for updates to this solicitation prior to submitting applications.

Authorizing Legislation: Department of Justice Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112-55).

Deadlines: Registration and Application

Applicants must register in <u>GMS</u> prior to submitting an application for this funding opportunity. The deadline to apply for funding under this announcement is 11:59 p.m. eastern time on April 23, 2012. See the "How to Apply" section on page 16 for details.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants are States¹ and units of local government with existing crime laboratories that conduct forensic DNA and/or DNA database sample analysis and:

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¹ For purposes of this announcement, the term "State" includes the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. The U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Virgin Islands also may be eligible for funding. Please contact NIJ at 202–616–1960 for additional information, including information on allocation of funds.

- Participate in external audits, not less than once every two years, to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of the Quality Assurance Standards established by the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
- Are accredited by a nonprofit professional organization actively involved in forensic science that is nationally recognized within the forensic science community.
- Participate in the National DNA Index System (NDIS) or have an agreement with an NDIS participating laboratory to upload their data.

Program-Specific Information

NIJ expects to award up to \$75 million under the FY 2012 DNA Backlog Reduction Program to States and units of local government that operate forensic DNA laboratories and/or State-designated DNA database laboratories.

All awards are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and to any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law.

A. Estimated Amounts for Awards to State and Local Applicants that Operate Forensic DNA Laboratories

Up to \$68 million of these FY 2012 program funds are expected to be awarded to States and units of local government that operate forensic DNA laboratories. In general, the aggregate amount of FY 2012 funds expected to be awarded to eligible applicants from each State (including the State and its units of local government) is based on:

- 1. The number of Uniform Crime Report (UCR) Part 1 Violent Crimes² reported to the FBI for 2010 (the most current year for which such data are available).³
- 2. A minimum aggregate amount available to eligible applicants from each State. For FY 2012, if the aggregate amount, based on the number of UCR, Part 1 Violent Crimes reported to the FBI, is less than \$150,000, NIJ expects to increase that aggregate amount to \$150,000.

The number of State and local applicants also may affect funding allocations.

See "Appendix A: Estimated Aggregate Amounts for Awards to State and Local Applicants That Operate Forensic DNA Laboratories, by State—FY 2012" for a chart, by State, of estimated aggregate amounts for awards to public forensic DNA laboratories in each State.

² UCR Part 1 Violent Crimes statistics are published on the FBI website at www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s.-2010/tables/10tbl05.xls. Data for Puerto Rico for 2010 were not available, so 2009 data were utilized as published at www2.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2009/data/table_05.html.

³ Although cases of violent crime against the person are expected to be the priority for forensic casework conducted under this solicitation, States and units of local government may use FY 2012 program funds to process, record, screen, and analyze any criminal forensic DNA sample awaiting analysis.

If there is more than one public DNA laboratory within a State, funds generally are expected to be allocated among the eligible applicants on the basis of UCR Part 1 Violent Crimes in a fashion that ensures that the total funding requested by all applicant agencies from each State does not exceed the aggregate level listed in "Appendix A: Estimated Aggregate Amounts for Awards to State and Local Applicants That Operate Forensic DNA Laboratories, by State–FY 2012." NIJ encourages applicants from States with multiple eligible applicants to coordinate among themselves to set a minimum level of funding for each applicant so that, if practicable, each eligible applicant within the State receives a minimum of \$100,000, regardless of whether its proportion of available funding based on UCR Part 1 Violent Crimes rises to that level. NIJ will provide each State with more than one eligible applicant with a spreadsheet that will assist in properly allocating the estimated funding among the eligible applicants. The State should complete the spreadsheet and submit it to the appropriate NIJ Program Manager for review. Upon NIJ approval, eligible applicants within the State may then apply for their portion of the estimated funds.

B. Estimated Supplemental Amounts for Awards to Applicants that Operate a State-Designated DNA Database Laboratory

NIJ expects to award a total of up to \$7 million of supplemental funding under the FY 2012 DNA Backlog Reduction Program for the primary purpose of supporting State-designated database laboratories. Only States and units of local government that operate State-designated DNA database laboratories may apply for these supplemental funds. In general, the estimated funding allocated to each eligible State is based on the number of convicted offender/arrestee profiles uploaded to NDIS by each State as posted on the FBI CODIS website⁴ on December 6, 2011 (data as of October 2011), with a minimum of \$50,000. See "Appendix B: Estimated Supplemental Amounts for Awards to Applicants That Operate a State-Designated DNA Database Laboratory, by State—FY 2012" for a chart of the estimated funds available.

C. Specific Program Requirements

The following requirements apply to DNA analyses conducted under this FY 2012 program:

- Applicants must enter all eligible DNA profiles obtained with funding from this program into CODIS and, where applicable, upload these profiles into NDIS. No profiles generated with funding from this program may be entered into any other nongovernmental DNA database without prior express written approval from NIJ.
- Applicants must follow NDIS DNA Data Acceptance Standards for all profiles uploaded to NDIS.
- Applicants must maintain DNA analyses and resulting profiles conducted under this
 program pursuant to all applicable Federal privacy requirements, including those
 described in 42 U.S.C. § 14132(b)(3).

⁴ The number of offender profiles uploaded to NDIS is published by the FBI at www.fbi.gov/about-us/lab/codis/ndis-statistics.

D. Length of awards:

The project period for awards under this FY 2012 program is expected to be October 1, 2012, to March 31, 2014. Applicants should be aware that the total period for an award, including one that receives a project period extension, ordinarily will not exceed 3 years.

All awards are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and to any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law.

Budget Information

A. Specific Requirements for Applicants That Propose to Use Funds for In-House Analysis of Forensic DNA Cases

In general, budget requests for in-house processing, recording, screening, and testing of forensic DNA cases will be reviewed on the basis of the estimated number of forensic DNA cases that will be analyzed during the 18-month project period of this program (October 1, 2012, to March 31, 2014) using the Federal funding requested under this FY 2012 program.

States or units of local government that are awarded funds for in-house laboratory processing, recording, screening, and DNA analysis of forensic DNA cases will be expected to document the number of forensic DNA cases analyzed during the reporting period (see "Performance Measures" section below). The expected total number of forensic DNA cases analyzed inhouse during the entire project period should be based on a per-case estimate of no more than \$1,000 in costs for overtime and supplies.

Example: An FY 2012 award with $\frac{\$N}{\$N}$ allocated specifically to overtime and supplies for in-house processing of forensic $\frac{\$N}{\$N}$ allocated specifically to overtime and supplies for in-house processing of forensic $\frac{\$N}{\$N}$ are proposed budget would be expected to process $\frac{\$N}{\$N}$,000 cases over the course of the project period. Therefore, if N = \$20,000, a minimum of 20 cases would be expected to be analyzed in-house during the project period.

B. Specific Requirements for Applicants That Propose to Use Funds for In-House DNA Database Sample Analysis

In general, budget requests for in-house processing, recording, and testing of DNA database samples will be reviewed on the basis of the estimated number of samples that will be analyzed during the 18-month project period of this program (October 1, 2012, to March 31, 2014), using the Federal funding requested under this FY 2012 program.

DNA database laboratories that are awarded funds for in-house laboratory processing, recording, and analysis of DNA database samples will be expected to document the number of DNA database samples analyzed during the reporting period (see "Performance Measures" section below). The expected total number of DNA database samples analyzed in-house during the entire project period should be based on actual cost estimates to analyze each sample and upload its profile to NDIS. Requests may not exceed \$40 per sample when averaged over all DNA database samples to be processed.

C. Permissible Uses of Funds—For Forensic DNA Laboratories and DNA Database Laboratories

Under this FY 2012 program, in general, eligible applicants are given the opportunity, based on their individual needs, to determine what portion of their anticipated funding should be used for capacity-building purposes and what portion should be used for analysis of forensic DNA and/or DNA database samples. Supplemental funding anticipated to be made available under this program to applicants that operate State-designated DNA database laboratories is expected to be used to meet unfunded needs of the DNA database laboratory, but these supplemental funds may be used for other allowable purposes (e.g., forensic DNA sample analysis or laboratory capacity enhancement), should the needs of the DNA database laboratory be satisfied by other means.

Applicant agencies that operate both a forensic DNA laboratory (or laboratories) and a State-designated DNA database laboratory should submit a single application that reflects both their estimated portion of the funds from "Appendix A: Estimated Aggregate Amounts for Awards to State and Local Applicants That Operate Forensic DNA Laboratories, by State—FY 2012" and their estimated portion of the supplemental funds from "Appendix B: Estimated Supplemental Amounts for Awards to Applicants That Operate a State-Designated DNA Database Laboratory, by State—FY 2012."

Permissible uses of funds provided under this program may include:

1. Salary and benefits of additional laboratory employees: Funds may be used to hire additional full-time or part-time laboratory employees to directly process, record, screen, and/or analyze forensic DNA and/or DNA database samples. Funds may also be used to hire additional full-time or part-time laboratory employees to directly perform capacity enhancement-specific activities, such as validating new DNA analysis technologies for the forensic DNA laboratory and/or the laboratory responsible for analysis of DNA database samples. Funds are subject to applicable restrictions on supplanting⁵ and may be used to retain full-time or part-time laboratory employees for the above purposes if there are no other funding sources allocated for the retention of such personnel (e.g., personnel acquired through previous Federal assistance). Matching funds are not required.

Note: NIJ makes no assurance that funds will be available for this purpose in future award announcements.

- 2. Overtime for existing laboratory staff: Funds may be used to pay overtime for existing laboratory employees to directly process, record, screen, and/or analyze forensic DNA and/or DNA database samples. Funds may also be used to pay overtime for existing laboratory employees to directly perform capacity enhancement-specific activities such as validating new DNA analysis technologies for the forensic DNA or DNA database laboratory. Any payments for overtime must be in accordance with the applicable provisions of the OJP Financial Guide, available at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/financialguide/.
- 3. **Training:** Funds may be used for appropriate training of forensic DNA and DNA database laboratory personnel.

⁵ See OJP Financial Guide.

- Existing members of the DNA Unit: "Appropriate training" includes internal or
 external training, continuing education/training opportunities, and/or applicable
 graduate-level coursework that is directly related to the applicant's forensic DNA
 or DNA database laboratory operation and is for members of the DNA
 laboratory.
 - Funds used towards travel and registration expenses for appropriate continuing education/training opportunities that are associated with professional meetings and conferences (including workshops provided at such meetings and conferences) are limited to no more than 5 percent of the total award. Funds used towards travel expenses, registration fees, and tuition and required learning aids (e.g., textbooks) for appropriate training and continuing education opportunities that are not associated with professional meetings and conferences are not subject to the 5-percent cap. In general, funds used for training are intended to aid existing members of the DNA laboratory to meet continuing education requirements mandated in the DNA Quality Assurance Standards established by the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
- New members of the DNA Unit: States and units of local government that wish to use funds to train new employees to process, record, screen, and/or analyze forensic DNA and/or DNA database samples should submit a detailed plan in their proposal. There is no fixed-percentage cap on use of funds for this purpose.
- 4. Travel (Limited): Funds may be used for travel to conduct required site visits to public or private accredited laboratories that will be conducting DNA analyses on behalf of the applicant agency to review procedures and practices prior to initial sample shipment; funds may also be used to make one additional unannounced site visit.
 - Funds may be used for travel associated with DNA training, described in "3," above.
 - Travel expenses must be reasonable and must comply with the applicable provisions of the OJP Financial Guide. Note that, absent prior express written approval from NIJ, rates for lodging charged to any award under this solicitation may not exceed the posted GSA rate for the location. (If an award recipient opts to book lodging at a higher rate, the cost differential, including associated taxes, may not be charged to the award.)
- 5. **Equipment:** Funds may be used to upgrade, replace, or purchase laboratory equipment, instrumentation, and computer hardware for the forensic DNA and/or the DNA database laboratory.
- Laboratory supplies for validation: Allowable supply expenses include the purchase
 of laboratory supplies that can be directly attributed to the validation of new DNA
 analysis technologies.
- 7. **Supplies for DNA database sample collection:** Convicted offender and/or arrestee related sample collection kits may be purchased.
- 8. Laboratory supplies for in-house processing, recording, screening, and analysis of forensic DNA casework and/or DNA database samples.

- 9. Renovation: Funds may be used to renovate existing space within the crime laboratory, if it can be demonstrated that the renovation will directly and specifically improve the efficiency of the analysis of forensic DNA samples and/or DNA database samples. Expenses that may be allowable include the purchase or upgrade of benches, cabinets, interior dividing walls, plumbing, HVAC systems, electrical wiring, evidence examination and preparation rooms, evidence storage rooms, drying rooms, walk-in freezers, and extraction or amplification rooms.
- 10. Contracts for analysis of forensic DNA casework samples or DNA database samples by public or private accredited DNA laboratories: Funds may be used to send forensic DNA and/or DNA database samples to fee-for-service laboratories to conduct DNA analyses. Funds may also be used to enter into agreements with government-owned laboratories to conduct forensic DNA and/or DNA database sample analyses, perform data review, enter eligible DNA profiles into CODIS and, where applicable, upload to NDIS.

Every laboratory that is contracted to conduct forensic DNA or DNA database sample analyses under this program must undergo an external audit, not less than once every 2 years, in order to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of the Quality Assurance Standards for Forensic DNA Testing Laboratories and/or the Quality Assurance Standards for DNA Database Laboratories established by the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and must be accredited by a nonprofit professional organization actively involved in forensic science that is nationally recognized within the forensic science community.

Note: All contracts and procurements made under this program are subject to the standards set forth in 28 C.F.R. section 66.36 and other applicable Federal law, including the provisions of 28 C.F.R. section 66.36 that relate to competition. Prior approval from OJP is required for all sole-source procurements in excess of \$100,000. Approval may be obtained in the form of a sole-source request with adequate justification submitted directly to GMS with the application for funding.

11. Contracts for DNA audits (after September 30, 2012): The DNA audit program that NIJ has offered through the Forensic Technology Center of Excellence is expected to end on September 30, 2012. After this date, DNA laboratories may establish contracts with vendors (individuals or entities) that can provide an external DNA audit once every 2 years, as required by the Quality Assurance Standards for Forensic DNA Testing and DNA Database Laboratories established by the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. DNA Backlog Reduction Program funds may not be used to defray the cost of an external DNA audit that is part of an accreditation inspection/assessment, or of an internal DNA audit.

As part of the decision as to whether to award a contract to a vendor for a DNA audit, an award recipient is expected to examine carefully any costs charged by the vendor, including auditor fees (not to exceed \$450 per auditor for each day on site) and auditor travel expenses, and to determine whether all such charges are reasonable and justified. All audit-related costs must be detailed in the budget. Note that NIJ will use the rates established by the GSA schedule (www.gsa.gov/portal/category/21287) as a benchmark in examining the reasonableness of audit-related travel expenses.

Auditors must meet the requirements specified in the Quality Assurance Standards for Forensic DNA Testing and/or DNA Database Laboratories and, in addition, must reside outside the State where the laboratory to be audited operates. The same auditors cannot be used in consecutive audits, and all auditors must sign a conflict of interest and nondisclosure form prior to performing any work.

- 12. Additional contracts and contractor services: Contracts may be established to purchase and install Laboratory Information Management Systems (LIMS), to procure process mapping or process improving assistance, in-house training, or for validation testing. Funds may be used to hire contract staff to process, record, screen, and analyze forensic DNA casework; to process, record, and analyze DNA database samples; or to validate new DNA analysis technologies. Contracts may be established for data review in accordance with the Quality Assurance Standards for Forensic DNA Testing and DNA Database Laboratories.
- 13. Direct administrative expenses or indirect costs: Up to 3 percent of the Federal portion of an award under this program may be used for either: (1) direct administrative expenses specifically related to grant administration and management, or (2) indirect costs. Applicants may not request both direct administrative expenses and indirect costs.

D. Expenses That Are Not Permitted

Federal funds awarded under this program may only be used for the permissible uses of funds outlined above. Among other things, they may not be used for:

- 1. Salaries and benefits for existing staff, other than as discussed in section C (Permissible Uses of Funds), paragraphs 1 and 2.
- 2. Travel, other than authorized travel expenses associated with appropriate DNA training and visits to outsourcing laboratories as discussed in section C (Permissible Uses of Funds), paragraphs 3 and 4.
- 3. Construction.
- 4. Direct administrative expenses and/or indirect costs that exceed 3 percent of the Federal portion of the award.
- 5. Accreditation costs.
- 6. Office supplies (paper, pens, toner, printer cartridges, etc.).
- 7. Maintenance and service contracts and licensing agreements for existing Laboratory Information Management Systems; except for client stations within the DNA Unit.
- 8. Testimony and associated travel costs.
- 9. Work that is funded under another Federal award.

E. Limitation on Use of Award Funds for Employee Compensation; Waiver

With respect to any award of more than \$250,000 made under this solicitation, federal funds may not be used to pay total cash compensation (salary plus bonuses) to any employee of the award recipient at a rate that exceeds 110% of the maximum annual salary payable to a member of the Federal Government's Senior Executive Service (SES) at an agency with a Certified SES Performance Appraisal System for that year. The 2012 salary table for SES employees is available at www.opm.gov/oca/12tables/indexSES.asp. Note: A recipient may

compensate an employee at a higher rate, provided the amount in excess of this compensation limitation is paid with non-Federal funds. (Any such additional compensation will not be considered matching funds where match requirements apply.)

The limitation on compensation rates allowable under an award may be waived on an individual basis at the discretion of the Assistant Attorney General (AAG) for OJP. An applicant requesting a waiver should include a detailed justification in the Budget Narrative of its application. Unless the applicant submits a waiver request and justification with the application, the applicant should anticipate that OJP will request the applicant to adjust and resubmit its budget.

The justification should include the particular qualifications and expertise of the individual, the uniqueness of the service being provided, the individual's specific knowledge of the program or project being undertaken with award funds, and a statement explaining that the individual's salary is commensurate with the regular and customary rate for an individual with his/her qualifications and expertise, and for the work to be done.

F. Minimization of Conference Costs

No OJP funding can be used to purchase food and/or beverages for any meeting, conference, training, or other event. Exceptions to this restriction may be made only in cases where such sustenance is not otherwise available (i.e., extremely remote areas), or where a special presentation at a conference requires a plenary address where there is no other time for sustenance to be obtained. Such an exception would require prior approval from OJP. This restriction does not apply to water provided at no cost but does apply to any and all other refreshments, regardless of the size or nature of the meeting. Additionally, this restriction does not impact direct payment of per diem amounts to individuals in a travel status under the organization's travel policy.

Updated Department of Justice and OJP guidance on conference planning, minimization of costs, and conference cost reporting will be forthcoming and will be accessible on the OJP website at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/funding.htm.

G. Match Requirement

This solicitation does not require a match. However, if a successful application proposes a voluntary match amount, the match amount incorporated into the OJP-approved budget becomes mandatory and subject to audit.

Performance Measures

To assist the Department in fulfilling its responsibilities under the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (GPRA), Public Law 103–62, and the GPRA Modernization Act of 2010, Public Law 111–352, applicants that receive funding under this solicitation must provide data that measure the results of their work done under this solicitation. Any award recipient will be required, post award, to provide the data requested in the "Data Grantee Provides" column so that OJP can calculate values for the "Performance Measures" column. Performance measures for this solicitation are as follows:

Forensic DNA laboratories will provide the following data for performance measures:

Objective	Performance Measure(s)	Data Grantee Provides
-	ivieasure(s)	
To improve the DNA analysis capacity of existing State and local government crime laboratories that conduct forensic DNA analysis. To reduce backlogged forensic DNA casework in State and local government crime laboratories.	Increase in DNA analysis throughput for the laboratory.	Average number of forensic DNA samples analyzed per analyst per month at the beginning of the award period.
		Average number of forensic DNA samples analyzed per analyst per month at the end of the reporting period.
	Reduction in response time for requests.	Average number of days between the submission of a request for forensic biology/DNA analysis to the laboratory and the delivery of the test results at the beginning of the award period.
		2. Average number of days between the submission of a request for forensic biology/DNA analysis to the laboratory and the delivery of the test results at the end of the reporting period.
	Percentage decrease in DNA backlog. ⁶	Number of backlogged forensic biology/DNA cases at the beginning of the award period.
		Number of backlogged forensic biology/DNA cases at the end of the reporting period.
	Number of DNA	Number of backlogged forensic biology/DNA cases analyzed using funds provided under this announcement.
	Number of DNA profiles resulting in a CODIS match	Number of DNA profiles from forensic analyses entered into CODIS as a result of the funds provided under this announcement.
		Number of CODIS hits attributable to the forensic analyses funded under this announcement.

 $^{^{6}}$ A backlogged case is defined as a forensic biology/DNA case that has not been completed within 30 days of receipt in the laboratory.

DNA database laboratories will provide the following data for performance measures.

Objective	Performance Measure(s)	Data Grantee Provides
To improve the capacity of laboratories that conduct DNA analysis on convicted offender and/or arrestee	Increase in DNA analysis throughput for the laboratory	Average number of DNA database samples analyzed per analyst per month at the beginning of the award period.
DNA samples (DNA database samples).	laboratory	Average number of DNA database samples analyzed per analyst per month at the end of the reporting period.
	Reduction in response time for requests	Average number of days between the submission of a DNA database sample to the laboratory and the upload of the profile to CODIS at the beginning of the award period.
		Average number of days between the submission of a DNA database sample to the laboratory and the upload of the profile to CODIS at the end of the award period.
To reduce the backlog of convicted offender and/or arrestee DNA samples	Percent decrease in DNA backlog ⁷	Number of backlogged DNA database samples at the beginning of the award period.
(DNA database samples).		Number of backlogged DNA database samples at the end of the award period.
		Number of DNA database samples analyzed using funds provided under this announcement.
	Number of DNA profiles resulting in a CODIS match	Number of DNA profiles from DNA database samples entered into CODIS as a result of the funds provided under this announcement.
		Number of CODIS hits resulting from DNA database profiles developed using funds provided under this announcement.

Submission of performance measures data is not required for the application. Instead, applicants should discuss in their application their proposed methods for collecting data for performance measures. Refer to the section "What an Application Should Include" on page 18 for additional information.

To assist NIJ in determining baseline national backlogs, all applicants are asked to supply the baseline backlog data requested in the following table as part of their program narrative. If the applicant has State DNA database laboratory responsibilities, the request encompasses backlog data for the database laboratory, regardless of whether assistance is being sought for the database operation.

⁷ A backlogged DNA database sample is defined as a DNA database sample that has not been completed within 30 days of receipt in the laboratory.

Baseline Backlog Data

Casework Laboratories	
Number of untested/not completed forensic biology/DNA cases on hand on January 1, 2011.	
Number of untested/not completed forensic biology/DNA cases more than 30 days old (backlogged) on January 1, 2011.	
Please estimate percentage of these cases that were from property crimes.	
Number of new cases for forensic biology/DNA received in 2011.	
Please estimate percentage of these cases that were from property crimes.	
Total number of forensic biology/DNA cases completed in 2011.	
Please estimate percentage of these cases that were property crimes.	
Forensic biology/DNA cases closed by administrative means in 2011.	
Number of untested/not completed forensic biology/DNA cases on hand on December 31, 2011.	
Number of untested/not completed forensic biology/DNA cases more than 30 days old (backlogged) on December 31, 2011.	
The average number of days needed to complete (including peer review and report) non-priority forensic DNA cases. Please indicate violent crime time with a "V" and the nonviolent crime time with "NV." If the applicant cannot separate violent and nonviolent cases, please mark the applicant's response to this question with "X."	

Database Laboratories	
Convicted Offender Samples	
The number of untested/not completed convicted offender samples on hand on January 1, 2011	
The number of untested/not completed convicted offender samples more than 30 days old (backlogged) as of January 1, 2011.	
The number of new convicted offender samples received in 2011.	
The total number of offender samples completed in 2011.	
Samples closed by administrative means (duplicates, non-authorized samples, etc.)	
Number of untested/not completed convicted offender samples on December 31, 2011.	
Number of untested/not completed convicted offender samples more than 30 days old (backlogged) on December 31, 2011.	
Average number of days to complete the processing of a convicted offender sample (including upload to CODIS).	
Arrestee Samples	
The number of untested/not completed arrestee samples on hand as of January 1, 2011.	
The number of untested/not completed arrestee samples more than 30 days old (backlogged) on January 1, 2011.	
The number of new arrestee samples received in 2011.	
The total number of arrestee samples completed in 2011.	
Samples closed by administrative means (duplicates, non-authorized samples, etc.)	
Number of untested/not completed arrestee samples on December 31, 2011.	
Number of untested/not completed arrestee samples more than 30 days old (backlogged) on December 31, 2011.	
Average number of days to complete the processing of an arrestee sample (including upload to CODIS).	

Definitions for Requested Baseline Backlog Data

Backlogged forensic biology/DNA case—A forensic biology/DNA case that has not been completed within 30 days of receipt in the laboratory.

Backlogged DNA database sample—A DNA database sample that has not been completed within 30 days of receipt in the laboratory.

Case—All physical evidence from a single criminal investigation submitted for crime laboratory analysis. A case may include multiple requests for analysis.

DNA—For the purposes of determining baseline national backlogs for casework laboratories, "DNA" will be considered to be biology screening (the location, screening, identification, and characterization of blood and other biological stains and substances) and/or DNA analysis (the identification and comparison of DNA in biological samples). For the purpose of determining baseline national backlogs for database laboratories, "DNA" will be considered the testing of DNA in biological samples collected from convicted offenders and/or arrestees, and subsequent upload to CODIS databases.

Notice of Post-Award FFATA Reporting Requirements

Applicants should anticipate that OJP will require all recipients (other than individuals) of awards of \$25,000 or more under this solicitation, consistent with the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (FFATA), to report award information on any first-tier subawards totaling \$25,000 or more, and, in certain cases, to report information on the names and total compensation of the five most highly compensated executives of the recipient and first-tier subrecipients. Each applicant entity must ensure that it has the necessary processes and systems in place to comply with the reporting requirements should it receive funding. Reports regarding subawards will be made through the FFATA Subaward Reporting System (FSRS), found at www.fsrs.gov.

Please note also that applicants should anticipate that no subaward of an award made under this solicitation may be made to a subrecipient (other than an individual) unless the potential subrecipient acquires and provides a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number.

How to Apply

Applications are submitted through OJP's Grants Management System (GMS). GMS is a Webbased, data-driven computer application that provides cradle to grave support for the application, award, and management of awards at OJP. Applicants must register in GMS for each specific funding opportunity and should begin the process immediately to meet the GMS registration deadline, especially if this is the first time using the system. Complete instructions on how to register and submit an application in GMS can be found at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/gmscbt/. If the applicant experiences technical difficulties at any point during this process, e-mail GMS.HelpDesk@usdoj.gov or call 888–549–9901 (option 3), Monday–Friday from 6:00 a.m. to midnight eastern time, except Federal holidays. OJP highly recommends that applicants start the registration process as early as possible to prevent delays in submitting an application package by the specified application deadline.

All applicants should complete the following steps:

1. Acquire a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number. In general, the Office of Management and Budget requires that all applicants (other than individuals) for federal funds include a DUNS number in their application for a new award or renewal of an existing award. A DUNS number is a unique nine-digit sequence recognized as the universal standard for identifying and keeping track of entities receiving federal funds. The identifier is used for tracking purposes and to validate address and point of contact information for federal assistance applicants, recipients, and subrecipients. The DUNS

number will be used throughout the grant life cycle. Obtaining a DUNS number is a free, one-time activity. Obtain a DUNS number by calling Dun and Bradstreet at 866–705–5711 or by applying online at www.dnb.com. A DUNS number is usually received within 1–2 business days.

- 2. Acquire or renew registration with the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) database. OJP requires that all applicants (other than individuals) for federal financial assistance maintain current registrations in the CCR database. The CCR database is the repository for standard information about federal financial assistance applicants, recipients, and subrecipients. Organizations that have previously submitted applications via Grants.gov are already registered with CCR, as it is a requirement for Grants.gov registration. Note, however, that applicants must update or renew their CCR registration annually to maintain an active status. Information about CCR registration procedures can be accessed at www.ccr.gov.
- 3. Acquire a GMS username and password. A new user must create a GMS profile by selecting the "First Time User" link under the sign-in box of the GMS home page. For more information on how to register in GMS, go to www.oip.usdoj.gov/gmscbt/.
- 4. **Verify the CCR registration in GMS.** OJP requests that all applicants verify their CCR registration in GMS. Once logged into GMS, click the "CCR Claim" link on the left side of the default screen. Click the submit button to verify the CCR registration.
- 5. **Search for the funding opportunity on GMS.** After logging into GMS or completing the GMS profile for username and password, go to the "Funding Opportunities" link on the left side of the page. Select NIJ and the FY 12 DNA Backlog Reduction Program.
- 6. Register by selecting the "Apply Online" button associated with the solicitation title. The search results from step 5 will display the solicitation title along with the registration and application deadlines for this funding opportunity. Select the "Apply Online" button in the "Action" column to register for this solicitation and create an application in the system.
- 7. **Complete the Disclosure of Lobbying Activities.** All applicants must complete this information and submit the form in GMS. An applicant that expends any funds for lobbying activities must provide the detailed information requested on the form, *Disclosure of Lobbying Activities* (SF-LLL). An applicant that does not expend any funds for lobbying activities should enter "N/A" in the required highlighted fields. Access the form at www.ojp.gov/funding/forms/disclosure.pdf.
- 8. Submit an application consistent with this solicitation by following the directions in GMS. Once submitted, GMS will display a confirmation screen stating the submission was successful. Important: In some instances, an applicant must wait for GMS approval before submitting an application. Applicants are urged to submit the application at least 72 hours prior to the due date of the application.

Note: OJP's Grants Management System (GMS) does not accept executable file types as application attachments. These disallowed file types include, but are not limited to, the

DNA Backlog Reduction

following extensions: ".com," ".bat," ".exe," ".vbs," ".cfg," ".dat," ".db," ".dbf," ".dll," ".ini," ".log," ".ora," ".sys," and ".zip."

Note: Duplicate Applications

If an applicant submits multiple versions of an application, NIJ will review the most recent version submitted.

Experiencing Unforeseen GMS Technical Issues

If an applicant experiences unforeseen GMS technical issues beyond the applicant's control that prevent submission of its application by the deadline, the applicant must email the NIJ contact identified in the Contact Information section on the title page within 24 hours after the application deadline and request approval to submit its application. The applicant must include in the e-mail: a description of the technical difficulties, a timeline of submission efforts, the complete grant application, the applicant DUNS number, and GMS Help Desk tracking number(s) the applicant has received. Note: Requests are not automatically approved by NIJ. After the program office reviews all of the information submitted, and contacts the GMS Help Desk to validate the technical issues reported, OJP will contact the applicant to either approve or deny the request to submit a late application. If the technical issues reported cannot be validated, the application will be rejected as untimely.

The following conditions are <u>not</u> valid reasons to permit late submissions: (1) failure to begin the registration process in sufficient time, (2) failure to follow GMS instructions on how to register and apply as posted on its Web site, (3) failure to follow all of the instructions in the OJP solicitation, and (4) technical issues experienced with the applicant's computer or information technology (IT) environment, including firewalls.

Notifications regarding known technical problems with GMS, if any, are posted at the top of the OJP funding Web page at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/solicitations.htm.

What an Application Should Include

Applicants should anticipate that failure to submit an application that contains all of the specified elements may negatively affect the review of the application; and, should a decision be made to make an award, it may result in the inclusion of special conditions that preclude access to or use of award funds pending satisfaction of the conditions.

OJP strongly recommends use of appropriately descriptive file names (e.g., "Program Narrative," "Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative," "Timelines," "Memoranda of Understanding," "Resumes") for all attachments. OJP recommends that resumes be included in a single file.

1. Information to Complete the Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)

The SF–424 is a standard form required for use as a cover sheet for submission of preapplications, applications, and related information. Grants.gov and GMS take information from the applicant's profile to populate the fields on this form. When selecting "type of applicant," if the applicant is a for-profit entity, select "For-Profit Organization" or "Small Business" (as applicable).

- Item 8: Type of Application—"New."
- Item 9: Name of Federal Agency—"National Institute of Justice."
- **Item 10**: Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA)—For this program, the number is 16.741.
- Item 11: Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project—"FY 2012 DNA Backlog Reduction Program"—[THE AGENCY'S NAME]."
- **Item 13**: Proposed Project Dates—For this program, the proposed project dates should be "October 1, 2012, to March 31, 2014."
- **Item 16**: Is Application Subject To Review By State Executive Order 12372 Process?—A listing of States that have participated in this process can be found at www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants_spoc/.

2. Program Narrative

Applicants must use the application form (for the abstract, program narrative, and data collection plan) posted with this solicitation on the NIJ website: www.nij.gov/funding/welcome.htm.

- a. Project Abstract: The proposal abstract should serve as a succinct and accurate description of the proposed work. Applicants should concisely describe project goals and objectives, project plans, and methods for achieving the goals. Once an award has been granted, the abstract is computerized and serves as a summary available to all interested parties for the duration of the grant.
- b. **Narrative Body:** The program narrative should address the objectives, expected results, and the implementation approach. (See additional instructions below.)
- c. Plan for Collecting the Data Required for Performance Measures: The data collection plan is a description of the applicant's plan for collecting the data required for the solicitation's performance measures. Applicants should discuss this plan in their applications. The plan should describe how the performance measure data will be derived, state who will be responsible for collecting the data, and state that the data will be available for review three (3) years post award, as required. The data collection plan should be rigorous to ensure that the performance measure data provided are accurate, auditable, and correctly measure the impact of the Federal funds provided.

The data collection plan should clearly describe both the method for the collection and tracking of performance measure data produced as a result of Federal assistance provided under this solicitation and the method for reporting such data on a semi-annual basis. For projects that include forensic DNA casework and/or DNA database sample testing activities and objectives, the data collection plan should also include an explanation of how the tracking and reporting methods will avoid the possibility of "double counting" forensic DNA cases and/or DNA database samples affected by Federal funds.

In the body of the narrative, applicants are to provide information showing that they meet the eligibility requirements indicated on page 3. In addition, applicants should provide a detailed plan showing how they intend to use FY 2012 DNA Backlog Reduction Program funds to meet the programmatic goals of this solicitation: reducing DNA sample turnaround time, increasing the throughput of the public DNA laboratory, and reducing the number of forensic DNA and/or DNA database samples awaiting analysis. Applicants should discuss how they intend to identify and address bottlenecks in the DNA analysis process.

The body of the program narrative should also include the following:

For all applications:

- A statement of the current average length of time it takes to process, record, screen and analyze a forensic DNA case from submission of a request to the laboratory to delivery of the forensic DNA test results and, if applicable, the current average length of time it takes from receipt in the laboratory of a DNA database sample to analyze and upload a DNA database sample to CODIS.
- A statement of the average number of forensic DNA samples and/or DNA database samples currently analyzed per analyst per month.
- Descriptions of any observed and/or anticipated increases in DNA submissions that would be expected to significantly impact the DNA laboratory's backlog and/or capacity and that may negatively impact a project's expected results.

For applications seeking funds for processing, recording, screening, and analysis of forensic DNA and/or DNA database samples:

 A statement of the estimated number of forensic DNA cases and/or DNA database samples that can be processed, recorded, screened, and analyzed within the 18-month award project period using the Federal funding requested under this FY 2012 program. This number should represent the number of forensic DNA cases and/or DNA database samples to be analyzed above and beyond the number that can be analyzed within 18 months using other sources of funding. The 18-month award project period begins October 1, 2012.

3. Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative

a. Budget Detail Worksheet

A Microsoft Office Excel spreadsheet-format Budget Detail Worksheet template that is to be used is posted with this solicitation at: (www.nij.gov/funding/welcome.htm).

Applicants must use this detail budget worksheet so that cost information is appropriately detailed and automatically calculated, thereby reducing the potential for manual arithmetic errors. Contact either of the Program Managers listed on page 1 to obtain a copy of the Excel template.

For questions pertaining to budget and examples of allowable and unallowable costs, see the OJP Financial Guide at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/financialguide/index.htm.

b. Budget Narrative

The Budget Narrative should thoroughly and clearly describe every category of expense listed in the Budget Detail Worksheet. Proposed budgets are expected to be complete; reasonable and allowable; cost effective; and necessary for project activities. The narrative should be mathematically sound and correspond with the information and figures provided in the Budget Detail Worksheet. The narrative should explain how all costs were estimated and calculated and how they are relevant to the completion of the proposed project. The narrative may include tables for clarification purposes but need not be in a spreadsheet format. As with the Budget Detail Worksheet, the Budget Narrative should be broken down by year.

4. Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable)

Indirect costs are allowed only if the applicant has a federally approved indirect cost rate. (This requirement does not apply to units of local government.) A copy of the rate approval should be attached. If the applicant does not have an approved rate, one can be requested by contacting the applicant's cognizant Federal agency, which will review all documentation and approve a rate for the applicant organization or, if the applicant's accounting system permits, costs may be allocated in the direct cost categories. If DOJ is the cognizant Federal agency, obtain information needed to submit an indirect cost rate proposal at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/pdfs/indirect_costs.pdf.

5. Additional Attachments—Proof of DNA Laboratory Accreditation

Acceptable types of documentation of current accreditation include: an electronic (scanned) copy of the current accreditation certificate(s), a digital photograph of the current accreditation certificate(s), or a letter from the accrediting body that includes the certificate number. Additionally, if a certificate references another document that contains key information on the type or scope of the accreditation, provide a copy of that supplemental documentation.

6. Other Standard Forms

Additional forms that may be required in connection with an award are available on OJP's funding page at www.oip.usdoj.gov/funding/forms.htm. For successful applicants, receipt of funds may be contingent upon submission of all necessary forms. Note in particular the following forms.

a. Standard Assurances

Applicants must read, certify, and submit this form in GMS prior to the receipt of any award funds.

- b. Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; and Drug-Free Workplace Requirements
 Applicants must read, certify, and submit in GMS prior to the receipt of any award funds.
- **c.** Accounting System and Financial Capability Questionnaire (required for any applicant other than an individual that is a non-governmental entity and that has not

received any award from OJP within the past 3 years; this form must be downloaded, completed, and submitted)

Review Process

OJP is committed to ensuring a fair and open process for awarding grants. NIJ reviews the application to make sure that the information presented is reasonable, understandable, measurable, and achievable, as well as consistent with the solicitation. Applications for formula awards will be reviewed to ensure that statutory requirements have been met.

An application must satisfy the specific requirements outlined in this announcement including eligibility, allocation of funds, permissible expenses, and responsiveness to the scope of the solicitation; the general requirements for NIJ and OJP grants; and all other applicable legal requirements. (Submission of the baseline backlog data requested in the tables under "Performance Measures" will not be considered in review.)

Absent explicit statutory authorization or written delegation of authority to the contrary, all final award decisions will be made by the Assistant Attorney General (AAG).

Additional Requirements

Applicants selected for awards must agree to comply with additional legal requirements upon acceptance of an award. OJP strongly encourages applicants to review the information pertaining to these additional requirements prior to submitting an application. Additional information for each requirement can be found at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/other-requirements.htm.

- · Civil Rights Compliance
- Faith-Based and Other Community Organizations
- Confidentiality
- Research and the Protection of Human Subjects
- Anti-Lobbying Act
- Financial and Government Audit Requirements
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- DOJ Information Technology Standards (if applicable)
- Single Point of Contact Review
- Non-Supplanting of State or Local Funds
- Criminal Penalty for False Statements
- Compliance with Office of Justice Programs Financial Guide
- Suspension or Termination of Funding
- Nonprofit Organizations
- For-profit Organizations

- Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA)
- Rights in Intellectual Property
- Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) of 2006
- Awards in Excess of \$5,000,000 Federal Taxes Certification Requirement
- Active CCR Registration

Reporting Requirements: Each award recipient must submit, among other things, semi-annual performance measure data, semi-annual progress reports, and quarterly financial status reports. Progress report narratives should include a summary of project goals, the activities performed during the reporting period, and the effects of these activities toward achieving each goal. Narratives should also include descriptions of any observed increases in evidence submissions as well as issues which may negatively impact goals. Each award recipient also must submit a final report. The report must include a summary and assessment of the program carried out with the FY 2012 award, including cumulative performance measure data over the entire project period.

Provide Feedback to OJP on This Solicitation

To assist OJP in improving its application and award processes, we encourage applicants to provide feedback on this solicitation, the application submission process, and/or the application review/peer review process. Feedback can be provided to OJPSolicitationFeedback@usdoj.gov.

Application ChecklistFY 2012 DNA Backlog Reduction Program

This application checklist has been created to assist in developing an application.

What	an Application Should Include:	
	Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)	(see page 18)
	Form: Fillable application form which includes the abstract, program narrative, and data collection plan	(see page 19)
	Budget Detail Worksheet Budget Narrative	(see page 20) (see page 20)
	Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable)	(see page 21)
	Accreditation Certificate(s) and scope of accreditation document(s	s) (see page 21)
	Other Standard Forms as applicable (see page 21), including: Accounting System and Financial Capability Questionnaire	(if applicable)
	Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)	(see page 17)

Appendix A

Estimated Aggregate Amounts for Awards to State and Local Applicants That Operate Forensic DNA Laboratories, by State—FY 2012 ⁸			
Alabama	\$ 971,199	Nebraska	\$ 274,535
Alaska	\$ 244,037		\$ 959,635
Arizona	\$ 1,403,064	New Hampshire	\$ 150,000
Arkansas	\$ 792,568	New Jersey	\$ 1,455,239
California	\$ 8,828,412	New Mexico	\$ 652,235
Colorado	\$ 867,764	New York	\$ 4,086,663
Connecticut	\$ 540,947	North Carolina	\$ 1,863,921
Delaware	\$ 299,869	North Dakota	\$ 150,000
District of Columbia	\$ 430,520	Ohio	\$ 1,956,060
Florida	\$ 5,484,725	Oklahoma	\$ 967,488
Georgia	\$ 2,101,611	Oregon	\$ 519,325
Hawaii	\$ 192,239	Pennsylvania	\$ 2,501,902
Idaho	\$ 186,376	Puerto Rico	\$ 564,345
Illinois	\$ 3,003,262	Rhode Island	\$ 150,000
Indiana	\$ 1,096,687	South Carolina	\$ 1,487,135
Iowa	\$ 448,217	South Dakota	\$ 150,000
Kansas	\$ 566,443	Tennessee	\$ 2,093,489
Kentucky	\$ 566,282	Texas	\$ 6,090,487
Louisiana	\$ 1,338,572	Utah	\$ 316,221
Maine	\$ 150,000		\$ 150,000
Maryland	\$ 1,700,782	Virginia	\$ 919,078
Massachusetts	\$ 1,643,390	Washington	\$ 1,134,984
Michigan	\$ 2,606,574	West Virginia	\$ 313,585
Minnesota	\$ 673,159	Wisconsin	\$ 760,672

— ALL AWARDS ARE SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF APPROPRIATED FUNDS —

Wyoming

TOTAL

\$ 430,467

\$ 150,000

\$ 1,465,835

Mississippi

Missouri

Montana

\$ 150,000

\$ 68,000,000

⁸ Units of local government that meet the eligibility requirements may apply directly to NIJ for a portion of the estimated funds allocated for awards to their State.

Appendix B

Estimated Supplemental Amounts for Awards to Applicants That Operate a State-Designated DNA Database Laboratory, by State—FY 2012 Nebraska Alabama \$ 145.630 \$ 50.000 Alaska \$ 50,000 Nevada \$ 50,000 Arizona \$ 170,457 **New Hampshire** \$ 50,000 Arkansas \$ 89,678 **New Jersey** \$ 172,412 California \$ 1,018,029 **New Mexico** \$ 50,000 Colorado \$ 106,515 **New York** \$ 281,923 Connecticut \$ 60,605 North Carolina \$ 145,804 Delaware \$ 50,000 North Dakota \$50,000 Florida \$ 581,475 Ohio \$ 293,977 Oklahoma \$ 166,851 Georgia \$ 75,073 Hawaii Oregon \$ 50,000 \$ 102,561 Idaho Pennsylvania \$ 50,000 \$ 189,874 Illinois Puerto Rico \$ 303,159 \$ 50,000 Indiana Rhode Island \$ 127,393 \$ 50,000 Iowa \$51,247 South Carolina \$ 118,493 South Dakota Kansas \$ 56,905 \$ 50,000 Kentucky \$ 50,000 Tennessee \$ 101,950 Louisiana \$ 83,810 Texas \$ 432,802 Utah Maine \$ 50,000 \$ 55,904 Maryland Vermont \$ 71,800 \$ 50,000 Virginia Massachusetts \$ 67,655 \$ 246,571 \$ 223,750 Michigan Washington \$ 152,455 West Virginia \$ 80,845 \$ 50,000 Minnesota Mississippi Wisconsin \$ 52,534 \$ 110,795 Missouri \$ 161,067 Wyoming \$ 50,000 Montana \$50,000 **TOTAL** \$7,000,000

— ALL AWARDS ARE SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF APPROPRIATED FUNDS —