

Awards Made for NIJ FY 12 Solving Cold Cases with DNA

FY12 Recipient Name: Miami-Dade County (Fla.)

Award Number: 2012-DN-BX-K006

Award Amount: \$500,000

Abstract: The purpose and intent of Miami-Dade County's application for continued grant funding under the Solving Cold Cases with DNA grant program is to support the Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD) and its crime laboratory in reviewing the MDPD's 5,653 open sexual crimes cold cases (dating back to 1972) and 2,548 open homicide cold cases (dating back to 1955) to establish whether evidence exists with potential biological material that can be analyzed to yield a DNA profile. The Miami-Dade Cold Case DNA Initiative will cover eighteen months, from Oct. 1, 2012, through March 31, 2014. This proposal will allow for the review and investigation of approximately 990 sexual crimes and 100 homicide cases (1,090 violent crime cold cases).

FY12 Recipient Name: City of Boston (Mass.)

Award Number: 2012-DN-BX-K005

Award Amount: \$314,372

Abstract: The Boston Police Department (BPD) project proposal under this grant seeks to continue the investigation of cold homicide cases through the application of enhanced forensic DNA technology. Resource constraints, however, limit our ability to address the sheer volume of cases and items needing DNA testing techniques beyond the capabilities of the BPD Crime Laboratory. NIJ funds will allow us to continue to significantly increase the number of unsolved cold homicide cases identified and reviewed for DNA evidence, as well as the Crime Laboratory's ability to identify and confirm suspects for prosecution. The BPD proposes to review 500 cases with the requested funding.

FY12 Recipient Name: County of Allegheny (Pa.)

Award Number: 2012-DN-BX-K012

Award Amount: \$169,536

Abstract: The County of Allegheny proposes a joint solution to the growing number of violent cold cases in their jurisdiction; law enforcement agents from the Allegheny County Police Department will utilize overtime for case review and subsequent investigation while the Allegheny County Medical Examiner and Crime Laboratory will receive evidence from the eligible cold cases and use the requested funding for analyst overtime to process cases, testing supplies, small equipment and outsourcing of the DNA analysis. They propose to review at least 120 cases and test 50-60 cases.

FY12 Recipient Name: Jackson County (Mo.) Prosecuting Attorney's Office

Award Number: 2012-DN-BX-K031

Award Amount: \$415,829

Abstract: The purpose of this application is to continue and complete our interagency project to identify, evaluate and investigate violent cold case crimes capable of being solved with DNA evidence in Jackson County, Missouri. The ultimate objectives for the 2012 Solving Cold Cases with DNA Project will be to protect the community, seek justice for violent crime victims and hold the guilty accountable.

These objectives will be accomplished through an established, cooperative and exemplary interagency model that includes systematic and comprehensive case review, evaluation and post-hit investigation. The grant-funded employees of the Prosecutor's Office Cold Case Unit will consist of two cold case analysts, a cold case investigator and a cold case paralegal. This grantee proposes to review and investigate the 2,545 remaining violent cold case crimes in its jurisdiction with the requested funds.

FY12 Recipient Name: City of Los Angeles (Calif.)

Award Number: 2012-DN-BX-K010

Award Amount: \$500,000

Abstract: The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) has based its strategy on the simple premise that detectives take an average of five hours to review and investigate a cold case to determine the availability of biological evidence, suspects, witnesses and/or other corroborating evidence. During the requested 18-month grant period, using \$141,750 in overtime funds supplied by the grant, detectives will review and complete related investigations on approximately 350 cases during periods after their regular work hours and/or on their days off. In addition, the LAPD's Scientific Investigation Division (SID) will use \$272,900 from the grant award for the testing of DNA samples by DNA contract laboratory vendors in an effort to identify perpetrators. There will also be an expenditure of \$65,100 in overtime to compensate SID personnel for retrieval of evidence and required preparation of the DNA samples prior to testing and shipping. Investigative travel for the purpose of determining the existence of available DNA samples associated with a cold case will cost \$3,770.

FY12 Recipient Name: City of Worcester (Mass.)

Award Number: 2012-DN-BX-K008

Award Amount: \$231,503

Abstract: The overall goal of the Worcester Police Department (WPD) is to review and identify cases of homicide and forcible rape that have the potential to be solved with DNA. Currently, they have 58 unresolved homicides and potentially 4,000 unresolved forcible rape cases. They propose to review all of these cases with the requested funds. WPD will achieve these goals by resourcing the Unresolved Homicide Unit and its Special Crimes Unit so that they may focus their efforts on a growing number of unsolved cases. Investigators will classify and prioritize cases, and will focus on cases that have biological evidence available for DNA analysis. They will coordinate with Worcester County District Attorney's office for investigative and prosecutorial potential of cases that have available biological evidence. They will conduct in-depth case reviews with their forensic personnel and consult with the state laboratory to determine the laboratory's capacity to analyze evidence and degraded samples.

FY12 Recipient Name: Alabama Attorney General's Office

Award Number: 2012-DN-BX-K001

Award Amount: \$499,997

Abstract: Due to the large number of smaller departments in the state, a significant number of departments remain to be approached. Some of these agencies are limited in their ability to investigate these rape cases due to a lack of investigative resources and investigative expertise. The Attorney General's Office (AGO) has learned that the Cold Case DNA Initiative has brought needed help to the

departments and hope to the victims of these crimes. Funds provided by the FY2012 NIJ grant would allow the AGO to continue our efforts to resolve these backlogged sexual assault cases. The grantee proposes to review at least 500 cases with the requested funding.

FY12 Recipient Name: City of Ocala (Fla.)

Award Number: 2012-DN-BX-K015

Award Amount: \$81,939

Abstract: The Ocala Police Department (OPD) proposes the OPD Cold Case Homicide Project with the goal of reducing the backlog of cold case homicides that have the potential of being solved with DNA analysis. The purpose of this project is to identify, review and prioritize cold case homicides to determine if there is biological evidence that might assist in solving the cold case. OPD project objectives include identification, collection, retrieval and evaluation of biological evidence from unsolved homicides, labeled as cold cases. Funding will be used to further investigate over 20 cold case homicides dating from the 1970s.

FY12 Recipient Name: City of Chicago (Ill.)

Award Number: 2012-DN-BX-K004

Award Amount: \$499,565

Abstract: The City of Chicago has approximately 6,242 unresolved homicide cases, and the Chicago Police Department (CPD) proposes to use overtime hours for detectives and evidence coordinators to review and locate evidence, as well as to piggy-back on a low-cost outsourcing contract held by the Illinois State Police with a private laboratory to test evidence in eligible cases. From 1997 to 2011, the CPD Cold Case Unit cleared 278 cases before it was decentralized and restructured. The new CPD Cold Case Unit proposes to review all 6,242 unresolved homicides and have evidence analyzed on at least 75 cases with the requested funding.

FY12 Recipient Name: City of Torrance (Calif.)

Award Number: 2012-DN-BX-K011

Award Amount: \$93,175

Abstract: The Torrance Police Department requests funding from the NIJ FY 12 Solving Cold Cases with DNA grant in the amount of \$93,175 for DNA cold case homicide case review of 20 cases, evidence analysis and investigative follow-up to obtain new DNA evidence. The FY 12 Solving Cold Cases with DNA grant will fund overtime pay for two cold case detectives to obtain DNA evidence; fund overtime pay for one DNA-trained senior criminalist to complete cold case evidence inventory, documentation, case review and DNA analysis as warranted; and outsourcing of mitochondrial DNA analysis as needed.

FY12 Recipient Name: City of Tacoma (Wash.)

Award Number: 2012-DN-BX-K013

Award Amount: \$224,850

Abstract: The Tacoma Police Department's Homicide Unit has a 94-percent clearance rate over the last six years and is seeking NIJ funding in the amount of \$224,850 to bring that same commitment and experience to the department's unsolved cases. This NIJ funding will be used for the review, prioritization, investigation and prosecution of the 167 unsolved homicide cases currently held by the department since 1961. Specifically, the grant funding will pay for experienced homicide detectives working overtime to investigate cold cases as well as pay for necessary travel expenses and DNA analysis through private laboratories.

FY12 Recipient Name: City of New York (N.Y.) — Office of the Criminal Justice Coordinator

Award Number: 2012-DN-BX-K032

Award Amount: \$500,000

Abstract: These funds will support selection and analysis of cold cases across seven New York City law enforcement agencies with central administration by the Criminal Justice Coordinator. The New York Police Department Cold Case Squad and the District Attorneys' Offices will identify, review and prioritize cold case files for their potential to yield evidence for DNA analysis. Grant funds will pay for overtime for existing employees and salaries for additional employees at all seven agencies. In addition, the funds directed to the Office of Chief Medical Examiner will cover supplies dedicated to DNA analysis, evidence handling and loading DNA profiles into the CODIS database. With the requested funding, this grantee proposes to review 890 cases and analyze evidence in 100 cases.

FY12 Recipient Name: City and County of Denver (Colo.)

Award Number: 2012-DN-BX-K007

Award Amount: \$499,818

Abstract: To solve cold case homicides, Denver will address all three purpose areas of the 2012 Solving Cold Cases with DNA grant program: location of biological evidence, investigative review of cold case homicides, and forensic biology and DNA testing of biological evidence. This proposal represents the final stage of the Denver Police Department's cold case investigative review. The Denver Police Department will retain two forensic scientists and support investigative overtime to locate and assess evidence and to conduct the administrative review of the 122 cold cases. Funds will also support a portion of a District Attorney Investigator's salary and benefits to assist in the review efforts. Denver's 2012 project employs proven processes and strategies that have already yielded the successful resolution of numerous cold case homicides.

FY12 Recipient Name: Montgomery County (Ohio)

Award Number: 2012-DN-BX-K014

Award Amount: \$242,300

Abstract: The Miami Valley Regional Crime Laboratory may utilize an interdepartmental squad with participants from police agencies, the offices of the county prosecuting attorney and the county coroner, as well as the personnel of the DNA testing laboratory as part of their efforts. There will be

three part-time detectives assigned to the initiative. Detectives from other law enforcement agencies may rotate through the squad when a case specific to their organization is being reviewed and investigated. The grantee proposes to review at least 90 violent crime cold cases with the requested funding.

FY12 Recipient Name: Unified Police of Greater Salt Lake (Utah)

Award Number: 2012-DN-BX-K029

Award Amount: \$303,645

Abstract: The Unified Police Department (UPD) currently has 206 unsolved cold cases. There are 57 homicides and 149 sexual assault kits that need to be examined. The focus during this grant period will be to examine all of these cold cases. Given the dilemma of having only one full-time cold case detective, many cases have not been worked on. By allowing overtime hours for the Violent Crimes and Family Crimes detectives, this will allow them to increase productivity on the cold cases that have not been worked. This will increase the efficiency of the UPD's Detective Division to enhance the ability to look at the previously mentioned cold case homicides and cold case sexual assaults.

FY12 Recipient Name: Charles County (Md.) Government

Award Number: 2012-DN-BX-K030

Award Amount: \$246,440

Abstract: The technological advances made in DNA testing have helped solve cases, arrest criminals, bring closure to families and victims, and ultimately save lives. The Charles County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) is proposing a \$246,440 project with a purpose to do just that. This proposal would allow for overtime to review cases, submit DNA evidence for analysis and keep personnel trained on up-to-date technology. There are numerous benefits to what DNA technology can do today. Cases thought unsolvable decades ago are now being solved. The CCSO is dedicated to this effort. This proposal addresses all three of this solicitation's purpose areas. CCSO is dedicated to solving cold cases through DNA. The grantee proposes to review case files and analyze evidence in 72 cases.

FY12 Recipient Name: Pinellas County (Fla.) Sheriff's Office

Award Number: 2012-DN-BX-K022

Award Amount: \$214,354

Abstract: Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, in partnership with the Office of the State Attorney Sixth Judicial Circuit of Florida and the District Six Medical Examiner's Office Pinellas County Forensic Laboratory proposes an eighteen month project — Operation Cold Case Review — to review and investigate all 37 of its unsolved cold case homicides to determine the potential for solving them through the use of DNA technology and DNA databases. Evidentiary items deemed suitable for DNA analysis will be submitted to the Pinellas County Forensic Laboratory for STR or MT analysis, and results will be submitted for inclusion in the CODIS database.

FY12 Recipient Name: Virginia State Police (Va.)

Award Number: 2012-DN-BX-K002

Award Amount: \$466,900

Abstract: Virginia State Police (VSP) is requesting funding to hire four part-time cold case analysts (referred to hereafter as analysts) who will conduct case reviews and identify potential biological evidence for DNA analysis, thereby freeing investigators to concentrate on field investigative duties. The analysts will conduct these reviews for state and local law enforcement cases for a minimum of 286 cases. VSP is also requesting 440 hours of overtime pay for approximately 30 full-time special agents who will be responsible for assisting the analysts on case reviews and conducting follow-up investigations. Minimal computer equipment for the new part-time analysts is also requested. VSP will partner with the state's Department of Forensic Science to analyze evidence in 150 of the reviewed cases, or as necessary.

FY12 Recipient Name: County of Riverside (Calif.)

Award Number: 2012-DN-BX-K028

Award Amount: \$499,999

Abstract: The NIJ grant will enable the Riverside County Sheriff's Department to effectively continue to review these cold cases, submit DNA evidence for analysis with a timely turnaround period, and successfully complete the investigation for submission to the District Attorney for prosecution. The Department is requesting funding for Sheriff's Department Investigator overtime and investigative travel expenses, overtime for the Department of Justice DNA lab personnel, and private DNA lab testing. The Riverside County Sheriff's Office proposes to review 450 violent cold cases and to test evidence in 40 to 80 of those cases.

FY12 Recipient Name: County of Ventura (Calif.)

Award Number: 2012-DN-BX-K009

Award Amount: \$418,047

Abstract: Ventura County Sheriff's Office proposes to re-establish an investigative team to review and investigate cold homicide and other cold violent crimes within its jurisdiction. The Sheriff's Office will hire two part-time investigators solely devoted to cold violent crime cases. As part of this effort, the Forensic Sciences Laboratory will designate a lead forensic scientist from its DNA section to assist the investigators in the assessment of the biological evidence and to assure its analysis. Hired through the grant, a DNA forensic lab technician will analyze the current cold case caseload and the caseload generated as a result of the renewed investigation of cold cases. By means of grant funding, the laboratory will also purchase equipment and supplies to analyze the cold case workload. This team approach will enable local law enforcement to refocus on solving the backlog of 83 violent cold cases using the most recent advances in forensic DNA analysis.

FY12 Recipient Name: City of Miami (Fla.)

Award Number: 2012-DN-BX-K016

Award Amount: \$500,000

Abstract: The City of Miami Police Department (MPD) currently has a backlog of 1,637 homicide cold cases. The MPD seeks to review, prioritize, examine and evaluate these cases in an effort to identify physical evidence that has potential to yield biological DNA that can be submitted for testing. They believe that evidence in about 327 cases can be submitted for analysis. The MPD seeks to accomplish several concurrent goals, which include increasing solvability of backlogged cold cases, identifying possible links to other crimes inside and outside of the Miami jurisdiction, and ultimately prosecuting a greater number of these cases.

FY12 Recipient Name: Long Beach (Calif.) Police Department

Award Number: 2012-DN-BX-K003

Award Amount: \$157,922

Abstract: The Long Beach Police Department's (LBPD) goals and objectives are to reduce the backlog of unsolved homicides requiring review, identify probative biological cold case evidence suitable for DNA testing, subject that evidence to DNA analysis with the expectation it will produce CODIS hits, and pursue all CODIS hits and investigative leads derived from DNA analysis. LBPD remains under a contractual agreement with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Scientific Services Bureau, ensuring DNA testing will be conducted under the strictest standards of quality control. The LBPD expects to review 112 cases and submit evidence for analysis in at least 28 cases with the requested funding.