

Awards Made for NIJ FY 12 Using DNA Technology to Identify the Missing

FY12 Recipient Name: University of North Texas Health Science Center

Award Number: 2012-DN-BX-K057

Award Amount: \$1,925,000

Abstract: Funding provided through this solicitation will allow the University of North Texas Center for Human Identification (UNTCHI) to continue providing these services throughout the United States to families with a missing loved one, law enforcement agencies, medical examiners and coroners. Over a 12 month period, UNTCHI has the capacity to analyze approximately 1,000 unidentified person samples and 2,500 family reference samples. A portion of the funds will be used to continue field testing of new technologies designed to increase the throughput and the amount of genetic information obtainable from human remains and family reference samples.

FY12 Recipient Name: Orchid Cellmark, Inc.

Award Number: 2012-DN-BX-K055

Award Amount: \$101,639

Abstract: Orchid Cellmark, Inc. (OCI) has the expertise to optimize success with difficult samples such as exhumed bones and unidentified human remains. OCI implemented a novel DNA isolation procedure that significantly improves the likelihood of obtaining a DNA profile from compromised or degraded skeletal remains. OCI offers this capability to state and local law enforcement agencies to improve the probability of identifying missing persons. For this application, they are partnering with the California Department of Justice to perform testing on 50 bone, tooth and/or tissue samples submitted by the agency.

FY12 Recipient Name: Minnesota Department of Public Safety — Bureau of Criminal Apprehension

Award Number: 2012-DN-BX-K054

Award Amount: \$363,485

Abstract: This application proposes to target the completion of anthropological exams (which are needed prior to DNA sampling), DNA sample processing, DNA data entry using CODIS 7.0, data entry into NamUs, validations and staffing. All appropriate samples will be subjected to DNA extraction and DNA testing (mitochondrial DNA, autosomal STRs and Y-chromosomal STRs, where necessary). The ultimate goal is to obtain as much genetic information as possible so these samples can benefit from the national DNA searches conducted using CODIS. The proposed model of concurrent processing of the anthropological examinations and the sample collection process for DNA testing will minimize unnecessary delays. This mode of processing, along with the efficient and effective DNA processing protocols currently in use by the Missing Persons DNA Unit at the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension Forensic Science Service (MN BCA FSS), will provide these unidentified individuals with the best chance at identification. With the aid of additional resources, the MN BCA FSS plans to generate a fusion of criminal justice professionals to actively pursue the identification of the missing and unidentified in the state of Minnesota.

FY12 Recipient Name: The Bode Technology Group, Inc.

Award Number: 2012-DN-BX-K056

Award Amount: \$804,172

Abstract: For this proposal, Bode has identified twelve agencies that have agreed to submit missing persons cases to Bode, including the commitment of at least 250 unidentified human remains and 50 family reference samples, and has been provided letters of support from each of these agencies. In addition to the identified samples, Bode has requested funding for an additional 100 unidentified remains.