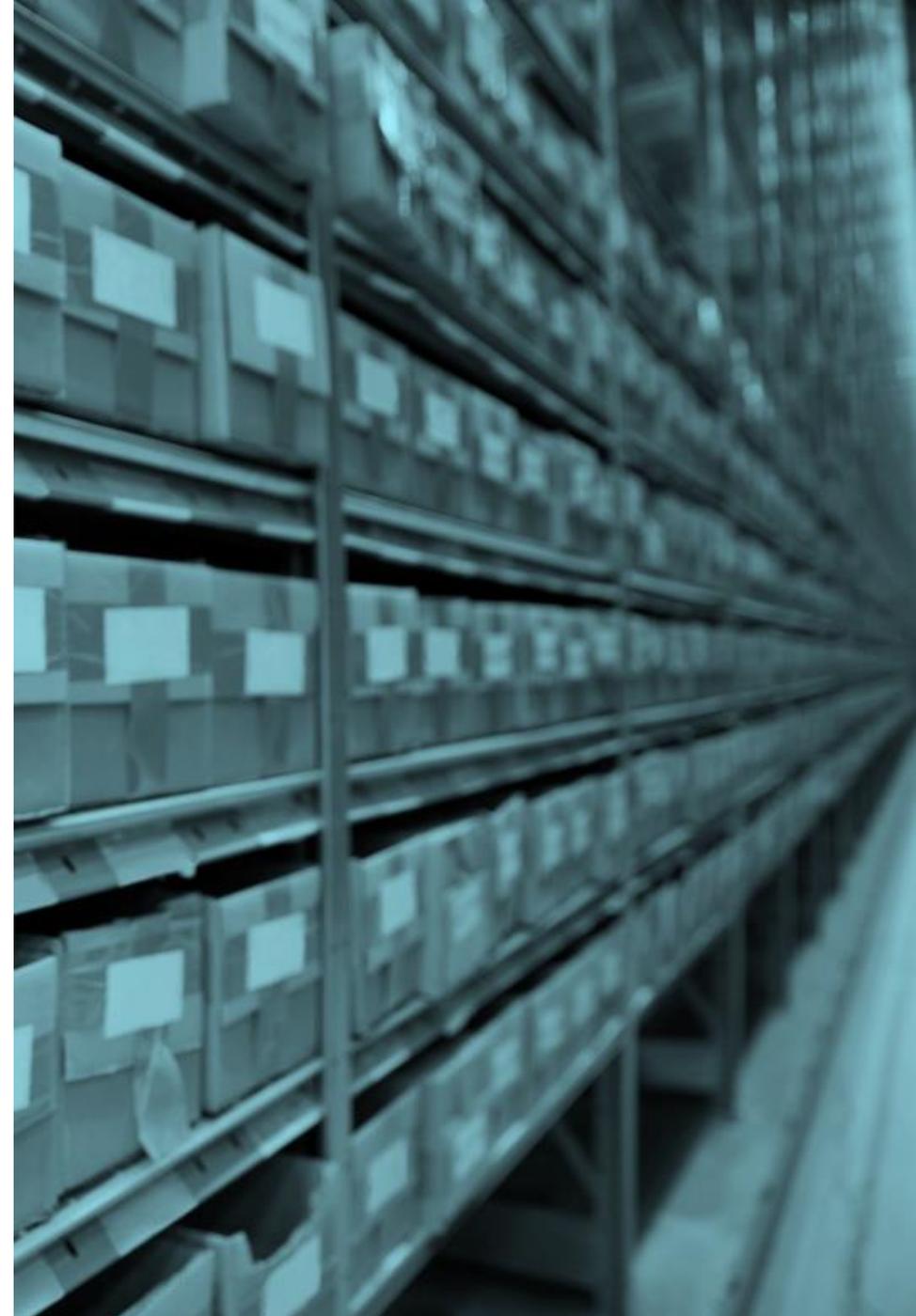




Request for Proposals Information Session: Advanced DNA Testing for Other Violent Cold Cases

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Angela Williamson, Ph.D.

- Joined the Bureau of Justice Assistance-DOJ as a Senior Policy Advisor for Forensics in 2014 and is now the Supervisor of Forensic Initiatives
- Currently oversees BJA's Sexual Assault Kit Initiative and BJA's other forensic-based programs including Capital Case Litigation training
- Also serves as DOJ's FBI ViCAP Liaison
- Has over 14 years of experience working as a forensic scientist on complex criminal cases and missing/unidentified persons' investigations
- Member of the Mid-Atlantic Cold Case Homicide Investigators Association
- Received PhD in Molecular Biology and Biochemistry from The University of Queensland in Australia
- Former Director of Forensic Casework at Bode Technology, and Biometrics and Unknown Victim Identification Project Programs Manager at the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
- In 2018, received the United States Department of Justice Assistant Attorney General's Distinguished Service Award for outstanding contributions to the mission and goals of the Office of Justice Programs
- In 2019, received the International Homicide Investigators Association award for Investigation Excellence for her role in the Samuel Little Serial Killer investigation



Nani Grimmer, PMP

- Senior Project Management Specialist at RTI International in the Division for Applied Justice Research
- >12 years of federal contract project management experience
- >9 years of forensic DNA analysis and forensic research experience
- Serves as the Senior Project Manager for the Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) cooperative agreement
- Responsible for the management of SAKI TTA subawards
- Certified Project Management Professional (PMP)
- Obtained her B.S. in Genetic Engineering with a concentration in Forensic Science and a minor in Anthropology from Cedar Crest College (PA)



Advanced DNA Testing for Other Violent Cold Cases

Overview

Advanced DNA Testing for Other Violent Cold Cases

Goal *(see page 1 of RFP)*

Support SAKI grantees' investigation of future, new, active, and old/inactive cases in order to solve and reduce violent crimes.

Important

Funding is for DNA testing of violent cold case crime evidence- **other than cold case sexual assaults/homicides**



Overview

Funding Usage *(see pages 1-2 of RFP)*

- Y-STR testing
 - Samples that fail to yield CODIS-eligible profile, but male DNA was detected and known suspect sample is available for direct comparison
 - Complex mixtures with known suspect samples are available for direct comparison
 - Existing local Y-STR suspect database
- Testing of additional evidence, not previously tested
- Familial DNA searches (if legally allowed)
 - DNA profile must have been previously uploaded to CODIS and has not generated a hit to a known suspect
- Forensic genetic genealogy (FGG) processing and searches
 - CODIS-eligible profile must have been previously uploaded to CODIS and has not generated a hit to a known suspect

Overview

Eligibility *(see page 2 of RFP)*

- Current SAKI grantee jurisdiction
- Tested at least 75% of their SAKI inventory of unsubmitted SAKs
- Received CODIS hits from testing SAK inventory
- Have a CODIS hit follow-up plan that aligns with SAKI model
- Entered cases into ViCAP
- Have established, competitively sourced, relationship with commercial DNA Vendor (exception- genealogy services)

Overview

Administrative requirements *(see page 2 of RFP)*

- Administrative activities are expected to be conducted **using existing SAKI awards**
 - Administration of funding
 - Management of subaward
 - Tracking and reporting required performance metrics tracking (PMT) data
 - Inventory of cold case evidence submitted for DNA testing with subaward funding
 - Tracking of cold case evidence submitted for DNA testing with subaward funding

Advanced DNA Testing for Other Violent Cold Cases

Proposal Process

Award Information (see page 1 of RFP)

- Up to 5 Subawards
- Each subaward will be up to \$50,000
- Period of Performance will be 24 months, beginning July 2020
- Cost-reimbursable subawards to RTI International

Applicant Criteria (see page 3 of RFP)

Applicants should demonstrate:

- Willingness to form or leverage a multidisciplinary team
 - Law enforcement (crime analysts are applicable), prosecutors, crime laboratory personnel, medical examiners, and advocacy professionals
- Capacity and resources to support the additional activities under their current SAKI awards
- Commitment to creating and employing sustainable cold case unit strategies
- Ability to work with BJA and its federal partners

Application Overview (see page 4 of RFP)

Required

- Eligibility Checklist *-Appendix A (pg. 6) of RFP*
- Proposal Narrative
 - Statement of the Problem
 - Project Plan
 - Organizational Commitment
- Timeline
- Budget Documentation

Optional

- Letters of Support and/or MOUs

Proposal Narrative (see page 3 of RFP)

Should not exceed 2 pages in length

Project Plan and Timeline

- Should reflect two phases
 - Phase 1- Inventory Phase
 - No longer than 6 months (post-subaward)
 - Collect required elements for BJA to review proposed evidence for DNA testing
 - **ONLY** cold case evidence submitted for testing under subaward
 - Phase 2- Testing Phase
 - Must submit a final budget and testing plan to reflect any changes made during the inventory phase
 - Quarterly PMT reports will be required for all evidence submitted for testing under the subaward

Eligibility Checklist and Budget (see page 4 of RFP)

Checklist

- Interactive PDF or scanned document may be submitted

Budget

- May utilize own budget template or DOJ budget detail worksheet
- Should present a complete itemization and explanation of costs

Post-Subaward Requirements (see page 4 of RFP)

Monthly Updates

- Provide via regular SAKI monthly check-ins with assigned SAKI site liaison

Reporting

- Monthly progress reports with financial report
- Quarterly PMT reports
- Timely invoices

Selection Process (see page 3 of RFP)

- Submitting a project proposal will not guarantee project funding
- BJA and SAKI TTA will evaluate all proposals submitted by the application deadline
- BJA reserves the right to make any final decisions regarding all subawards and any aspects of the subawards.
- Evaluation Score Weights
 - Statement of the Problem (20%)
 - Project Plan (60%)
 - Organizational Commitment (10%)
 - Budget Documentation (10%)

Training and Technical Assistance

- Additional TTA support to the sub-awardees include
 - Technical assistance related to advanced DNA testing techniques
 - Cold case investigation training
 - Provision of cold case investigation subject matter expertise and recommended practices, policies, and protocols
 - Provision of peer-to-peer cold case investigation opportunities
 - Guidance on research opportunities from case outcomes
 - Development and incorporation of customized sustainability plans for cold case units into the Site-specific TTA Development Plans

Important Dates (see page 5 of RFP)

- Application Deadline: **11:59pm ET on Friday, May 29, 2020**
- Application Review: **Monday, June 1 – Friday, June 12, 2020**
- Subaward Notification: **No later than Friday, June 19, 2020**
- Anticipated Project Start Date: **Wednesday, July 1, 2020**

Questions?

Contact Information



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