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

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This project was supported by Grant No. 2019-MU-BX-K011 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Office for Victims of Crime, and the SMART Office. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.
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
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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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