

## 2017 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Program

<p><b>Colorado Bureau of Investigations</b></p> <p><b>Federal Funding: \$63,265</b></p>	<p>The Colorado Bureau of Investigation is committed to providing its submitting law enforcement agencies with high quality services that lead to probative investigative leads that are defensible in court. This quality system is predicated on its ISO 17025 accreditation that underpins our quality system. As they've increased the number of scientists on staff, costs for maintaining the necessary high level of quality (through accreditation fees, training, and external proficiency tests) have also increased. These needs are reflected in this application.</p> <p>Having a high quality forensic lab system is the first step; the second step is demonstrating it to the court system and public in a trustworthy way. Most labs have done this by seeking external accreditation through an independent accrediting body. This entails adhering to and demonstrating compliance with established standards as well as paying the independent accrediting body to maintain their register of accredited labs. The two activities in Goal 1, above, include paying ASCLD/LAB our yearly dues to keep our accreditation certificate active and paying for all proficiency tests per section 5.9.b under the accreditation standards as well as Quality Procedure (QP) 25 in our own CBIFS Quality Manual.</p> <p>Attending the out-of-state American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) annual conference in February 2018 is an efficient way of bringing back new ideas for both quality and timeliness improvement. It's a conference packed with relevant topics for all forensic disciplines (running on parallel tracts) as well as workshops that emphasize workflow or technology improvements that allow more samples to be run in less time. These two activities should positively impact technology in the lab as well as eventually positively impact case turnaround times.</p>
<p><b>Denver Police Department (DPD)</b></p> <p><b>Federal Funding: \$35,701</b></p>	<p>To continue providing high quality customer service to the City and County of Denver, the Crime Laboratory will: provide advanced training to forensic scientists and the Office of the Medical Examiner (OME) staff and renew the ISO 17025:2005 accreditation, while pursuing ISO 17020 accreditation for the OME. Combined, these efforts will elevate the efficiency and quality of both the Crime Laboratory and the OME.</p> <p>In 2009, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) released a report – <i>Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward</i>. In this report, the NAS recommends, as a best practice, that individual scientists achieve certification. While certification is not yet mandatory, the Crime Laboratory is dedicated to providing quality results as demonstrated by our ISO 17025 accreditation and supports individual certification of forensic staff.</p> <p>Training and certification will be achieved through a number of strategies. One AFTE certified and one non-certified forensic scientist will attend the annual AFTE conference, contributing to the continuing education requirements to maintain certification and certify one additional scientist.</p>

	<p>Two members of the Forensic Imaging Unit will complete 40 hours of training, which is required to maintain their certification. In-house and local training will be provided to four laboratory forensic scientists in high priority areas. The laboratory will bring DPD external trainers that can present on topics that have a direct impact to scientists throughout the lab – across several forensic disciplines. Priority areas for training in 2018 will include Imaging and Forensic Chemistry. Historically, training for forensic scientists has come in the form of out-of-state training, but this option can be both expensive and limiting in the number of forensic scientists that can be trained. With these grant funds, we hope to maximize the funds so that multiple laboratory staff will receive pertinent training. Local training sessions held within the Crime Laboratory will help ensure maximum use of training funds.</p> <p>Additionally, the OME will also be pursuing training and certification opportunities to appease the NAME recommendations and work towards an ISO accreditation. The OME will send three staff members to the International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners (IACME) training, educating staff members on how to accurately determine and cause and manner of death. Educating OME staff in this capacity will mitigate errors and expedite the examination processes. With a goal of pursuing ISO accreditation, the OME will also be bringing in a third party for an introductory training course on understanding ISO/IEC 17020 accreditation, as it relates to forensic police units. This training will bring the OME one step closer to achieving ISO accreditation, which – as previously stated – has become a primary focus of NAME. Lastly, two OME staff will attend a Public Agency Training Council (PATC) seminar on Investigative Techniques Using Social Networking Sites. This training will aid the OME in conducting medicolegal investigations on determining the circumstances surrounding death.</p>
<p><b>Colorado Springs Police Department (CSPD)</b></p> <p><b>Federal Funding: \$18,332</b></p>	<p>The Colorado Springs Metro Crime Laboratory (MCL) provides forensic services for the Colorado Springs Police Department, the El Paso County Sheriff’s Office, the 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Attorney’s Office, and the El Paso County Coroner’s Office. The MCL is staffed in the forensic disciplines of chemistry, latent print identification, firearms examination, DNA analysis, and crime scene investigation.</p> <p>Forensic sciences undergo changes as new technologies and methods emerge, allowing for better analysis of evidentiary items. It is critical that MCL forensic staff is trained to meet current industry standards in each discipline. To maintain and develop forensic capacity, MCL staff cross-trains in several forensic disciplines.</p> <p>Training and continuing education is a mandated component in the accreditation process. Funding requested under this grant will provide MCL staff with necessary training in their respective forensic discipline.</p>

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<p><b>Colorado Bureau of Investigations</b></p> <p><b>Federal Funding:</b> <b>\$143,102</b></p>	<p>The Colorado Bureau of Investigation is committed to providing their submitting law enforcement agencies with high quality and timely services that lead to probative investigative leads. Decreasing the turnaround time (the number of days from the time a request for laboratory examination is brought in with evidence to the time a report is issued) of submitted cases has been a primary goal of this lab system. Their past efforts have included hiring additional personnel and implementing lean process improvement solutions, but they are now attempting to secure additional funding for overtime so they can process additional non-DNA cases, specifically to address the increased backlog due to the opioid epidemic in the following disciplines: Drug chemistry, latent prints, firearms, and toxicology. Additionally, they are seeking funding that will help them maintain our accreditation ISO 17025:2005 and 2017 standards which will directly aid in addressing the problems associated with the opioid epidemic.</p> <p>The specific disciplines that will receive awarded overtime funds will depend on which disciplines have the highest backlog throughout the award period. Non-DNA disciplines that will benefit from these funds are firearms, latent prints, toxicology and drug chemistry. The lab management team, along with the Project Director, will be closely monitoring the overtime use in order to maximize efficiency of overtime work. Every month, the management team will review discipline-specific turnaround time data and determine which discipline(s) would most benefit from overtime funds. The overtime would then be offered to the scientists, approved beforehand, then tracked afterwards. The external accreditation assessment will be completed by Summer of 2019, external proficiency tests will be ordered in early 2019, and accreditation fees will be paid in early 2019.</p>
<p><b>Denver Police Department</b></p> <p><b>Federal Funding:</b> <b>\$73,886</b></p>	<p>To improve the quality and timeliness of Denver’s forensic services, this application request is divided between the Denver Police Crime Laboratory and Denver’s Office of the Medical Examiner (OME). Both agencies will be pursuing training opportunities that contribute to the maintenance of their accreditations, as the Crime Laboratory is accredited to the ISO 17025:2005 standards, and the OME is accredited with the National Association for Medical Examiners (NAME) and pursuing ISO 17020 accreditation. To heighten the timeliness of the Crime Scene Unit (CSU), while ensuring a quality investigation, the Crime Laboratory will be purchasing five laser trajectory kits and eight macro camera lenses. The laser trajectory kits mitigate inaccurate results that often come from the use of strings and rods due to sagging. Having macro camera lenses for the crime scene investigations will improve the imaging quality, reducing the need to take multiple photographs and losing transient evidence.</p>
<p><b>Colorado Springs Police Department</b></p> <p><b>Federal Funding:</b> <b>\$38,179</b></p>	<p>The Colorado Springs Metro Crime Laboratory (MCL) provides forensic science services in the forensic disciplines of chemistry, latent print identification, firearms examination, DNA analysis, and crime scene investigation to the Colorado Springs Police Department, the El Paso County Sheriff’s Office, the</p>

	<p>4th Judicial District Attorney’s Office, and the El Paso County Coroner’s Office.</p> <p>Technology advances impact and change the field of forensic sciences; it is critical that MCL forensic staff is trained to meet current industry standards in each discipline. Training and continuing education are mandated components in the accreditation process. Funding requested under this grant will provide MCL staff with necessary training in their respective forensic discipline(s). Funding is also requested for supplies and equipment to aid in the confirmative identification of drugs, specifically opioids and designer drugs.</p>
<p><b>Northern Colorado Regional Forensic Laboratory (NCRFL)</b></p> <p><b>Federal Funding: \$19,501</b></p>	<p>The Northern Colorado Regional Forensic Lab (NCRFL) is a consortium of 5 law enforcement agencies that have combined staff, and along with CBI staff housed in Greeley, to provide forensic services to the Northern Colorado region, primarily to the participating agencies. The lab in conjunction with the CBI was accredited in May 2015 in chemistry, biology-bodily fluid identification, firearms and latent prints. In addition, the areas of Biology-DNA Nuclear and Digital &amp; Multimedia Evidence (DME) were accredited in 2016. The lab is seeking to train forensic scientists in their area of expertise so as to continue to improve the quality of forensic services to the people of Northern Colorado and address the concerns of the National Commission on Forensic Sciences (NCFS). This training will also include the training of a new DME analyst that will be involved in the processing of electronic devices associated with the illegal distribution of synthetic opioids.</p>