

State of Colorado- 2016 Coverdell Awards

PROJECT TITLE: “2016 Coverdell Forensic Science”

Agency: Colorado Bureau of Investigation

Federal Award: \$77,219

Summary: The Colorado Bureau of Investigation Forensic Services (CBIFS) will use Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement grant funds for the purpose of ensuring and improving the quality of laboratory services with up-to-date non-DNA discipline-specific training of individual scientists throughout the grant year, proficiency tests, overtime, and accreditation fees. The result of this funding will be a reduction in the backlog of casework associated with non-DNA cases and test items and the continued production of high quality work which is a result of relevant training, accreditation, and proficiency testing.

PROJECT TITLE: “Ensuring the Quality & Timeliness of Denver’s Forensic Services”

Agency: City and County of Denver, Police Department

Federal Award: \$29,250

Summary: To continue providing high quality customer service to the City and County of Denver, the Crime Laboratory will: provide advanced training to forensic scientists; renew the ISO 17025:2005 accreditation; and purchase new equipment for the Office of the Medical Examiner which will increase efficiency and promote safer, cleaner lab conditions. Combined, these efforts will help maintain the average turnaround time for delivering test results at the Office of the Medical Examiner and will help increase the number of forensic scientists attending training in the Denver Police Crime Lab.

PROJECT TITLE: “Colorado Springs Metro Crime Lab Continued Education”

Agency: City of Colorado Springs, Police Department

Federal Award: \$18,304

Summary: The Colorado Springs Metro Crime Laboratory (MCL) provides forensic services for the Colorado Springs Police Department, the El Paso County Sheriff’s Office, the 4th Judicial District Attorney’s Office, and the El Paso County Coroner’s Office. The MCL is staffed in the forensic disciplines of chemistry, latent fingerprint identification, firearms examination, DNA analysis, and crime scene investigation. Forensic sciences undergo changes as new technologies and methods emerge allowing for better analysis of evidentiary items. It is paramount that the MCL forensic staff is trained to meet current industry standards in each discipline. To maintain and develop forensic capacity, the forensic staff cross-trains in several forensic disciplines.

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Training and continuing education is a mandated component in the accreditation and re-accreditation process. Funding requested under this grant will provide MCL staff with necessary training in their respective forensic discipline.

PROJECT TITLE: “NCRFL Training 2016” Project

Agency: City of Greeley, Police Department

Federal Award: \$8,470

Summary: 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, provides 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. It will have an assessment in Biology-DNA Nuclear and Digital& Multi-media Evidence (DME) in February of 2016. The lab is seeking to train DME forensic examiners in audio/video analysis as well as provided additional training for a latent print examiner.