

**FY 2009 Recovery Act: Edward Byrne Memorial Competitive Grant Program:
Enhancing Forensic and Crime Scene Investigations**

State	Applicant Name	Project Summary
OH	City of Mansfield \$296,450	The City of Mansfield (Ohio) will be awarded \$296,450 to retain 3 positions and stabilize budgetary issues to avoid reductions in essential services provided to the local community and the law enforcement agencies. The staffing and budget funding of the laboratory have been impacted by the recession. Currently, the Laboratory Director-Forensic Scientist currently maintains a reduced work week of 32 hours and no overtime funding, the DNA technician has been reduced to a 24-hour work week, a crime scene investigation position has been eliminated, funding for the DNA analyst position is scheduled to expire in March of 2010, equipment funding has been eliminated, supply funding has been reduced by 50 percent, and contract service accounts will not cover anticipated 2009 costs.
KS	County of Sedgwick \$99,243	Sedgwick County (Kansas) will be awarded \$99,243 to create 1 additional forensic scientist position county will fund after 1-month project period. The Sedgwick County Regional Forensic Science Center (RFSC) serves as the crime laboratory for all Sedgwick County, Kansas law enforcement agencies and provides forensic services to many agencies of the adjoining counties. Since 2002, the case load in the toxicology laboratory has increased 40 percent. At current staffing levels, RFSC is not meeting National Association of Medical Examiners guidelines for turnaround times or forensic scientists per caseload. As a result, it is in danger of losing its accreditation.
LA	Louisiana State Police \$1,356,524	The Louisiana State Police (LSP) will be awarded \$1,356,524 to create 12 new staff positions to assist with the goals of (1) improving the ability to provide timely forensic analysis to law enforcement agencies, (2) significantly reducing sample backlog waiting for DNA and forensics analysis, and (3) increasing the ability of Louisiana law enforcement agencies to properly manage crime scenes and collect, preserve, and process evidence for forensic analysis. The LSP will use multiple approaches to accomplish these project goals. One key component is hiring forensic technicians for routine duties that do not require a trained scientist. LSP will also hire additional crime laboratory analysts (forensic scientists), provide overtime to increase the total number of cases completed, and provide specialized crime scene training for law enforcement officers to improve the collection of forensic evidence. Key deliverables under this award will include (1) initiating the hiring processes for forensic technicians and crime laboratory analysts within 30 days of the grant award; (2) completing the training of forensic technicians within 12 weeks of hiring; (3) completing the basic training of crime analysts within 14 months of hiring; (4) developing the training curriculum and teaching one crime scene management class every quarter, for a total of 8 classes during the 2-year grant period; (5) reducing the backlog DNA cases by 33 percent within the grant period; (6) reducing the backlog criminalistics cases by 33 percent within the grant period; (7) reducing the average length of time between submission and completion of DNA cases by 25 percent by the end of the grant period, and (8) reducing the average length of time between submission and completion of criminalistics cases by 25 percent by the end of the grant period.

FY 2009 Recovery Act: Edward Byrne Memorial Competitive Grant Program:

Enhancing Forensic and Crime Scene Investigations

NY	City of New York \$985,875	<p>New York City will be awarded \$985,875 to prevent layoffs and preserve operational capacity within the Office of Chief Medical Examiner (OCME), Forensic Biology Department, by retaining 5 Criminalist Level I positions and hiring 1 senior level professional with experience in crime scene reconstruction and latent blood development to support the expanded demands of the Special Investigations Unit (SIU), also part of OCME. The current financial crisis facing the State and City of New York has already impacted the operational capacity of both OCME departments. City budget cuts have forced OCME to reduce its operating budget by 12 percent starting in fiscal year 2010. To meet this target, OCME has been forced to eliminate Forensic Biology Department vacancies and planned hires, and to postpone additional SIU staffing needs. As the City continues to experience further financial problems, OCME will have no alternative but to lay off existing staff.</p> <p>The Forensic Biology Department is the nation's largest public forensic DNA laboratory, performing DNA analysis on nearly every category of crime occurring in the City of New York (e.g., homicide, sexual assault, property crimes, and gun). In 2008, the Forensic Biology Department received over 41,545 items of crime scene evidence for testing. Due to this large volume of casework, OCME is also the nation's largest contributor of forensic crime scene DNA profiles to the national DNA database, the Combined DNA Index System. Another critical OCME department, SIU, aids the New York Police Department in crime scene reconstruction and latent bloodstain analysis. Due to the forensic expertise and advanced technology employed by SIU, the demand for these services has grown significantly.</p>
MN	Hennepin County \$1,133,972	<p>Hennepin County (Minnesota) will be awarded \$1,133,972 to hire 7 forensic scientists and supporting staff within the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office Crime Laboratory Unit (HCSO-CLU) and establish the Hennepin County DNA Property Crime Initiative. This initiative will significantly expand the use of DNA testing in property crime investigations throughout the county and reduce the backlog of DNA property crime cases currently awaiting analysis. A 40 percent increase in property crime case submissions is anticipated as well as a 50 percent reduction in case turnaround time. This program targets a growing property crime trend in Hennepin County, particularly in suburban areas. With the additional laboratory personnel, the HCSO-CLU will significantly decrease the backlog for DNA testing on property crime evidence and have capacity to meet future DNA testing demands. HCSO-CLU and the sheriff will also promote greater use of DNA testing for property crimes by meeting with local police chiefs and 36 law enforcement agencies across the county to increase overall submissions.</p>
MN	City of Duluth \$242,760	<p>The City of Duluth (Minnesota) will be awarded \$242,760 for the goals of hiring 2 qualified forensic evidence technicians; providing additional professional training to assist the Duluth Police Department in bringing its evidence department up to "best practices" standards and preparing staff for the physical transition to a new facility; and improving the forensic integrity, quality, and safety of evidence collection, storage, and maintenance within the department with the new staff additions. The key deliverables under this project will be the following: scheduled destruction of drugs, weapons, and weapons sales; creating accounts for fund deposits of confiscated currency; scheduled cross checks between reported stolen items and items held by the police department in the property room; meeting state statute requirements for the sale or return of found items; and the development of a document/catalog system to inventory all property room items.</p>

FY 2009 Recovery Act: Edward Byrne Memorial Competitive Grant Program:

Enhancing Forensic and Crime Scene Investigations

GA	Georgia Bureau of Investigation \$2,856,492	<p>The Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) will be awarded \$2,856,492 to hire/train 15 total new positions, consisting of 12 forensic scientists and 3 forensic technician positions. In addition, funds will be utilized to enhance the criminal justice system in Georgia through improved forensic capabilities at GBI's Division of Forensic Sciences (DOFS) by replacing/adding scientific instrumentation necessary for the training of these individuals and by delivering more robust forensic science services. GBI-DOFS, the primary provider of forensic analysis services for the State of Georgia, is composed of 8 laboratory facilities located throughout the state, with a total staff of approximately 260 scientists, medical examiners, and support personnel, and completing over 90,000 forensic analyses per year. All positions funded through this program will be transitioned to state-funded positions upon the retirement or resignation of existing staff over the next 18-24 months. Hiring and training replacement scientists and technicians will minimize reductions in service delivery capability as existing staff leave employment, and awarded funds will also assist with the GBI strategic goal of completing 90% of forensic reports within 45 days of evidence submission.</p>
MO	County of Bates County \$87,040	<p>Bates County in conjunction with the Bates County Sheriff's Office will be awarded \$87,040 to assist in reducing community crime by enhancing crime scene investigations through the development of 1 new crime scene investigations position. This position will help the Sheriff's Office achieve three objectives: (1) to create one more job in a rural community, (2) to return patrol officers back to patrol sooner after the initial call for service, and (3) to provide effective crime scene processing and evidence collection to ensure that courts can offer the accused a speedy trial. Achieving all three objectives will assist the sheriff's office in reducing crime throughout the community it serves.</p> <p>Currently, the sheriff's office uses patrol officers to identify, secure, and process evidence for major crimes committed throughout the entire community. Returning patrol officers to patrol after a crime has been committed is essential to the security and safety of the community. Obtaining a crime scene investigator would make this possible, and would allow for the timely processing of case evidence by a trained and skilled professional. The effectiveness of the program will be measured by how much the prosecution level rises and the number of offenses reported declines. A quarterly review will assess the tactics and methods of crime scene processing. Overall, the crime scene investigator will assist law enforcement at the municipal, state, and federal levels to achieve the reduction of crime committed against the community of Bates County.</p>
MO	St. Louis County \$253,953	<p>St. Louis County (MO) will be awarded \$253,953 to hire two civilian evidence technicians to assist with reducing the number of hours that forensic scientists, firearm examiners, and photo technicians are removed from their primary duties of evidence analysis. These activities will also assist with staffing the crime laboratory's front counter where evidence is delivered by various personnel and multiple agencies and jurisdictions. The new staff will handle the acceptance, cataloging, and inventory of evidence, and assist with implementing the agency's bar-coding system by scanning and entering all existing evidence into inventory. A secondary program goal of this project is to purchase a Gas Chromatograph-Mass Spectrometer (GC-MS) for the Chemistry Section of the Police Crime Laboratory to assist with reducing the time forensic scientists spend waiting to gain access to a GC-MS and thus further expediting investigations and reducing backlogs.</p>

FY 2009 Recovery Act: Edward Byrne Memorial Competitive Grant Program:

Enhancing Forensic and Crime Scene Investigations

NY	Monroe County \$168,599	<p>Monroe County (NY) will be awarded \$168,599 to assist with increasing the capacity and quality of the services provided by the Monroe County Forensic Toxicology Laboratory. The agency will hire two Forensic Toxicologists to increase staffing and decrease turnaround times. This situation is further complicated by the need to increase testing capacity to meet the requirements proposed in the State of New York for standardized testing in cases of driving under the influence of drugs (DUID) and anticipated increases in caseloads due to increased enforcement of drugged driving laws.</p> <p>Improvement in the turnaround times for forensic cases will allow the District Attorneys of Monroe and its surrounding counties to submit investigations to grand juries in a more timely manner and will provide important information to law enforcement agencies needed to direct their investigations. It is hoped that rapid reporting of toxicology findings will have additional benefits such as the prevention of the morbidity and mortality caused by repeat DUID offenders or the prevention of additional victims of a serial rapist or in a product tampering case.</p> <p>The additional staff will allow the laboratory to expand the scope of DUID testing to meet the standards proposed in the state and improve the prosecution of drugged driving cases by identifying more of the drugs or chemicals being abused by drivers. By the end of the grant period, the lab proposes to decrease turnaround times for all major categories of testing to 30 days.</p>
NY	Nassau County \$390,929	<p>Nassau County (NY) will be awarded \$390,929 to hire one Forensic Geneticist II and one Forensic Geneticist Trainee for the following project goals: (1) continuing to accept all property crime evidence while decreasing analysis backlogs and turnaround time to deliver test results associated with current caseloads; (2) to decrease backlog case reviews; and (3) to complete the validation of state-of-the-art techniques which will result in decreases in case turnaround time.</p>
MN	City of Minneapolis \$442,140	<p>The City of Minneapolis (MN) will be awarded \$442,140 to expand existing computer forensic investigation capabilities within the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) Computer Forensics Section. The program goals are to: increase procurement of digital media evidence instrumental in proving criminal activities; increase procurement of digital media evidence instrumental in identifying financial assets and demonstrating their derivation from criminal activity and/or criminal enterprise; provide additional prosecutorial examination of cases with substantial digital evidence and documentation in regard to issuance of criminal charges, case preparation, and criminal prosecution; disrupt and dismantle criminal enterprises and organizations related to, or operating in, the Minneapolis area; and reduce violent crimes such as homicide, aggravated assaults, robbery, and child pornography which are typically attendant to narcotics trafficking and criminal enterprise.</p>