InVita
HEALTHCARE TECHNOLOGIES

STACS products are now part of
InVita Healthcare Technologies.

Grant Funding Opportunities for DNA Sample Tracking Solutions

Grant funding enables forensic DNA lab managers to purchase needed lab items, such as data management software. STACS Casework, the leading solution for reducing risk and streamlining DNA evidence processing, and Track-Kit for tracking sexual assault kits are two InVita products often purchased with grant funds. We've put together the following resources to assist you in learning more about grant funding opportunities and how to apply for them. Please consult the source for application deadlines.

Grant Opportunities from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)

bja.ojp.gov/funding
The BJA grant application period (released annually) is typically 6-8 weeks from the posting date, with deadlines usually between April through June. After a grant application gets submitted to the BJA, it undergoes a review process, and successful applicants are typically notified of their award no later than December. Grant funds usually become available for use no later than January of the following year. Predicting needs 12 months in advance may be challenging, so give careful thought and planning to ensure a successful application process and budget. Grant funds can only be used for the Permissible Uses of Funds described in the grant solicitation, and adhering to them improves the chance for grant funding.

Process for Closed Grant Opportunities

Department of Justice funding applications require a two-step process; each has a unique deadline:

- STEP 1: Applicants submit SF-424 and SF-LLL forms on Grants.gov.
- STEP 2: Application information and forms are transferred to the Justice Grants System (JustGrants) and will automatically appear for the applicant in JustGrants. The applicant then submits the full application (including attachments) in JustGrants.

National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative* (SAKI)

This grant program aims to address the growing number of unsubmitted SAKs in law enforcement custody and help provide resolution for victims when possible. STACS Casework sample tracking and control software and the Track-Kit™ sexual assault kit tracking system are eligible for Purpose Area 1 funding under this grant:

Key Points

- Purpose Area 1: In addition to testing previously unsubmitted SAKs, applicants may request funds to support testing SAKs and related evidence, including the outsourcing kits for testing and technical review of data/results and tracking and reporting performance metrics. Suppose more than 75% of its SAKs have been tested. In that case, funding can be used to perform additional DNA testing, such as Y STR testing, testing of secondary evidence, familial DNA searches, forensic genealogy searches, and phenotyping/ancestral analysis.
- Purpose Area 2: Specifically for small agencies with fewer than 250 sworn officers.

Continues

*NOTE: As SAKI grants are released, criteria may change. What was a permissible use of funds last time may not be the case on the next grant.

- Purpose Area 3: Collection of lawfully-owed DNA from convicted offenders to help with SAKI investigations and prosecutions.
- Purpose Area 4: Specifically for the investigation and prosecution of cold case sexual assaults, applicants must clearly demonstrate their jurisdiction(s) has previously addressed, or is currently effectively addressing, the major issues associated with unsubmitted SAKs.

Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence—Inventory, Tracking, and Reporting

This grant may be used for InVita's Track-Kit SAK tracking system as it meets the solicitation tasks:

- Task 1 – Inventory: "a detailed and descriptive list of articles or items (for purposes of this solicitation, SAKs) containing information such as, but not limited to, item identifiers, quantity, and location of the item."
- Task 2 – Tracking: "the monitoring and accounting of SAKs through the course, or path, of their movement from collection through final disposition."
- Task 3 – Reporting: "the task of delivering a written report to the appropriate entity within the prescribed time period and with the applicable data provided."

Key Points

- Track-Kit provides a method to inventory all SAKs statewide (tested and untested)
- Track-Kit tracks SAKs from the time of collection by a medical facility to the final disposition of the case
- Track-Kit provides many reporting metrics, which include those outlined in the Performance Metrics
- Current users have leveraged this grant opportunity to purchase Track-Kit for their state

DNA Capacity Enhancement for Backlog Reduction (CEBR) Program

The purchase or upgrade of a DNA module, such as STACS Casework or STACS Database, is identified as a permissible use of funds under the Laboratory Information Management Systems (LIMS) heading in the CEBR solicitation. A DNA module is defined as "a sample/case tracking component separate from the laboratory's LIMS that functions only for the forensic biology/DNA unit. (The module may be a product of the same, or a different, vendor as the laboratory's current LIMS.)"

The following are allowed for funding:

- The purchase and install of DNA modules to existing LIMS
- STACS Casework is permissible as it is defined as a DNA module, not a LIMS
- License upgrades to STACS software
- Software upgrades for an existing DNA module
- Contracts for annual maintenance and service contracts, as well as licensing agreements for users in the forensic biology/DNA section of the laboratory
- Additional barcode scanners and printers
- Current clients have purchased STACS software using CEBR grant funds in past years
- STACS Casework software integrates with any commercial/in-house LIMS and features electronic case accessibility, allowing users to work remotely more efficiently
- Implementations are typically completed in approximately nine months