

Pursuing Grant Funding Opportunities for the Purchase of LIMS Modules for DNA Sample and Case Tracking

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.
 - **Application Grants.gov Deadline: April 4, 2023 8:59 PM ET**
- 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.
 - **Application JustGrants Deadline: April 11, 2023 8:59 PM ET**

[FY 2023 National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative \(SAKI\)](#)

[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 also request funds in support testing of SAKs and related evidence, including outsourcing kits for testing and technical review of data/results and tracking and reporting performance metrics. If an applicant

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has already tested more than 75 percent of its SAKs, funding may 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.
- Purpose Area 3: Expansion of DNA databases: Collection of lawfully-owed DNA from convicted offenders and arrestee to assist with sexual assault 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.
- Purpose Area 5: Specifically for developing and implementing a sustainability plan.
- Purpose Area 6: Serves as an enhancement fund specifically for national cold case initiatives, all other violent crime cold cases which are not sexually motivated and provides funding for not only DNA/FGG activities, but also critical and labor intensive investigative, behavioral and crime analysis, and prosecutorial activities, victim and family advocacy.

FY 2023 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 current CEBR solicitation. A DNA module is defined as “a sample/case tracking component separate from the laboratory’s LIMS that functions only for the purposes of 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 12 months.



InVita provides chain of custody software technologies for complex medical environments including blood and plasma, implant management, forensic, and community care environments. Our solutions optimize supply chains, sample tracking, and visibility across blood and plasma operations, the tissue and implant lifecycle, and environments spanning DNA and forensics. InVita’s solutions support increased compliance and cost control, reduced risk, and improved patient and public safety outcomes.

For more information please visit www.invitahealth.com or connect with us on [Twitter](#) or [LinkedIn](#)