

## Project Abstract: Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners

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Pinellas County Forensic Lab | 10900 Ulmerton Road, Largo, FL 33778  
CFDA No: 16.741

**Project Title:** FY 2016 DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction  
**Project Director:** Reta Newman, Forensic Laboratory Director  
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**Federal Funding Requested:** \$340,207 total; however, this is a 2 year award

Since 2009, the seven member Board of County Commissioners (BCC) through the Pinellas County Forensic Laboratory at the District Six Medical Examiner's Office, has provided forensic DNA analyses to assist in the investigative needs of the local law enforcement and criminal justice communities. Federal aid is provided to state and local labs performing DNA analysis for the purposes of capacity enhancement and backlog reduction. This is a formula grant in which each state is allocated funds, those funds are divided among the state and local laboratories using a formula based upon violent and property crime statistics. In this year's award, the allocation to Pinellas County is \$340,207.

**Need:** NIJ provides federal aid to state and local law enforcement for DNA Backlog and Capacity enhancement on an annual basis. Although PCFL does not have a significant backlog in DNA analysis, there have been significant annual increases in case submission as well technological changes in DNA systems that necessitate additional funding in order to maintain effective turn-around-times and allow for the ever increasing capacity needs of the laboratory.

**Project Summary:** Pinellas County is requesting the allocated funds to:

- A) Continue to fund one full time and one part time DNA analyst to perform casework analyses and technical reviews of casework submitted PCFL by local law enforcement agencies.** (Note: this is a continuation of funding from the 2010-2015 Awards).
  - B) Purchase a genetic analyzer to replace one that will be at end of service in 2017.**
  - C) Purchase kits and supplies for validation of the new genetic analyzer and associated techniques.**
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