



# Pinellas County

## Staff Report

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**File #:** 19-1734A, **Version:** 1

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### **Subject:**

Grant Agreement with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement for the Statewide Criminal Analysis Laboratory System Grant.

### **Recommended Action:**

Approval of the Grant Agreement with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Statewide Criminal Analysis Laboratory System Grant.

- The Statewide Criminal Analysis Laboratory System Grant (Lab Grant) is funded by court fines and fees established under Florida Statutes Section 938.07 and 938.055.
- Fines and fees are collected statewide and allocated annually across each of the five locally-operated crime laboratories (local labs) based upon a percentage of population served.
- The Lab Grant provides recurring supplemental funding for the Pinellas County Forensic Lab (PCFL) operating costs to help maintain staffing levels and equipment.
- Total coverage of the five local lab areas serve a combined population of 7,732,180 residents. The PCFL serves approximately 12.6% of this population at 970,532 residents.
- At 12.6%, the FY20 Lab Grant funding for PCFL is an amount not to exceed \$290,000.00.
- Since 2011, the number of DNA cases submitted to the PCFL has increased 127%, with the most significant growth coming from sexual assault cases due to legislative changes. In 2018, 1,861 DNA cases were submitted to PCFL for analysis.

### **Strategic Plan:**

Deliver First Class Services to the Public and Our Customers

5.2 Be responsible stewards of the public's resources

5.3 Ensure effective and efficient delivery of county services and support

### **Summary:**

This Grant Agreement is recurring supplemental funding of the PCFL's operating costs. The Statewide Criminal Analysis Laboratory System Grant reduces reliance on local general revenue support of the PCFL.

### **Background Information:**

The Lab Grant is financed by criminal fines and fees collected statewide, under Florida Statutes, Section 938.07 and Section 938.055. Fines and fees are allocated annually across each of the five local labs based upon a percentage of population served.

Total coverage of the five local lab areas serves a combined population of 7,732,180 residents. The Pinellas County Forensic Lab (PCFL) serves 12.6% of this population at 970,532 residents. Pinellas County will receive 12.6% of the fines collected through FY20. FDLE disperses funding quarterly based upon the total fines collected.

Section 943.32, Florida Statutes, establishes a statewide criminal analysis laboratory system that includes the PCFL, a locally funded laboratory eligible for funding under Florida Statutes, Section 943.35. The PCFL employs professionals that provide the County's criminal justice system with a variety of forensic services including but not limited to DNA tests, toxicology reports, and trace evidence analysis.

Since 2011, the number of DNA cases submitted to the PCFL has increased 127%, with the most significant growth coming from sexual assault cases due to legislative changes. In 2018, 1,861 DNA cases were submitted to PCFL for analysis.

**Fiscal Impact:**

Funding in an amount not to exceed \$290,000.00 is provided by Grant Number 2020-SFA-CL-52-A9-004 from FDLE. There is no match required for this grant. Funding in the amount of \$250,000 was included in the FY20 Adopted Budget. If necessary, a Budget Resolution may be requested to recognize the additional \$40,000 in FY20.

**Staff Member Responsible:**

Daisy Rodriguez, Director, Human Services

**Partners:**

Pinellas County Forensic Laboratory  
Florida Department of Law Enforcement

**Attachments:**

Grant Agreement  
Intent to Apply