

Hiring and Training Forensic Scientist Initiative
Illinois State Police
Program Abstract
DUNS #8068101064

Applicant's Name: Illinois State Police
Title of Project: Hiring and Training Forensic Scientist Initiative
Project Funding Amount: \$4,195,898
Category V: Enhancing Forensic and Crime Scene Investigations

Project Goals:

Increase the capacity of case productivity within the Illinois State Police Forensic Science Laboratories by the hiring and training of 28 new forensic scientists. The hiring and training of new forensic scientists will increase headcount in the sections of firearms, forensic biology/DNA, drug chemistry, and latent prints, thereby having a direct effect to increase the number of cases analyzed, decrease time to get case information into standardized databases, decrease backlogs, and decrease turnaround times for case reports. Accomplishment of these goals enhances public safety through more efficient forensic science casework, court processes, and adjudication.

Strategies:

The Illinois State Police (ISP) will utilize the Forensic Sciences Command process of evaluation and selection for the hiring of new forensic scientist trainees. Once hired, the new personnel will commence with a full program of theoretical and practical training via the ISP Statewide Training Program. The forensic science training program is a well developed formalized program with decades of success for producing highly qualified forensic scientists. Once the personnel successfully complete the training process they will report as forensic scientists to ISP laboratories throughout Illinois.

Key/Major Deliverables:

1. Hire 28 Forensic Scientist Trainees.
2. Provide the Forensic Scientist Trainees with dedicated and complete training in specialty areas of forensics including: biology/DNA, drug chemistry, latent prints, and firearms examination.
3. Once fully trained, the forensic scientists will be assigned to operational ISP forensic laboratories throughout Illinois with the specific goal of analyzing evidence from criminal cases, producing reports and providing testimony to support law enforcement investigations and courtroom requirements.

Coordination Plans:

The Illinois State Police, Division of Forensic Services, Forensic Sciences Command, will coordinate the selection, hiring and training of the new forensic scientists following all required state processes. The ISP will purchase equipment and commodities required to complete the training of the new forensic scientists. The Director of the ISP Statewide Training Program will ensure training coordinators and training facilitators are available and prepared to begin training as soon as the trainees are hired. Once training is complete, the Forensic Scientist will begin casework at their operational laboratory.