



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of State Police

Headquarters
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April 28, 2017

The Honorable Senator Richard Devlin, Co-Chair
The Honorable Representative Nancy Nathanson, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301-4048

**RE: DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE – FEDERAL FUNDS LIMITATION REQUEST
RELATED TO SEXUAL ASSAULT KIT INVENTORY, TRACKING, AND REPORTING**

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

Nature of the Request

The Department of State Police respectfully requests \$693,489 of increased Federal Fund limitation in 2017-19 for the Forensic Services and Criminal Investigations Divisions.

Agency Action

The Department has received \$1.04 million in Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence, Inventory, Tracking, and Reporting (SAFE-ITR) grant funding. These grant funds were made available through the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice (NIJ). At this time, the Department projects expending \$693,489 of these grant funds in 2017-19. The remaining \$346,699 would be expended in 2019-21.

According to the original grant funding announcement and a related NIJ special report, "The Road Ahead: Unanalyzed Evidence in Sexual Assault Cases," it is not known how many unanalyzed sexual assault kits (SAKs) there are nationwide. Evidence from sexual assaults like weapons, bedding, clothing, and SAKs can be used to corroborate that a crime occurred, identify or eliminate a possible perpetrator, and ascertain whether a suspect may have been involved in other crimes. SAKs contain biological and trace evidence along with other physical evidence collected from a victim. While all evidence from sexual assaults is important, this grant program focuses on SAKs.

SAKs may be stored in the Oregon State Police crime laboratories, evidence storage units, patrol offices, etc. While some law enforcement agencies may have a means to track their evidence electronically, many law enforcement agencies, including OSP, do not currently have a computerized system to track the processing of a SAK from start to finish. This grant funding would help OSP to establish a program that could be used to inventory kits that are in OSP's possession. The grant defines possession of SAKs as those that are in the Department's storage, control, or custody. OSP would also look to utilize this funding opportunity to implement an information technology solution that would allow a survivor/victim to track their SAK through the process. The Department is currently working with the Department of Administrative Services – OSCIO related to this information technology solution. At this time, DAS-OSCIO expects this part of the project would be governed by the Standard Oversight process.

The grant does not require a match. However, to successfully implement this grant OSP would need one additional full time position, 1.00 FTE, in the Criminal Investigations Division to track the SAKs, answer questions from stakeholders, fulfill reporting requirements, and train others on how to use the tracking program.

This grant would fund the necessary information technology solution and the FTE needed for a period of three years.

Action Requested

- The Department respectfully requests approval of an additional \$478,270 in Federal Funds 2017-19 limitation for the Forensic Services Division; and,
- Request approval of an additional \$215,219 in Federal Funds 2017-19 limitation for the Criminal Investigations Division.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



David Anderson, Police Services Bureau Major
Oregon State Police

Cc: Heidi Moawad, Governor's Office
Dustin Ball, Department of Administrative Services - Chief Financial Office
Julie Neburka, Legislative Fiscal Office