

Lead Agency: Community Justice

Program Contact: Erika Preuitt

Program Offer Type: Existing Operating

Related Programs:

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

The Department of Community Justice (DCJ) computer forensics laboratory is a critical service unique within community justice agencies nationwide. Its purpose is to provide officers with essential information needed to support best practices supervision plans for offenders. The anonymity provided by the Internet and the ability to effectively hide volumes of information on computers, cell phones, personal data assistants (PDA) and other electronic storage devices leaves officers at a disadvantage when this information cannot be discovered. Non-forensic methods of discovery are ineffective and can compromise cases in court. The lab provides scientifically sound forensic services for recovery of electronic evidence so supervising officers can more effectively determine an offender's activities thereby maximizing corrections resources, enhancing public safety and ensuring the highest rates of successful outcomes.

Program Description

DCJ maintains a secure digital evidence laboratory in which forensic examinations of electronic storage devices are analyzed using scientific procedures. Regional police agencies have limited resources for conducting similar examinations in new criminal cases and are rarely able to offer their services to probation and parole agencies that have different requirements for burden of proof and timely results. Officers apply a range of behavioral and demographic assessments to formulate effective supervision plans but are hampered in their work by the fact that criminal enterprise can be carried out virtually unseen and undetected through the use of computers and other digital devices. Oregon and Washington rank very high nationally in the frequency of identity theft. Drugs are bought and sold online. Gangs recruit and promote their activities anonymously. Sex offenders deal in pornography and solicit underage victims online. Fraud and theft are carried out in relative safety using computers and peer-to-peer networks. Email is used by domestic violence offenders to threaten and intimidate.

Offenders frequently travel to Multnomah County from surrounding areas to commit criminal acts. The DCJ forensics lab has been able to extend its services to all adult and juvenile officers in Multnomah County and to our adjacent county community justice partner agencies that lack access to these services, in the interest of public safety and best practices supervision. Lab personnel are highly trained and certified in the collection, preservation, analysis and reporting results of forensic examinations and provide Probation and Parole Officers (PPO) with the information they need to effectively supervise offenders and promote public safety. Without access to forensic services, officers have no means of assessing what an offender may be doing in the anonymous world of cyberspace.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	Previous Year Actual (FY08-09)	Current Year Purchased (FY09-10)	Current Year Estimate (FY09-10)	Next Year Offer (FY10-11)
Output	Average number of days to complete investigation	0	0	10	10
Outcome	Number of items examined	0	0	600	600

Performance Measure - Description

 **Measure Changed**

New unit.

Legal/Contractual Obligation**Revenue/Expense Detail**

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2010	2010	2011	2011
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$258,958
Materials & Supplies	\$4,800	\$0	\$4,800	\$32,828
Internal Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000
Total GF/non-GF:	\$4,800	\$0	\$4,800	\$292,786
Program Total:	\$4,800		\$297,586	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00
Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$292,786
Total Revenue:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$292,786

Explanation of Revenues

County General Fund plus US Dept of Justice JAG Grant \$292,786 (ARRA)

Significant Program Changes

✔ **Significantly Changed**

Last year this program was: #50030A, DCJ Adult Field Services-Felony Supervision

This program has received a grant from the US Department of Justice (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act). The grant is funding a 1.00 FTE Community Justice Manager position and a 1.00 FTE Probation & Parole Officer position to the FY 2010 current service level.