

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 unique critical service for community justice agencies throughout the state. The anonymity provided by the Internet and the ability to effectively hide volumes of information on computers, cell phones and other electronic storage devices leaves officers at a disadvantage. Non-forensic methods of discovery are ineffective and can compromise cases in court. The forensics lab provides scientifically sound technology for the recovery of electronic evidence in a manner that allows supervising officers to determine an offender's activities. This progressive resource significantly enhances public safety and ensures 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 parole and probation 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 occur 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, and sex offenders exchange pornography and solicit underage victims through the Internet. Fraud and identity theft are carried out using computers and peer-to-peer networks. Email is used by domestic violence offenders to threaten and intimidate individuals.

In the interest of public safety and best practices supervision, the DCJ forensics lab extends its services to all adult and juvenile officers in Multnomah County and to adjacent county community justice partners that lack access to these services. Lab personnel are highly trained and certified in the collection, preservation, analysis and reporting results of forensic examinations and provide Parole/Probation Officers (PPO) with the information they need to effectively supervise offenders and promote public safety. The lab also collaborates with the Northwest Regional Crimes Forensics Laboratory. Without access to forensic services, officers are unable to assess whether an offender is engaging in anonymous criminal activity through the world of cyberspace.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	Previous Year Actual (FY11-12)	Current Year Purchased (FY12-13)	Current Year Estimate (FY12-13)	Next Year Offer (FY13-14)
Output	Number of gigabytes examined annually	16,500	19,970	25,000	25,000
Outcome	Number of reports generated through forensic analysis	64	0	70	70

Performance Measure - Description

 **Measure Changed**

New outcome measure.

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

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2013	2013	2014	2014
Personnel	\$271,943	\$0	\$283,349	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$9,819	\$0	\$10,819	\$0
Internal Services	\$19,013	\$0	\$19,412	\$0
Total GF/non-GF:	\$300,775	\$0	\$313,580	\$0
Program Total:	\$300,775		\$313,580	
Program FTE	2.00	0.00	2.00	0.00
Program Revenues				
Total Revenue:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

County General Fund

Significant Program ChangesLast year this program was: #50037, Adult Forensics Unit