

Program #50006 - Forensics Unit

4/18/2018

Department: Community Justice **Program Contact:** Truls Neal

Program Offer Type: Existing Operating Program Program Offer Stage: As Proposed

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. DCJ maintains a secure digital evidence laboratory in which forensic examinations of electronic storage devices are analyzed using scientific procedures.

Program Summary

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 activities of an individual on supervision. This progressive resource significantly enhances public safety and ensures the highest rates of successful outcomes, permitting parole officers to intervene early and prevent justice involved adults' behavior from escalating into new criminal activity that involves costly incarceration.

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 individuals committing sex offenses 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 individuals engaging in domestic violence to threaten and intimidate individuals. Portland has also been identified as a major West Coast hub for human trafficking activity.

In the interest of public safety and best practices, 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 justice involved adults and promote public safety. The lab also collaborates with the Northwest Regional Computer Forensics Laboratory.

Performance Measures								
Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY17 Actual	FY18 Purchased	FY18 Estimate	FY19 Offer			
Output	Number of gigabytes examined annually	10,613	15,000	17,000	12,000			
Outcome	DCJ cases completed	34	60	40	45			
Outcome	Non-DCJ cases completed	7	20	15	10			
Outcome	Number of items examined through forensic analysis	309	500	200	250			

Performance Measures Descriptions

Measure 1 Note: FY18 figures are higher than expected due to one case with a device examined that had a significant amount of storage capacity in FY18.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2018	2018	2019	2019
Personnel	\$412,660	\$0	\$266,901	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$18,880	\$0	\$12,120	\$0
Internal Services	\$22,569	\$0	\$23,802	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$454,109	\$0	\$302,823	\$0
Program Total:	\$454,109		\$302,823	
Program FTE	3.00	0.00	2.00	0.00

Program Revenues						
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		

Explanation of Revenues

County General Fund

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2018: 50019 Adult Forensics Unit

This program offer is reduced by 1.00 FTE Community Justice Program Manager that was cut during FY 2018.