

# FEDERAL FUNDING FOR FORENSIC DNA PROGRAMS: KNOWING THE ROPES AND AVOIDING THE (K)NOTS

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The Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs provides grants and awards to enhance the development and implementation of forensic DNA identity testing in State and local laboratories. Universities and the private sector involved in biotechnology research areas with forensic applications can also apply for funding from the Department of Justice through its research arm, the National Institute of Justice.

This presentation identifies the Federal programs used to stimulate the development of new technologies for forensic DNA application, the sources of funding available to develop or increase public laboratory forensic DNA capacity, and the avenues of support for the recommendations of the National Commission on the Future of DNA Evidence. In addition to discussing allocation issues associated with block grants, strategies for successful application for discretionary funds are described. Specific programs highlighting achievements in microchip development for forensic STRs and SNPs, miniaturization and portability of technologies for crime scene DNA analysis, high speed automation devices for high throughput data basing, laboratory development and improvement, and population genetic issues will illustrate how programs meet the Department of Justice's funding and policy priorities to enhance the value of DNA evidence for the criminal justice system.