

GRANT SEASON

Tis the season for April showers and grant solicitations! This week has been very rainy where I live, and spring is in full bloom. I know this is a busy time for us all to write support letters, fill out grant applications, and somehow find the time to do your personal taxes! There are many grants with active solicitations that everyone should be aware of. Very important for every forensic lab and ME/Coroner office is the Coverdell grants. Both the competitive and formulary Coverdell grant solicitations were released last week. It is worth noting that State Administering Agencies (SAAs) should take a very careful look at this Coverdell solicitation, as there is at least one new requirement on each SAA that will be very labor intensive. The ASCLD Advocacy Committee has been very active in advocating for new grants to help forensic science, and the Coverdell authorization and appropriation is going up each year. While there is still much that needs to be done, we have made significant progress in the last few years and the Coverdell money the last two years has been significantly increased.

Other NIJ grants each entity should be tracking on would be the DNA Combined Efficiency and Backlog Reduction (CEBR), SAFE-ITR, Research and Evaluation on Policing, Prosecuting Cold Cases Using DNA, Post-Conviction of DNA Cases, and Research and Development in Forensic Science for Criminal Justice Purposes. A complete list of open NIJ solicitations can be obtained at the following address:

<https://www.nij.gov/funding/Pages/current.aspx>

I wanted to highlight two grants that may help ASCLD members. The “Research and Evaluation in Safety, Health, and Wellness in the Criminal Justice System” is potentially helpful to researchers or others looking into trauma and stress in the forensic workspace. This has been a big initiative for the ASCLD Board this year and we hope this grant will further that work. The “Research and Evaluation on Policing” grant may be very helpful with research regarding optimization of workforce development for officers and civilian personnel. Presumably, this grant could be used to support labs reporting to and utilizing project FORESIGHT.

Finally, I do not want labs to lose sight of the CDC OD2A grant that is open for another month. A reminder to work with your State Health Department to coordinate this solicitation. It is a huge grant for ME/Coroner systems and also toxicology labs.

ASCLD ACCREDITATION REMINDER AND MENTOR SOLICITATION

ASCLD had a very successful week with the ASCLD Accreditation Initiative. We remind labs that help with initial accreditation application is available through this program. We had several applications in the first week and slots are filling fast. We invite you to contact us if you feel your lab might be interested in participating. I am providing you the links to the introductory video <https://youtu.be/aFVt8x8DiD0> and the initiative website www.asclad.org/about-us/accreditation-initiative. Laboratories or individuals interested in participating as a mentor lab or mentor should contact office@asclad.org or asclddirector@gmail.com. Individuals working as mentors may receive a nominal stipend for their time, and some travel may be required. Individuals that have served in a capacity as a lead or technical assessor with experience in gap assessments are preferred.

DIGITAL FORENSICS TRAINING

I wanted to make you aware of some digital forensics training opportunities (both classroom or virtual/online). These resources are funded by BJA, including the Law Enforcement Cyber Center, and trainings are organized by NW3C. NW3C is the training and technical assistance provider under the BJA Economic, High-Technology, White Collar, and Internet Crime Prevention National TTA Program. BJA has also encouraged online course offerings to save time/costs of travel, and included trainings for prosecutors, too. (Note: some NW3C courses sponsored apart from BJA funding may have a cost).

https://www.bja.gov/ProgramDetails.aspx?Program_ID=110

<http://www.iacpcybercenter.org/>

<https://www.nw3c.org/us-law-enforcement>

<https://www.nw3c.org/classroom-training/legal-course-list>
