

## DNA Analysis Backlog Reduction/Crime Lab (Bloodsworth Grant)

**Program Title:** DNA Analysis Backlog Reduction/Crime Lab (Bloodsworth grant)

**Point of contact:** Lisa Stephens

**Title:** General Counsel

**Agency:** Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority

**Phone:** 312-793-8550

**Email:** [lisa.stephens@illinois.gov](mailto:lisa.stephens@illinois.gov)

---

### PROGRAM Information

<b>Detailed description of the program for which funding is requested:</b>	<p>The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) awards grant to States wishing to receive funding to help defray the costs associated with post-conviction DNA testing of forcible rape, murder, and non-negligent manslaughter cases in which actual innocence might be demonstrated. Funds may be used to review such post-conviction cases and to locate and analyze biological evidence associated with these cases.</p> <p>Postconviction DNA testing has received considerable attention in recent years. Since the advent of forensic DNA analysis, a number of people convicted of crimes have been subsequently exonerated through DNA analysis of crime scene evidence that was not tested at the time of trial. Additionally, newer technologies have substantially increased the successful DNA analysis of aged, degraded, limited, or otherwise compromised biological evidence. As a result, crime scene samples once thought to be unsuitable for testing in the past may now yield DNA profiles. Moreover, samples that previously generated inconclusive DNA results may now be amenable to reanalysis using newer methods.</p> <p>The Bloodsworth grant is a discretionary grant awarded based on the availability of funds and the strength of the program proposed.</p>				
<b>If this program already has federal authorization, please list the public law number and section in known.</b>	PL 111-117 * 3138 for the Kirk Bloodsworth Post-conviction DNA testing grants				
<b>If this is an existing federal program, what statewide programs are supported by this funding? How do these programs benefit Illinois residents?</b>	<p>As a result of this grant, ICJIA was able to fund the Downstate Innocence Project, a collaboration of universities and law schools which has already been working to assist convicted persons with colorable claims of actual innocence.</p> <p>There have been a total of 18 innocent people exonerated on Death Row in Illinois. This program hopes to identify and locate DNA in cases where the defendants have claims of actual innocence.</p>				
<b>Do any of these state programs target or benefit a specific district in Illinois?</b>	The program was sub awarded to the Downstate Innocent Project at the University of Illinois at Springfield but takes cases throughout the state if certain criteria are met..				
<b>Please provide a brief history of previous federal funding for this program including the fiscal year and amount.</b>	<table><thead><tr><th>Fiscal Year</th><th>Award</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>2010</td><td>\$687,448</td></tr></tbody></table>	Fiscal Year	Award	2010	\$687,448
Fiscal Year	Award				
2010	\$687,448				