FY2026 DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction O-BJA-2026-172718
County of Greenville – Proposal Abstract

The Greenville County Department of Public Safety (GC-DPS) Forensic DNA Laboratory seeks FY2026 DNA Capacity Enhancement for Backlog Reduction (CEBR) funding to increase forensic DNA analysis capacity, reduce the existing casework backlog, and support timely processing of CODIS-eligible evidence for law enforcement agencies throughout Greenville County and the Upstate South Carolina region.

Since 2013, CEBR funding has enabled GC-DPS to provide forensic biology and DNA analysis to neighboring jurisdictions at no cost, expanding access to accredited forensic services for agencies with limited resources and reducing reliance on the state DNA laboratory. Continued federal support is essential to sustaining these regional services while addressing ongoing casework demands and improving laboratory efficiency.

FY2026 funding will support DNA analyst overtime and laboratory supplies and reagents to increase the processing of CODIS-eligible casework. Funding will also support instrumentation and software maintenance to minimize operational disruptions, accreditation-related expenses to sustain laboratory quality standards, and continuing education to keep analysts informed of advancements in forensic DNA technologies, methodologies, and analytical practices.

During the 24-month award period, GC-DPS anticipates completing at least 120 grant-funded forensic biology/DNA cases. These activities will enhance regional DNA processing capacity, contribute to reducing the existing backlog, support eligible DNA profile entries into CODIS, and improve access to timely forensic services for regional law enforcement agencies.

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County of Greenville - Proposal Narrative

Description of the Need:

The County of Greenville faces budget constraints that limit the Greenville County Department of Public Safety Forensic DNA Laboratory (DNA Lab) in its ability to provide no-cost forensic biology/DNA casework services to neighboring counties and municipalities in the Upstate South Carolina region without grant support. Demand for casework from Greenville County agencies and regional partners continues to compete for limited analyst time. The laboratory's processing capacity is constrained by available personnel hours and local funding for the supplies, equipment support, and accreditation expenses required to complete CODIS-eligible casework. At the time of application, the laboratory continues to experience a substantial backlog and lengthy turnaround times, as reflected in the baseline data provided at the end of this narrative. These conditions affect the timeliness of forensic investigative services provided to local and regional law enforcement agencies. CEBR funding will help sustain instrumentation readiness and professional competency while supporting additional casework through supplies and staff overtime during the second year of the award.

Project Design and Implementation:

Goals, Objectives and Expected Results:

Goal 1: Expand DNA casework services for CODIS entry at a no-cost basis to neighboring municipalities within Greenville County and neighboring counties and their municipalities.

Objective A: Fund overtime for DNA Analysts to maintain expanded workload from regional agencies.

Objective B: Purchase supplies to maintain expanded workload from regional agencies.

Goal 2: Reduce the backlog of forensic biology/DNA cases for CODIS entry.

Objective A: Fund overtime for DNA Analysts to work backlogged cases for CODIS entry.

Objective B: Purchase supplies for DNA Analysts to work backlogged cases for CODIS entry.

Goal 3: Purchase annual ISO/IEC 17025 audit and accreditation fees to meet accreditation requirements.

Objective A: Fund purchase for assessment and annual accreditation fee for ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation.

Goal 4: Provide funding for service agreements for instruments and software used in processing the backlog of forensic biology/DNA cases for CODIS entry.

Objective A: Purchase service contracts for our 3500 Genetic analyzer, QuantStudio 5, two EZ1 Advanced XLs, two QIAgility liquid handling robots, two QIAcube Connect liquid handling robots, and TrueAllele probabilistic genotyping system, including temperature verification for the two ProFlex PCR systems.

Goal 5: Provide funding for annual continuing education for DNA Laboratory staff.

Objective A: Fund registration fees, travel and hotel expenses for ISHI conference (or comparable conference) for DNA Laboratory staff continuing education needs.

The DNA Lab expects to analyze at least 120 forensic biology and DNA cases specific to backlog and regional agencies using grant-funded overtime and supplies during the award period.

The County of Greenville will use the award to support backlogged forensic DNA casework from agencies within Greenville County and from neighboring jurisdictions, increasing capacity to process CODIS-eligible forensic DNA samples. This work supports the CEBR goals of

increasing CODIS-eligible sample analysis, reducing backlogged cases, and improving turnaround time. Demand includes sexual assault casework and requests from regional agencies.

The County of Greenville will use FY2026 funds in Year 2 for applicable ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB) accreditation and surveillance-related fees necessary to maintain ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation. The precise activity and applicable dates will follow the laboratory's accreditation cycle and approved award budget.

The County of Greenville will use FY2026 funds in Year 1 to purchase service/maintenance agreements for eligible DNA processing instruments and software, including the 3500 Genetic Analyzer, QuantStudio 5, two EZ1 Advanced XLs, two QIAgility liquid handling robots, two QIAcube Connect liquid handling robots, and TrueAllele probabilistic genotyping system, as well as temperature verification for the two ProFlex PCR systems. The annual service agreements typically provide coverage from August 1 through July 31 of the following year.

The County of Greenville will use FY2026 funds in Year 2 to support continuing education for two DNA Lab staff members to attend the International Symposium on Human Identification (ISHI) or a comparable forensic DNA conference. This training will support the laboratory's continuing education requirements and provide staff with information on advancements in forensic DNA analysis, interpretation, and quality assurance practices.

Detailed Plan for Project:

During Year 1 (January through December 2027), FY2026 grant expenditures are expected to consist of annual service and maintenance agreements, typically purchased in July. These agreements support instrument availability, accurate and reliable testing, and the laboratory's quality and accreditation requirements. The anticipated coverage term is August 1, 2027, through

July 31, 2028. Supplies and overtime needs during Year 1 are expected to be met through existing funding sources, including prior CEBR awards as available. FY2026 supplies and overtime funds are expected to be used in Year 2.

During Year 2 (January through December 2028), the DNA Lab expects to use FY2026 funding for 156 hours of overtime for the DNA Technical Leader and 706 hours of overtime distributed among four DNA Analysts and one Serologist to conduct additional eligible forensic biology/DNA casework. Overtime will be utilized as personnel availability and casework demands permit.

The DNA lab will also purchase DNA analysis reagents and supplies during Year 2 as needed to support grant-funded case processing. Supply quantities and timing will be based on anticipated casework, inventory levels, expiration dates, and approved funding. Supplies purchased with the award will be used before their expiration dates and no later than December 31, 2028. Grant-funded casework and associated expenditures will be tracked through the laboratory's established documentation procedures.

The DNA Lab anticipates paying the eligible accreditation and audit-related fees in Year 2, consistent with the ANAB schedule. Continuing education funding will also support two DNA Lab staff members attending the International Symposium on Human Identification (ISHI) or a comparable forensic DNA conference during Year 2. Attendance will provide training on advancements in forensic DNA analysis, interpretation, emerging technologies, and quality assurance practices relevant to the laboratory's casework. Funding two staff members will allow the laboratory to obtain training across multiple technical topics and share the information with remaining laboratory personnel. The specialized presentations, technical discussions, and access

to subject matter experts provide educational opportunities that cannot be fully replicated through webinars or independent review of scientific literature.

Detailed Timeline for Project:

During Year 1 (January through December 2027), the DNA Lab anticipates purchasing annual service and maintenance agreements for laboratory instrumentation and software in the third quarter, typically in July. These agreements are expected to provide coverage from August 1, 2027, through July 31, 2028. No FY2026 funding for overtime, supplies, accreditation, or continuing education is expected to be utilized during Year 1.

During Year 2 (January through December 2028), funding for overtime and supplies is expected to be utilized beginning in the first quarter and continuing throughout the remainder of the award period. Overtime will be worked as personnel availability and casework demands permit, while supplies will be purchased as needed to support the processing of backlogged CODIS-eligible cases and cases submitted by regional agencies.

Funding for annual accreditation and audit-related fees is expected to be utilized during the first quarter of Year 2, typically in January or February, in conjunction with the laboratory's annual accreditation audit. Continuing education funding will also be utilized during Year 2 for two DNA Laboratory staff members to attend the International Symposium on Human Identification (ISHI) or a comparable forensic DNA conference. Conference registration fees are typically paid in February or March, with associated travel expenses anticipated during the fourth quarter. The DNA Lab anticipates completing the proposed grant-funded activities by the end of the award period on December 31, 2028.

Capabilities and Competencies:

The DNA Lab currently includes four DNA Analysts, one DNA Technical Leader, and one Serologist. All individuals will be significantly involved in substantive aspects of the proposed project. The resumes detailing experience and qualifications of the current DNA staff are attached to this award.

The DNA Supervisor, who also serves as a DNA Analyst and CODIS Administrator, is responsible for preparing grant narratives, budgets, and technical project documentation, as well as overseeing implementation of grant-funded laboratory activities. The County Budget Department provides administrative support for grant management, while the County Administrator serves as the authorized signatory for official grant and financial documents. DNA Laboratory personnel collectively track grant-funded supplies and casework activities, with grant expenditures attributable to individual cases documented and verified through the laboratory's peer-review process.

The current technological capabilities and competency of the DNA Lab include biological screening and DNA analysis with Applied Biosystems Quantifiler Trio Kit, Applied Biosystems GlobalFiler Kit, Applied Biosystems Yfiler Plus Kit and Cybergenetics TrueAllele Probabilistic Genotyping System. These technologies are used to analyze DNA samples for CODIS entry.

The laboratory has experience implementing prior CEBR-funded activities, including supplying DNA casework, analyst overtime, equipment maintenance, and accreditation support. This operational experience, established laboratory methods, and data management systems support the proposed project and its post-award requirements.

Plan for Collecting the Data Required for this Solicitation's Performance Measures:

The data required for performance measures are determined through JusticeTrax LIMS, customized Crystal Reports, and a case-progress Excel spreadsheet. The laboratory tracks case request and receipt information, case completion dates, and other applicable casework measures in these records. Turnaround time and backlog measurements are calculated in accordance with BJA definitions and reporting requirements. The laboratory also tracks CODIS entries and grant-funded casework as applicable.

The responsibility for collecting and calculating performance data is shared among DNA Laboratory staff. Data are checked for accuracy through peer review of JusticeTrax LIMS information, related Excel spreadsheets, and customized Crystal Reports, with reference to case management and quality assurance documentation. The grant funding used for individual cases is also documented and verified during case peer review. Supporting records will be retained and made available for review for three years after submission of the final federal financial report, or longer if otherwise required by law.

The laboratory will produce required progress and performance reports and a final report summarizing funded activities, comparing pre-award and post-award performance indicators (including turnaround time and backlog), and assessing whether the funded work addressed the identified needs.

Baseline Data Casework Laboratories

Number of approved (vacant and filled) full-time equivalents (FTEs) in the biology section as of December 31, 2025.	6
Number of filled (non-vacant) FTEs in the biology section as of December 31, 2025.	6
Staff Retention: Number of the FTEs identified in Question 2 that were in the biology section as of January 1, 2025.	5
Number of new cases for forensic biology/DNA received in 2025.	263
Estimate the percentage of these cases that were from property crimes.	28.9%
Number of forensic biology/DNA cases completed in 2025.	73
Estimate the percentage of these cases that were property crimes.	34.25 %
Estimate the percentage of the total cases completed by the laboratory in 2025 which had at least one crime scene (forensic) sample tested using Rapid DNA.	0%
Number of untested/not completed forensic biology/DNA cases more than 30 days old (backlogged) on December 31, 2025.	500
The average number of days needed to complete (including peer review and report) forensic DNA cases for calendar year 2025.	454
Number of CODIS entries in calendar year 2025.	49
Number of CODIS entries that were submitted through an MOU with a Rapid DNA Partner Law Enforcement Agency (LEA) in calendar year 2025.	0
Number of CODIS hits in calendar year 2025.	27
Number of these CODIS hits that were submitted through an MOU with a Rapid DNA Partner Law Enforcement Agency (LEA) in calendar year 2025.	0

Budget Summary

Note: Any errors detected on this page should be fixed on the corresponding Budget Detail tab.

	Year 1		*Year 2 (if needed)*		*Year 3 (if needed)*		*Year 4 (if needed)*		*Year 5 (if needed)*		
Budget Category	Federal Request	Non-Federal Request	Federal Request	Non-Federal Request	Federal Request	Non-Federal Request	Federal Request	Non-Federal Request	Federal Request	Non-Federal Request	Total(s)
A. Personnel	$0	$0	$29,353	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$29,353
B. Fringe Benefits	$0	$0	$9,545	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$9,545
C. Travel	$0	$0	$3,542	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$3,542
D. Equipment	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
E. Supplies	$0	$0	$22,720	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$22,720
F. Construction	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
G. Subawards (Subgrants)	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
H. Procurement Contracts	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
I. Other	$77,973	$0	$15,390	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$93,363
Total Direct Costs	$77,973	$0	$80,550	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$158,523
J. Indirect Costs	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Total Project Costs	$77,973	$0	$80,550	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$158,523
Does this budget contain conference costs which is defined broadly to include meetings, retreats, seminars, symposia, and training activities? - Y/N										No	