



COMMISSIONERS COURT  
COMMUNICATION

REFERENCE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE 1 OF 5

DATE: 04/18/2023

**SUBJECT: APPROVAL TO SUBMIT THE FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE FORMULA DNA CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT AND BACKLOG REDUCTION GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE TARRANT COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE**

**\*\*\* CONSENT AGENDA \*\*\***

**COMMISSIONERS COURT ACTION REQUESTED**

It is requested that the Commissioners Court approve the submission of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Formula DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction (CEBR) grant to continue supporting grant funded personnel, equipment, additional supplies, and continuing education for the forensic biology/DNA section of the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office.

**BACKGROUND**

The Formula DNA CEBR program furthers the Department of Justice's mission by providing funding to states and local governments with existing crime laboratories that conduct DNA analysis to process and increase the capacity to process more DNA samples for entry into the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) by publicly funded forensic DNA and DNA database laboratories, thereby helping to reduce the number of forensic DNA and DNA database samples awaiting analysis and prevent a backlog of forensic and database DNA samples.

The Formula DNA CEBR Program awards funding to eligible entities with two (2) main program objectives:

1. Increase the number of CODIS-eligible samples analyzed in forensic DNA and DNA database laboratories.
2. Reduce the forensic case and DNA database sample turnaround times for CODIS entry.

The Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office has applied for Formula DNA CEBR (previously named Backlog Reduction) grants since 2009. The program duration is October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2025. A portion of this funding will be requested to continue supporting: (a) salary and fringe benefits for two (2) DNA analysts, currently funded by Formula DNA CEBR funding, (b) DNA analysis equipment, (c) additional DNA analysis consumable supplies, and (d) continuing DNA education for the forensic DNA analysts.

Tarrant County Budget and Risk Management Department have reviewed the grant application.

SUBMITTED BY:	Budget and Risk Mgmt	PREPARED BY: APPROVED BY:	Claudia J. Del Toro Castro Helen Giese
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REFERENCE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: 04/18/2023 PAGE 2 OF 5

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The requested grant amount is \$600,000.00.

There is no required grant match.

No indirect costs allowed for this grant.

No operating subsidy required for this grant.

Positions funded by grants or special funds may be eliminated due to loss of funding at any time.  
Tarrant County has no obligation to assume funding for these positions.