



# WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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## STAFF REPORT

**BOARD MEETING DATE:** November 28, 2023

**DATE:** Wednesday, October 18, 2023  
**TO:** Board of County Commissioners  
**FROM:** Steve Johnson, Forensic Science Division Director  
775-328-8721; [sjohnson@washoecounty.gov](mailto:sjohnson@washoecounty.gov)

**THROUGH:** Darin Balaam, Sheriff

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation to accept a grant award from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) FY 23 Formula DNA Capacity Enhancement for Backlog Reduction (CEBR) Program, Award No 15PBJA-23-GG-01328-DNAX [amount not to exceed \$150,000.00, No County match required], to cover costs related to the DNA capacity enhancement for backlog reduction/prevention, for the retroactive grant term of October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2025 and if approved, authorize Sheriff Balaam to execute grant award documentation, and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. (All Commission Districts.)

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### SUMMARY

This item is presented seeking approval to accept the grant award from the Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance. Per county policy, the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners must accept grant awards and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments.

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) awarded the Washoe County Sheriff's Office, Forensic Science Division \$150,000.00 to fund the FY23 Formula DNA Capacity Enhancement for Backlog Reduction (CEBR) Program. The Washoe County Sheriff's Office, Forensic Science Division will utilize this grant to increase the number of crime scene and offender samples entered into the Combined DNA Indexing System (CODIS) through a reduction in turnaround times and backlog of cases. This goal will be accomplished through the utilization of grant funds for overtime to complete DNA analysis of criminal cases and to assist in maintaining our laboratory's access to CODIS through funding accreditation requirements, for continued education, instrument maintenance via service contracts, and an external DNA audit.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Meet the needs of our growing community.

**AGENDA ITEM #** \_\_\_\_\_

### **PREVIOUS ACTION**

On November 15, 2022, the Board approved item #15, a grant award from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) FY 22 DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction (CEBR) Program for \$400,000.00.

On February 8, 2022, the Board approved item #6.F.5, a grant award from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) FY 21 DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction (CEBR) Program for \$200,000.00.

On December 15, 2020, the Board approved item #15, a grant award from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) FY 20 DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction (CEBR) Program for \$465,032.00.

On November 12, 2019, the Board approved item #27, a grant award from the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction (CEBR) Program for \$378,706.

On November 13, 2018, the Board approved item #18, a grant award from the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction (CEBR) Program for \$407,395.

The Board has been approving the DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction (CEBR) Program awards since 2004.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) awarded the Washoe County Sheriff's Office, Forensic Science Division \$150,000.00 to fund the FY23 Formula DNA Capacity Enhancement for Backlog Reduction (CEBR) Program. The Washoe County Sheriff's Office, Forensic Science Division will utilize this grant to increase the number of crime scene and offender samples entered into the Combined DNA Indexing System (CODIS) through a reduction in turnaround times and backlog of cases. This goal will be accomplished through the utilization of grant funds for overtime to complete DNA analysis of criminal cases and to assist in maintaining our laboratory's access to CODIS through funding accreditation requirements, for continued education, instrument maintenance via service contracts, and an external DNA audit.

Reason for retroactive submittal: Item was submitted to the first available BCC meeting once award paperwork was received and processed.

### **GRANT AWARD SUMMARY**

**Project/Program Name:** *FY23 Formula DNA Capacity Enhancement Backlog for Reduction (CEBR) Program*

**Scope of the Project:** *DNA Capacity Enhancement for Backlog Reduction*

**Benefit to Washoe County Residents:** Assist law enforcement with more criminal investigations.

**On-Going Program Support:** *N/A.*

**Award Amount:** *\$150,000*

**Grant Period:** *10/1/23-9/30/25*

**Funding Source:** *Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs*

**Pass through From:** *Bureau of Justice Assistance*

**CFDA Number:** *16.741*

**Grant ID Number:** *15PBJA-23-GG-01328-DNAX*

**Match Amount and Type:** *None*

**Sub-Awards and Contracts:** Contracts will use the Washoe County grant procurement processes compliant with 2 *CFR 200.317-200.326.*

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Should the Board accept this award and approve these amendments, the adopted FY24 budget will be increased by \$150,000 in both revenues and expenditures in the following accounts:

<b>Cost Object &amp; Description</b>	<b>G/L Account &amp; Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
IO-TBD FY 23 CEBR	431100 - Federal Grants	\$150,000.00
IO-TBD FY 23 CEBR	701300 - Overtime	\$ 45,951.00
IO-TBD FY 23 CEBR	711210 – Travel	\$ 15,216.00
IO-TBD FY 23 CEBR	710300 – Operating Supplies	\$ 18,500.00
IO-TBD FY 23 CEBR	710200 – Service Contract	\$ 70,333.00

There is no cash match required for this grant funding. This is reimbursement-based funding.

- *No match required*
- *Funds will be drawn as a reimbursement*
- *Indirect costs are not allowable on this grant award as no salary or wages are included in the grant budget.*

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners accept a grant award from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) FY 23 Formula DNA Capacity Enhancement for Backlog Reduction (CEBR) Program, Award No 15PBJA-23-GG-01328-DNAX [amount

not to exceed \$150,000.00, No County match required], to cover costs related to the DNA capacity enhancement and backlog reduction/prevention, for the retroactive grant term of October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2025 and if approved, authorize Sheriff Balaam to execute grant award documentation, and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments.

**POSSIBLE MOTION**

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move to accept a grant award from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) FY 23 Formula DNA Capacity Enhancement for Backlog Reduction (CEBR) Program, Award No 15PBJA-23-GG-01328-DNAX [amount not to exceed \$150,000.00, No County match required], to cover costs related to the DNA capacity enhancement and backlog reduction/prevention, for the retroactive grant term of October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2025 and if approved, authorize Sheriff Balaam to execute grant award documentation, and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments"