

**PROGRAM NARRATIVE**  
**Paul Coverdell National Forensic Sciences Improvement Act**  
**FFY2016**

The Sedgwick County Regional Forensic Science Center [Center] serves as the Crime Laboratory and Medical Examiner's Office for all of Sedgwick County, Kansas Law Enforcement agencies and provides forensic services to many of the contiguous counties. The Regional Forensic Science Center is currently staffed with 37 scientists, medical examiner staff and technicians.

The most significant challenge to the Forensic Science [Crime] Laboratories is the increase in caseload and demand for forensic analyses without a compensatory increase in resources, in particular human resources. A corollary challenge is the aging analytical infrastructure and the inability to acquire replacement and/or new technology that will allow the laboratory to, at a minimum, maintain a flat case backlog. The increasing backlog and turn-around-time on casework is detrimental to our criminal justice partners and ultimately to the citizens of Sedgwick County, Kansas.

The maintenance of the laboratory's analytical infrastructure is crucial to its mission. This funding will allow the laboratory to acquire necessary replacement equipment and new technology which will enhance its productivity, impacting in a positive manner the case backlog and quality of services provided to the contributors to the Regional Forensic Science Center.

There are no operational funds in the Regional Forensic Science Center's FY 2016 budget [County funded] to support the acquisition of this needed infrastructure support.

## ENHANCEMENT of EFFICIENCY and PRODUCTIVITY

The timeliness of forensic laboratory results is an on-going issue with the investigative process for law enforcement. A continuation of current operational levels will allow the Laboratory to maintain current case throughput and some enhancement of analytical capacity.

### External Investigations

The unbiased and independent examination of evidence is a critical component of our Criminal Justice system. As a component of our Laboratory certification, there are in place various quality assurance mechanisms that address quality issues within the Forensic Laboratory. To compliment the internal quality assurance program, the Regional Forensic Science Center has in place a mechanism for an independent, external investigation of allegations of serious negligence or misconduct that could substantially affect the integrity of the forensic results.

The Sedgwick County [SGCo] Counselor's Office has the authority and is charged with the duty to conduct independent, external investigations of any allegation of serious negligence or misconduct that could substantially affect the integrity of forensic results committed by employees and/or contractors of the Regional Forensic Science Center. The SGCo Counselor is outside and independent of the chain of command for the Director of the Forensic Science Center.

## PROJECT GOALS, OBJECTIVES and PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

### The Project's goal:

The project's goal is to maintain current analytical capabilities with some enhancements in process efficiencies.

### The Project's Objective:

The primary objective is to acquire replacement equipment, new equipment and software.

### Performance Indicators:

*Measurable Objectives:* The FSL will monitor the number of forensic cases completed each month.

*Indicators:* Performance measures/indicators will be casework throughput and completion within the timelines specified by NAME guidelines on postmortem cases, DUI/DUID cases completed within 90 days of receipt and number of firearms cases completed.

Listed below are the objectives that will be accomplished to meet the "goals" of the project.

<u>Objective</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Responsible Party</u>	<u>Time Frame</u>
Equipment Acquisition	Purchase via County Purchasing Dept*	Program Director	11/1/16 - 11/30/16
Case Indicators	Monitor/report case thru put	Section Supervisors	11/16 – 9/30/17

The Coverdell funds will allow the Forensic Science Laboratories to improve the quality and timeliness of its forensic casework.

\*Purchases will follow County purchasing practices and rules.

**Paul Coverdell  
FORENSIC SCIENCE IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM  
FFY 2016**

**B. BUDGET DETAIL WORKSHEET and BUDGET SUMMARY**

**Item A Personnel:**

**Item B Fringe Benefits:**

**Item C Travel:**

**Item D Equipment:**

Centrifuges	2 @ \$ 2,500	\$ 5,000
Heat Blocks	2 @ \$ 500	\$ 1,000
Volumetric [Class A] Glassware	1 @ \$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Comparison microscope Stage Mounts	1 @ \$ 3,500	\$ 3,500
LCF Performance Verification Kit	1 @ \$ 3,500	\$ 1,000
Replacement Pipettes	1 @ \$ 6,000	\$ 6,000

**Item H Other:**

Recertification Comparison Microscope	1 @ \$3,500	\$ 3,500
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<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 25,000</b>
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**BUDGET SUMMARY**

<b><u>Budget Category</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>
<b>A: Personnel</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>
<b>B: Fringe Benefits</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>
<b>C: Travel</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>
<b>D: Equipment</b>	<b>\$ 21,500</b>
<b>H: Other</b>	<b>\$ 3,500</b>
 <b>Total Project Cost</b>	 <b>\$ 25,000</b>
 <b>Federal Request</b>	 <b>\$ 25,000</b>
<b>Non-Federal Amount</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>