



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

National Institute of Justice

Office of the Director

Washington, D.C. 20531

Dear Colleague,

This communication serves to notify you that the Grant Progress Assessment (GPA) component of the DNA Laboratory Audit/GPA Program will be suspended on September 30, 2011. DNA audits will continue to be administered by the National Forensic Science Technology Center (NFSTC) through September 30, 2012. Continuation of DNA audits after September 30, 2012 will be dependent upon available funding. The grant programs affected are:

1. DNA Backlog Reduction
2. DNA Convicted Offender Backlog Reduction
3. DNA Convicted Offender Backlog Reduction Outsourcing
4. Paul Coverdell and;
5. Solving Cold Cases with DNA.

Since January 2005, when the National Institute of Justice established the GPA Program as an extension of the DNA quality standards audit activities, significant improvements in grant management have been realized. Reports generated through the program show improvements in the quality and timeliness of adherence to federal grant requirements and practices. These successes are attributed to your efforts, the efforts of the NIJ program managers, and the expertise of NFSTC assessors.

While this was a difficult decision to make in light of the program's notable successes, present budget constraints have necessitated the need to suspend the program. The NFSTC GPA team will reach out to the applicable grantees when the schedule for July-September site visits assessments are finalized.

If you have specific questions regarding this announcement, please contact Patricia Kashtan, Program Operations Specialist, Office of Investigative and Forensic Sciences, National Institute of Justice at (202) 353-1856 or patricia.kashtan@usdoj.gov.

Regards,

John H. Laub, Ph.D.
Director