

# Department of Public Safety Expediting/Processing of DNA Samples and Forensic Examiner Retention

**Funding Award: \$1,847,000**

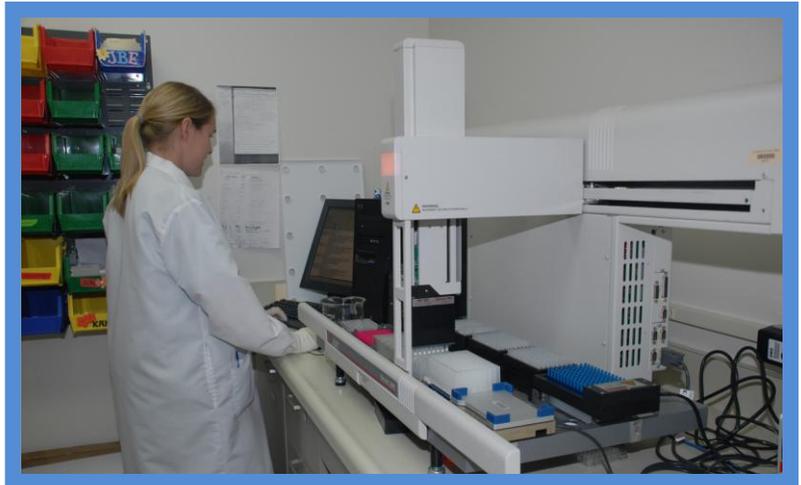
**Amount Spent: \$ 747,262**

**Project Description:** The Department of Public Safety, Division of Scientific Services, was granted an award through the ARRA Connecticut Justice Assistance Grant Program. This award was utilized to fund nine forensic examiner positions that would have been eliminated due to a durational federal grant.

The first task of the DNA analysts was to address and examine the accumulation of 20,600 convicted offender samples submitted by the Connecticut Department of Corrections by state statute, and link where possible, the DNA samples provided by these offenders to unsolved criminal acts committed here in Connecticut and throughout the United States. In September 2009, the forensic examiners initiated this project and successfully eliminated the convicted offender backlog entry into the CODIS databank by May 2010. The highlights of their achievements are noted to the right.

These ARRA funded forensic scientists have now been re-tasked, and are now assisting in the backlog of 2,892 open DNA criminal investigations pending at the forensic laboratory.

The continuation of these DNA examiner positions has been instrumental in assisting the Connecticut Criminal Justice Community and the victims of crime in identifying perpetrators, and exonerating the innocent.



## Accomplishments of the ARRA funded Forensic Examiners, processing DNA samples and comparing to the Combined DNA Index System, (CODIS).

- Linked 10 offender samples to pending homicide investigations.
- Linked 66 offender samples to sexual assault investigations.
- Linked 49 offender samples to crimes against persons, robbery.
- Linked 64 samples to felony property crimes, burglary.

