



NIJ DNA GRANT SUMMIT
**Grant Progress
Assessment Program**

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Why Have a GPA Program?

- The NIJ must exercise due diligence in managing public funds
- Currently the GPA is the only US government program utilizing 100% site visits of all awards





GPA History

- In March, 2002 the National Forensic Science Technology Center (NFSTC) began offering free DNA QAS audits to government crime laboratories in the United States.
- NIJ requires grantee laboratories to meet quality standards established by the FBI and ASCLD/LAB or FQS-I as a condition of receipt of federal funds for DNA Capacity Enhancement.
- In January 2005 at the request of NIJ, the NFSTC began delivering Grant Progress Assessments (GPA) pertaining to DNA grants and awards.
- In September 2006 the program was expanded to include grants related to the Paul Coverdell National Forensic Science Improvement Act Grant Program and the Solving Cold Cases with DNA Grant Program.
- Grant assessments and free DNA QAS audits are made possible due to the NFSTC Forensic Technologies Center of Excellence cooperative agreement with NIJ.



Site Visit Challenges



- 2 Program Manager for all DNA grants
- 1 Program Manager for all Coverdell
- 1 Program Manger Cold Case grants

Not feasible to visit every grantee or even visit a significant percentage of grantees

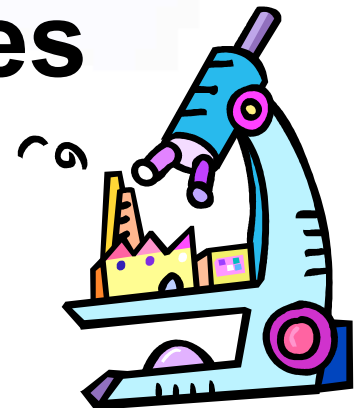
Solution: Utilize the Forensic Technologies Center of Excellence (NFSTC)





GPA Program Outcomes

- The GPA is tied to the DNA Audits.
- Set schedule - every 2 years.
- Educational – GPA assessors come from the community – they receive considerable training from the NFSTC and NIJ.
- Educational – the grant managers in labs learn from the assessments.
- The NIJ is seeing greater grant compliance as a result of the GPA Program.
- The GPA Program allows Program Managers to focus on the agencies that need special attention and help.





Extra Value Derived

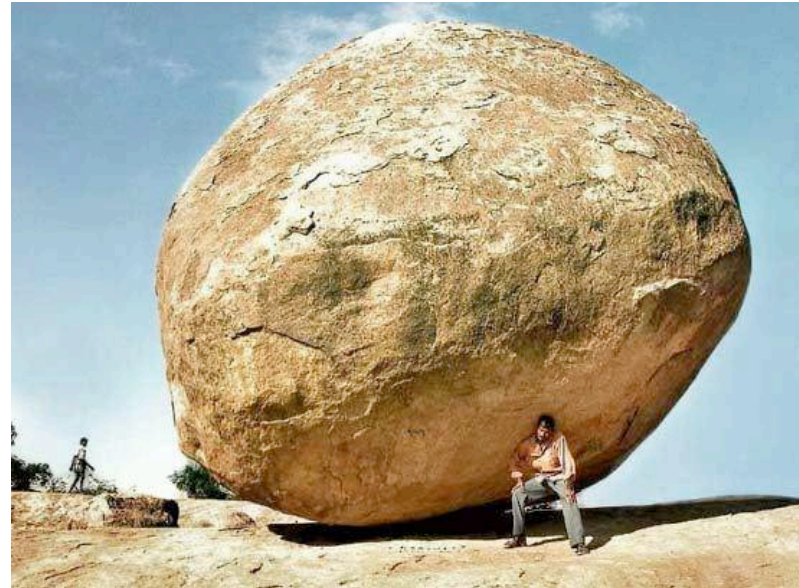
- Labs that outsource to vendor labs no longer have to conduct audits of the vendor database operations.
- The most recent data survey of grantees showed that you favored expansion of this program to cover casework by a 3:1 margin, and to include grant management training by a 5:1 margin.





Who Handles GPA Issues?

- Patricia Kashtan - NIJ side of the program
- Dale Heideman – Assessment Team Lead at NFSTC





What are the GPA Manager's responsibilities?

- Oversees NIJ's and NFSTC's GPA Processes.
- Ensures/improves the quality of the program.
- Maintain records of reports and enters them into the GMS.
- Provides data on grants to the NFSTC assessment teams.
- Collects and evaluates the assessor team's results
- Provides input to the grantee agency on GPA findings.



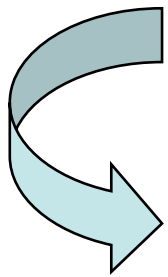


What is the Process?

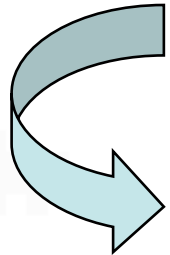




Appropriate audit/assessment is initiated and scheduled



NIJ sends award information to NFSTC



NFSTC sets up and conducts the site visit



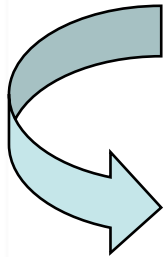
NFSTC generates a report

NIJ – GPA Manager

***The Grant Program Managers
review the reports and send them
to the agency***



The agency responds to issues



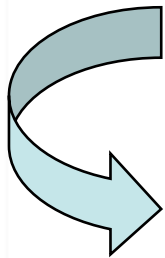
***Grant Program Managers
decide if the response is
adequate***



***Grant Program Managers
inform the GPA Manager of closure***



If issues involve significant financial matters



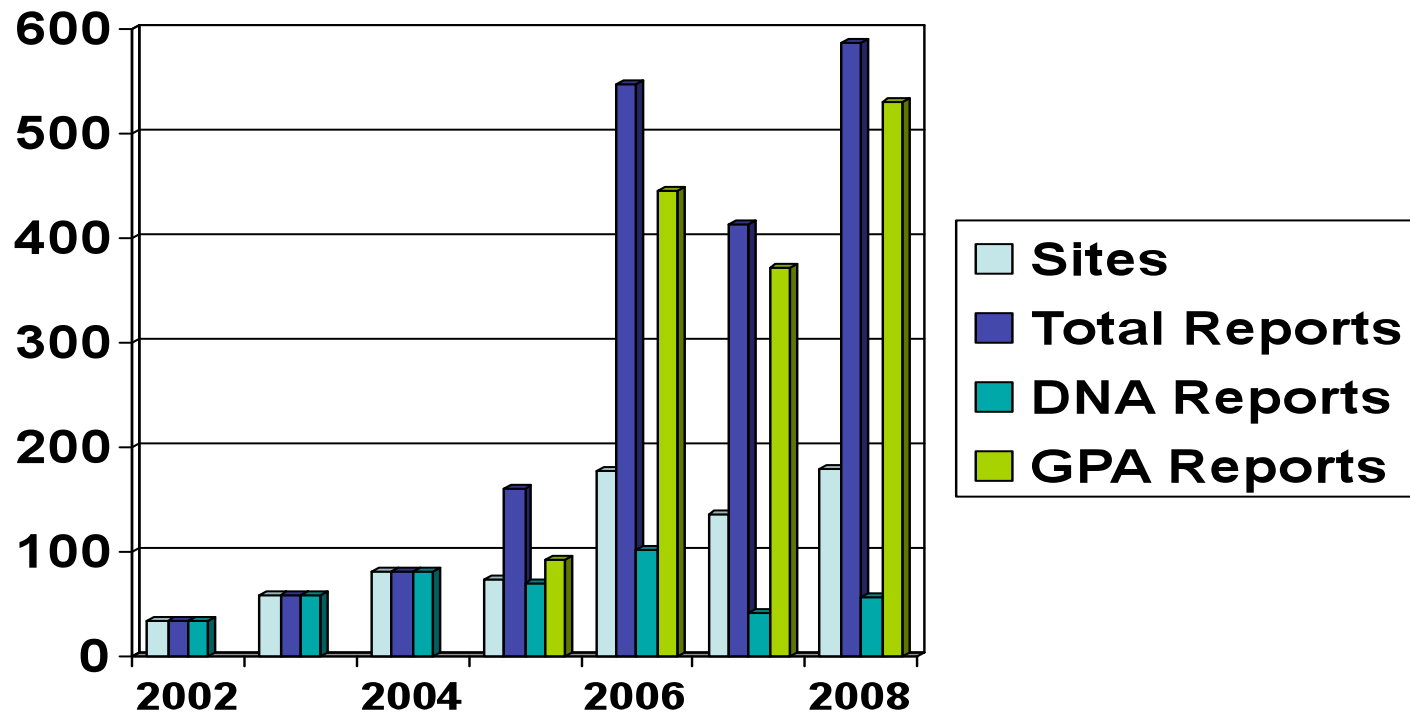
The GPA Manager, Grant PM, and Chief of IFSD may decide



To ask OC or OIG to investigate or conduct an audit

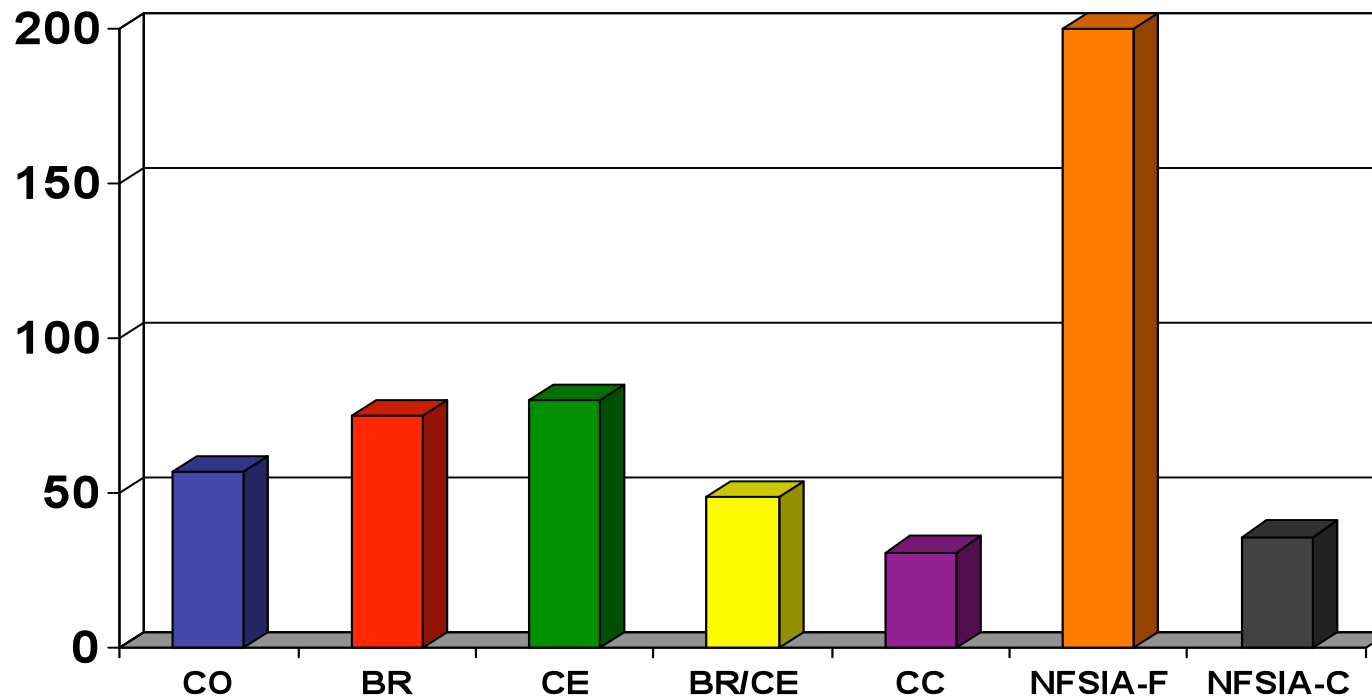


2008 Program Activity





2008 Program Activity – Grant Reports





What would trigger a financial audit?

- Not being able to account for items purchased
- Purchasing items with DNA grant funding and using the items for non-DNA purposes
- Co-mingling or supplanting of funds
- Keeping incomplete financial records
- Presenting invoices for items that supposedly were charged to the grant, but in reality not a part of the grant





What might trigger an OIG investigation?

- The inability of an agency to provide any requested financial records.
- A total disregard of financial control being exercised on a grant.
- A willful disregard of federal financial regulations.





Has NIJ requested audits?

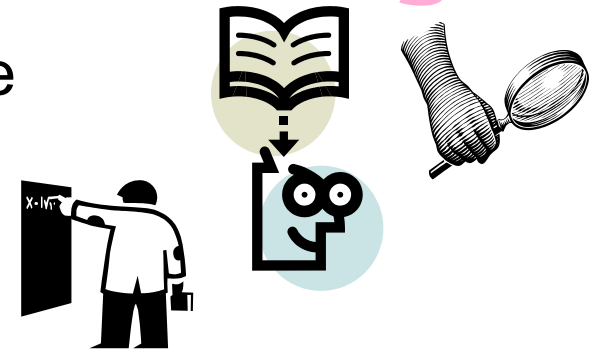
- YES in the past, agencies have been scheduled for OC audits and corrective action has been taken.
- This is a serious situation! - to avoid future OC/OIG audits, we want to make you aware of all federal financial rules.



EDUCATION FOR GRANTEEES

- An important reason you are here today is to learn how to properly manage your grants and to stay in compliance with federal regulations.
- The GPA Program was designed to be educational. Your NIJ grant Program Manager will help you address programmatic and technical issues.

Education and Training





Assessment Program Webpage

- The Assessment Program website contains assessor resources and vital information related to the assessment process. www.nfstc.org/programs
- The webpage contains links to a multitude of necessary documents and instructional materials. These documents include the required checklist documents, guidance documents, planning and travel documents, evaluations and various other resources utilized by assessors.



NFSTC Webpage



<http://www.nfstc.org/assessments/>

NFSTC » DNA/GPA Program - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.nfstc.org/assessments/

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DNA/GPA Program

The DNA Audit/Grant Progress Assessment (GPA) program is the longest-running and most widely known program at NFSTC. The DNA Audit program visits and reviews publicly funded DNA laboratories against the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Quality Assurance Standards as approved by the National DNA Index System (NDIS). The program is funded by a Cooperative Agreement with the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), Office of Science & Technology.

External DNA Audits

These audits are provided by NFSTC at no cost to the laboratories and must be completed every two years. [Check out this section for schedules, calendars and general information.](#)

Grant Progress Assessments

Laboratories that receive NIJ funding must have their grants assessed every two years, as per NIJ grant rules. Grant Progress Assessments (GPA) can be conducted at the same time for those laboratories and agencies choosing to participate in the free DNA Audit program.

NFSTC assesses project progress for grantees receiving funds from:


- DNA Grant Program
- Paul E. Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement Program
- Using DNA to Solve Cold Cases and other DNA grant programs

Making a Difference

"My learning experience at NFSTC was incredible... I am grateful to have been a part of this experience."

~Jessica Meade-Matias
Osceola County, FL

NFSTC Images



Multi-functional laboratory workspaces

Events

No events to show

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NIJ Webpage

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/>

The screenshot shows the NIJ website in a Windows Internet Explorer browser window. The address bar shows the URL <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/>. The website header includes the U.S. Department of Justice logo and the text "Office of Justice Programs" and "National Institute of Justice". The main navigation menu includes "Home", "Funding", "Publications", "Events", "Training", and "Topics". A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main content area features a "Featured Topic" section titled "'John School' Reduces Prostitution" with a sub-headline "San Francisco's 'John school' (part of the First Offender Prostitution Program) reduces demand by dropping charges against first-time offenders who agree to attend a one-day workshop and pay a fee." Below this is a small image of a person's legs. To the right of the featured topic is a "Highlights" section titled "Domestic Violence Shelters" with a sub-headline "Domestic violence shelters are meeting the needs of abuse survivors and their children, providing services like housing, mental health counseling and legal assistance." Below this is a small image of a person's face. The bottom of the page contains a footer with contact information and a disclaimer.

NIJ Home | National Institute of Justice - Windows Internet Explorer
http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/

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National Institute of Justice
Research • Development • Evaluation

Home Funding Publications Events Training Topics

Featured Topic
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Corrections
Courts
Crimes (types of)
Crime Prevention
Drugs & Crime
Forensic Sciences
Law Enforcement
Technology & Tools
Victims & Victimization
Issues & Initiatives

"John School" Reduces Prostitution
San Francisco's "John school" (part of the First Offender Prostitution Program) reduces demand by dropping charges against first-time offenders who agree to attend a one-day workshop and pay a fee.
New data shows that the "school" reduced the number of repeat offenders and was cost-effective.
Listen to or watch researcher Michael Shively discuss how to reduce demand.
Read more about prostitution.

Highlights
Domestic Violence Shelters
Domestic violence shelters are meeting the needs of abuse survivors and their children, providing services like housing, mental health counseling and legal assistance.
Seventy-four percent of survivors said the assistance they received at their shelters was "very helpful", and another 18 percent rated it as "helpful."
Read more.

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National Institute of Justice, 810 Seventh Street NW, Washington, DC 20531



Biennial Schedule and Calendar

- A link to the Assessment Calendar is maintained on the Assessment Program website. The calendar contains a listing of all audits/assessments that are scheduled on a quarterly basis.



NFSTC ASSESSMENTS PROGRAM BIENNIAL SCHEDULE

EVEN YEARS					
January	February	March	April	May	June
Bode PoC: B. Tincher	California PoC: B. Tincher	Maine PoC: J. Wegel	Pennsylvania PoC: J. Wegel	Illinois PoC: J. Wegel	Texas PoC: J. Wegel
Identity PoC: J. Wegel		Minnesota PoC: J. Wegel	South Dakota PoC: B. Tincher	Nevada PoC: B. Tincher	Michigan PoC: B. Tincher
LabCorp PoC: B. Tincher		Wyoming PoC: B. Tincher		New Jersey PoC: B. Tincher	
Orchid PoC: J. Wegel					
Reliagene PoC: B. Tincher					
Strand PoC: J. Wegel					
July	August	September	October	November	December
Indiana PoC: B. Tincher	New York PoC: J. Wegel	Florida PoC: J. Wegel	Alabama PoC: B. Tincher	Vermont PoC: J. Wegel	Louisiana PoC: B. Tincher
Maryland PoC: B. Tincher	Oklahoma PoC: B. Tincher	Iowa PoC: J. Wegel	Guam PoC: J. Wegel		
Montana PoC: J. Wegel	Tennessee PoC: B. Tincher	Missouri PoC: B. Tincher	Hawaii PoC: B. Tincher		
		Rhode Island PoC: J. Wegel	Oregon PoC: B. Tincher		
			Virgin Islands PoC: J. Wegel		
			Washington PoC: J. Wegel		



Become a Grant Assessor

- We encourage all grant managers to become involved as Grant Progress Assessors.
- Being an assessor is a great way to be exposed to new techniques & new ways of doing things, to interact with peers, and most importantly – to make a positive contribution to the Forensic Science Profession.
- This program was established to ensure that you have the ability to get the most benefit from the grants and to improve your laboratory's capabilities.



Contact Information:



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