

ANALYSIS

Department of State Police Human Remains Identification

Analyst: John Terpening

Request: Approve the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance, in an amount up to \$600,000 over a period of three years to assist with human remains identification.

Analysis: The Missing and Unidentified Human Remains program provides funds to inventory, report, identify, and potentially repatriate unidentified human remains. This grant is for the federal fiscal year 2023, and there is anticipated to be three project awards ranging between \$500,000 and \$1 million, with grants to be awarded October 1.

If awarded Oregon State Police would utilize these funds to address a backlog of unidentified remains cases currently housed at the State Medical Examiners facility. The grant application deadline is April 18. This is a competitive grant but has no state match requirement.

Legislative Fiscal Office Recommendation: The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends approval of the request.

Oregon State Police Fox

Request: The Oregon State Police (OSP) is requesting authorization to apply for a grant of up to \$600,000 for inventory, reporting, processing, and identification of unidentified human remains and missing persons from the U.S. Department of Justice.

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Discussion: OSP is requesting authorization to apply for a competitive grant through the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance, for the Missing and Unidentified Human Remains (MUHR) Program Grant. The purpose of the grant is to facilitate the reporting, processing, and identification of missing persons and unidentified human remains.

If awarded, grant funds will be used by the Office of the State Medical Examiner for contracted work with odontologists and outside labs for DNA testing. The funds would also be used to purchase equipment, including cameras and computers, to further investigations of unidentified decedents.

The grant application is due April 18, 2023 and requires no match. This grant is expected to be awarded in October of 2023 and has a three-year period of performance.



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

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April 5, 2023

Senator Elizabeth Steiner, Co-Chair
Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs:

Nature of the Request

The Oregon State Police (OSP) is requesting approval to submit an application to the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), for the FY 2023 Missing and Unidentified Human Remains (MUHR) Program Competitive Grant in an amount up to \$600,000.

This grant opportunity allows awardees to utilize funds for the inventory, reporting, processing, and identification of unidentified remains and missing persons in the United States.

BJA expects to make up to three (3) project awards between \$500,000 - \$1 million total awarded to statewide agencies for a 36-month period of performance, to begin on October 1, 2023. This grant solicitation was posted on February 9, 2023. The grant application deadline is April 18, 2023.

Agency Action

This grant program furthers the DOJ's mission to locate and identify missing persons and unidentified human remains in the United States by providing increased resources for improved reporting, transportation, processing and identification of missing persons and unidentified human remains, including migrants and homeless individuals. If awarded, it would be the priority of OSP to use grant funding to expedite the identification of homeless decedents and other unidentifiable human remains housed at the Oregon State Medical Examiner facility.

The grant does not require a match.

Action Requested

Approve OSP's request to apply for the FY 2023 Missing and Unidentified Human Remains (MUHR) Program Competitive Grant through the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance.

Legislation Affected

None

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Casey Codding
Superintendent
Oregon State Police

cc: Constantin Severe, Governor's Office
 Lisa Fox, Dept. of Administrative Services - Chief Financial Office
 John Terpening, Legislative Fiscal Office
 Josh Brooks, OSP Deputy Superintendent
 Jenny Cribbs, OSP Financial & Business Services Administrator