



City of Austin

Recommendation for Action

File #: 25-1933, **Agenda Item #:** 47.

9/25/2025

Posting Language

Approve a resolution authorizing the submission of an application for, and acceptance of grant funding from, the Office of the Governor's Criminal Justice Division to continue the Austin Police Department's Crime Lab Enhancement Project. Funding: \$278,350 is available from the Office of the Governor's Criminal Justice Division, Coverdell National Forensic Sciences Improvement Act Fund. No City match is required.

Lead Department

Austin Police Department.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$278,350 is available from the Office of the Governor's Criminal Justice Division, Coverdell National Forensic Sciences Improvement Act Fund for the project period of October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2026. A City match is not required.

Prior Council Action:

September 26, 2024 - Council approved Resolution No. 20240926-054 to accept grant funding from the Coverdell award to implement the Austin Police Department's Crime Lab Enhancement Project.

For More Information:

Robin J. Henderson, Chief of Staff, Austin Police Department, (512) 974-5030.

Additional Backup Information:

The Office of the City Manager reviewed this grant for alignment as directed by Resolution No. 20200611-096 and recommends approval.

This action will provide the resolution required by the Criminal Justice Division to complete the award process related to \$278,350 in grant funding. The project period is October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2026.

State Coverdell funding will increase the capacity of the City to safely address the opioid crisis, improve the throughput of the forensic sciences laboratory's non-DNA sections, increase analyst skills and abilities, improve timeliness of forensic services, and reduce non-DNA casework backlogs. Funding is budgeted for:

- Personnel \$80,487.91
- Travel and Training \$30,387
- Laboratory equipment \$101,201.09
- Supplies and direct operating expenses \$66,274

This is the 22nd year of this project. The Austin Police Department anticipates that Coverdell funds will allow for the analysis of approximately 15,000 pieces of evidence.

The grantor requires a resolution approved by the governing body that addresses items 1-4 below:

1. Authorization by the governing body for the submission of the application to the Office of the Governor

- that clearly identifies the name of the project for which funding is requested;
2. A commitment to provide all applicable matching funds;
 3. A designation of the name and/or title of an authorized official who is given the authority to apply for, accept, reject, alter, or terminate a grant (Note: If a name is provided, the applicant must update the resolution should the official change during the grant period.); and
 4. A written assurance that, in the event of loss or misuse of grant funds, the governing body will return all funds to Office of the Governor.