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Kane County Formally Receives $1 Million Federal Grant to Enhance Forensic Laboratory

Kane County has received $1,031,000 in federal funding to enhance the Kane County Forensic Laboratory, supporting efforts to expand testing capabilities, improve evidence processing and work toward accreditation.

Established in 2023, the laboratory is a collaborative effort of the Kane County Sheriff's Office, Coroner's Office and State's Attorney's Office. It was created to strengthen the county's ability to support criminal investigations and provide timely forensic results.

The laboratory includes six dedicated rooms supporting a range of forensic operations. Four rooms in the main laboratory are dedicated to DNA testing, seized drug analysis and open-container analysis. An additional room provides office space and an area for evidence submission, while a sixth room in the Coroner's Office is dedicated to toxicology testing.

The federal grant will primarily support three areas of improvement:

- **Laboratory Instrument and Workflow Validation:** Funding will support the testing and validation necessary to demonstrate that laboratory instruments and procedures meet accreditation requirements.
- **Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS):** The laboratory will purchase software to streamline evidence submissions, track testing processes and document the chain of custody.
- **Toxicology Testing Equipment:** Funding will support the purchase of a toxicology screening instrument to expand the laboratory's testing capabilities.

“As criminal activity becomes increasingly sophisticated, our ability to investigate must continue to evolve,” said Kane County Coroner Dr. Monica Silva.

The laboratory currently provides results that support criminal investigations but cannot yet submit those results as evidence in court because the facility has not achieved accreditation. Additional equipment, software and staffing are needed to meet accreditation requirements. Once those resources are in place, the accreditation process could take up to two years.

“This laboratory will change how quickly we can solve and prosecute cases in Kane County,” said Kane County State's Attorney Jamie Mosser. “When investigators and prosecutors aren't waiting in line for results from a lab, we can identify suspects sooner, hold them accountable sooner, and keep our community safer. Faster answers lead to stronger cases and better outcomes for the people we serve.”

Kane County Board Chairman Corinne Pierog said the investment reflects the importance of collaboration among county offices.

“Ultimately, this is about more than a forensic laboratory,” Pierog said. “It's about working together, making smart investments and finding solutions that protect our communities.”

On Oct. 30, U.S. Rep. Bill Foster presented a ceremonial check to Kane County officials. The funding was secured through Congress' Community Project Funding program.

“As a scientist, I know how valuable it is to have the right tools and technology to solve problems. And this laboratory will strengthen the ability to support criminal investigations, to assist law enforcement, and provide answers to families,” Foster said.

