



Houston Forensic Science Center Awarded \$1.26 Million Grant

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The Houston Forensic Science Center (HFSC) has been awarded a \$1.26 million grant from the National Institute of Justice that will be used in part to buy additional DNA analyzing equipment. This equipment will enhance the Center's capabilities, allowing it to process evidence more quickly and efficiently.

The money will also be used to train staff on the latest trends and technology in the field.

"The beautiful thing about this grant is that it enables us to stay abreast of the latest trends and provides money to do things that the lab might not otherwise be able to do at this time," said Robin Guidry, HFSC's DNA Technical Leader.

This is the first grant HFSC has been awarded since it assumed responsibility for the forensic operations that were previously managed by the Houston Police Department.

"The National Institute of Justice is an important partner in ensuring that the crime lab remains on the cutting edge of forensic science, a crucial component in keeping Houston residents safe," said Irma Rios, the head of HFSC's forensic division.

The lab formerly known as the Houston Police Department Crime Lab, has been managed by Houston Forensic Science Center, Inc., since April 3, 2014.

HFSC is overseen by a Board of Directors appointed by the Mayor of Houston and approved by the Houston City Council. HFSC oversees and manages the independent forensic laboratory that

includes what was previously the HPD's Crime Lab and Crime Scene Unit. HFSC currently operates in eight forensic disciplines and is expanding.

Further information regarding HFSC is available at www.houstonforensicscience.org.