
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2019

Fiscal Services Division

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Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Criminalistics Laboratory

History

The Iowa Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Criminalistics Laboratory (Crime Lab) was created by statute in July 1969 (Iowa Code chapter 691). In 1977, the Bureau of Criminal Investigation was reorganized as the Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) within the Department of Public Safety. In September 2000, the laboratory was accredited by the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB), and currently maintains accreditation in accordance with ASCLD/LAB International program criteria.

The current location of the Iowa Crime Lab opened June 9, 2005, at the Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) Ankeny campus. In addition to the Crime Lab, there was also office space for the State Medical Examiner, the University of Iowa State Hygienic Laboratory, and the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship's meat and dairy testing program. The overall facility covers 176,000 square feet and houses all four laboratories.

Total funding for the planning and construction of the facility was \$50.0 million, plus an additional \$355,500 to purchase new laboratory equipment and fund maintenance and operations. The State appropriations for the Lab were made in [HF 742](#) during the 2001 Legislative Session and [SF 2298](#) during the 2004 Legislative Session for \$16.7 million each year from FY 2002 to FY 2004.

Current Operations

The DCI Crime Lab provides services in the following areas: trace evidence, arson, latent prints and impression evidence, questioned documents, breath alcohol, toxicology, drug identification, firearms and toolmarks, DNA, forensic photography, and crime scene processing.

The DCI receives two General Fund appropriations. The Crime Lab receives an annual appropriation from the General Fund that is deposited in the Criminalistics Laboratory Fund. This is a nonreversionary fund that began in FY 2006 as mandated in Iowa Code section 691.9. This Fund is used by the Crime Lab for the purchase and maintenance of equipment, depreciation, and training. The operating budget for the Crime Lab is included in the appropriation for the DCI. In addition, the Crime Lab receives some federal funding that varies from year to year.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapters [80](#) and [691](#)

Iowa Code section [691.9](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [661](#)

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More Information

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