

## Ray Friedlander

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**From:** Spector, Adam T <Adam.T.Spector@usdoj.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 05, 2015 12:30 PM  
**To:** Ray Friedlander  
**Subject:** Sexual Assault Kit Initiative

Ms. Friedlander,

Per our conversation, the Department of Justice received a \$41 million appropriation “for a competitive grant program to support multi-disciplinary community response teams tasked with a comprehensive approach to sexual assault cases. The goal of this grant program is to address the growing backlog of unsubmitted sexual assault kits at law enforcement agencies. There is broad consensus that this must be accomplished through an integrative approach to the problem . . . Grant funding may be used to inventory the existing backlog of unsubmitted rape kits, test backlogged kits, develop “cold case” units to pursue new investigative leads and to support victims throughout the investigation and prosecution process. Grants may also be used to develop evidence-tracking systems, train law enforcement on sexual assault investigations, and conduct research on outcomes in sexual assault cases.”

There is not much we can share before the solicitation is released, but Sexual Assault Kit Initiative will be a comprehensive program including resources for SAK inventorying, testing, performance metrics reporting, investigation, prosecution, and victim response. The SAKI Program will support competitively awarded grants to state, local, tribal law enforcement agencies; and targeted training and technical assistance (TTA) for grantees and the field through a competitively awarded cooperative agreement. While SAKI will include testing of SAKs, it also aims to address why SAKs continue to remain unsubmitted for testing in the custody of law enforcement agencies, and help jurisdictions implement new policies and procedures to prevent this from occurring again. The program also takes a victim-centered approach. Since the critical needs around unsubmitted SAKs in law enforcement agencies extend well beyond simply testing kits and increasing crime lab capacity, the program also addresses the investigative and prosecutorial aspects of sexual assault cases resulting from the testing and enhancing provision of victim’s services. One of the many criteria that will likely be used to evaluate applicants is a statement of the untested SAK problem in their jurisdiction.

I hope this information is helpful. Please feel free to follow up.

Thanks.

Adam

Adam Spector

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