

Tri-County Regional Biological Science Center

Forensic DNA Biological Lab

Tri-County Regional Biological Science Center will provide the opportunity for Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester Counties and municipalities within to readily access a Regional Lab to better service their DNA needs as it relates to criminal justice process, judicial process, and closure for victims.

This Center will provide relief from the increased burden of samples from one of the fastest growing regions in the state from SLED.

Location: 3765 Leeds Avenue, North Charleston, SC

10,000 sqft facility to include lab functions focusing on biological sciences. Space, office administration and common spaces offering biological DNA services. County staff are currently in discussion with the South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDOT) to obtain the rear portion of the property.

Total Project Costs \$12,550,000.00

Funding request amount from State: \$5,000,000.00

Project Partners

Charleston County:

Charleston County Council committed **\$3.4M** for project design and programming and authorization to hire a Director of Biological Science Center. This project was approved with a 9-0 vote by County Council on February 2, 2022

Charleston County Elected Officials and Appointed Support:

Sheriff Kristen Graziano
Solicitor Scarlett Wilson
Coroner Bobbi Jo O'Neal
Public Defender Cameron Blazer
Former Coroner Rae Wooten

Dorchester County:

County Council approved capital investment of **\$1,000,000.00** in April of 2022.

Elected Officials and Appointed Support:

Sheriff LC Knight
Solicitor David Pascoe
Coroner Paul Brouters
Public Defender Mark Leiendecker

Berkeley County:

County Council approved capital investment of **\$1,000,000.00** in April of 2022.

Elected Officials and Appointed Support:

Revised 4/8/2022

Sheriff Duane Lewis
Solicitor Scarlett Wilson
Public Defender Cameron Blazer
Coroner Darnell Hartwell

State of South Carolina:

Contribution of \$1,000,000.00 appropriation from the South Carolina general fund FY 23.

City of North Charleston:

Ongoing verbal capital investments over 5-year period

Elected Officials and Leadership Support:

Mayor Keith Summey
Police Chief Reggie Burgess

Operational and reoccurring costs will be supported by Charleston County.

Project Schedule Timeline:

Design and Programming: 1st Quarter 2023
Construction Start: 1st Quarter 2024
Construction Completion: 2nd Quarter 2025
Building Occupancy: 3rd Quarter 2025

Accelerated project timeline due to rising construction costs and supply chain demand. This has created a greater need for funding requested.