

King County Regional Automated Fingerprint Identification System



2013 annual report



King County's Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) is a levy-funded, countywide program that provides the staff and technology to support criminal fingerprint identification services for all 39 cities and unincorporated areas. The AFIS Program aids in crime-solving efforts and contributes to safer communities through two primary purposes:

- 1) To quickly identify arrested individuals, preventing the wrongful release of those using false names and establishing accurate criminal history information.
- 2) To identify crime scene fingerprints and palmprints that aid in investigations and provide evidence in court.

The AFIS Program offers support to regional task forces, auto theft and burglary initiatives, and investigations of illegal drug operations. It also identifies unknown criminals and victims at hospitals and the Medical Examiner's Office.

Mission

The Regional AFIS Program promotes public safety and contributes to crime reduction by providing expert fingerprint identification services to criminal justice agencies throughout King County.

Message from The AAC Chair

As the AFIS Advisory Committee Chair, it is my pleasure to introduce the King County Regional AFIS Program's 2013 annual report. For 27 years, AFIS has demonstrated its value in identifying suspects to aid in solving crimes, with countless success stories and testimonials to support the program's effectiveness.

In 2013, the program continued its efforts to improve criminal identification services, while honoring its commitment to reduce operating costs through more efficient operations. In the pages ahead, you'll read about how handheld fingerprint scanners are being deployed in the field to help officers identify subjects who may be using false names. You'll be informed about progress made toward a much needed lab replacement, as well as technology updates and enhancements to make identification services more efficient and accessible. The program has adjusted its staffing and operations model to serve its customers more efficiently, and has already begun reducing costs by eliminating vacant positions. The AFIS Program has become a model for cost-effective regionalized services, and has been recognized for its exceptional forensic fingerprint identification services.

A special thanks to the 39 cities within King County that continue to participate and demonstrate trust in this regional program. I encourage you to learn more about the program's goals and accomplishments by reviewing this report, which is also available online at www.kingcounty.gov/afis.



Doug Palmer
AFIS Advisory Committee Chair
Budget Analyst
King County Office of Performance,
Strategy, and Budget

AFIS Advisory Committee

Chair

Doug Palmer
Budget Analyst
King County Office of Performance,
Strategy, and Budget

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Seattle Police Department

Clif Curry
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King County Council

Chief Robin Fenton
King County Sheriff's Office

Carol Gillespie
Regional AFIS Manager
King County Sheriff's Office

*A special thanks to our outgoing
member Julie Underwood*

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Looking Forward 2013-2018 Program Goals

In 2013, the King County Regional AFIS Program started the first year of its most recent voter-approved levy (2013-2018). Voters have supported this regional program since 1986. The current levy focuses on maintaining status quo operations and completing projects in the four areas below. Progress is discussed in more detail on pages 8-10.

Operations

A new staffing model and efforts to streamline operations will result in staffing reductions without impacting services. During the life of the levy, nine positions at King County are being reduced through attrition. Seattle Police Department (SPD) eliminated two positions and will reduce its overtime budget and other expenditures.



The AFIS Program will continue to explore opportunities to enhance services and reduce costs through partnerships with neighboring counties, which could increase the number of fingerprints searched, leading to more crimes solved.

▶ Streamline Operations

▶ Enhance Services

▶ Build Partnerships

Technology

During this levy period, the majority of the AFIS Program's existing technology will reach end-of-life and require replacement. This includes desktops, laptops, servers, and software in support of day-to-day business operations. The levy also supports replacement of Livescans (fingerprint capture stations) as they reach their end-of life, and consideration of additional units.



The AFIS computer, which stores fingerprints, palmprints, and demographic information, will be upgraded to store booking photographs. This will allow mugshots to be available for Mobile ID search results, sex offender registration transmissions to Washington State Patrol (WSP), and readiness for future facial recognition initiatives.

▶ Replace End-of-Life Equipment

▶ Respond to Changing Needs

▶ Upgrade Technology

Processing Lab

The King County processing lab provides service to 37 cities and unincorporated King County. The current facility is outdated and grossly undersized for its workload. It will be replaced to meet industry standards and improve workflows. The planning process has begun with a move expected after 2016.



The new lab will provide space for various chemical processes to be performed simultaneously without concerns of cross-contamination or safety hazards. These improvements will ensure more timely and consistent service to customers.

▶ Add Work Space

▶ Update Lab Safety

▶ Improve Workflows

Expanding Fingerprint Identification

The levy provides funding to implement the county-wide Mobile ID Program and continue exploration of a variety of expanded fingerprint options.

Mobile ID allows an officer to conduct a fingerprint search in the field and receive a response in minutes. Following the successful pilot project in 2012-2013, a vendor will be selected through a competitive bid process and the AFIS Advisory Committee (AAC) will implement a rollout plan to include 200-250 handheld devices to agencies throughout King County.



Other options are being reviewed for fingerprints to be taken at court appearances or searched quickly during jail booking and release.

▶ Shorten Response Time

▶ Increase Mobility

▶ Improve Accessibility

Finances Funding Overview

2013 Levy Rate

\$.0556
per \$1,000 of assessed value

Cost to King County Homeowner

\$19.46
for a home valued at \$350,000

Revenue and Expenses

	2013
Revenue	
Property (Levy) Taxes	\$18,357,560
Investment Interest	\$58,595
Other (e.g. excise tax and timber sales)	\$140,274
Total	\$18,556,429
Expenses	
Salaries & Benefits	\$9,131,412
City of Seattle	\$3,388,496
Intergovernmental Overhead	\$2,014,217
Supplies & Services	\$203,666
Capital Equipment	\$42,232
Total	\$14,780,023

Excess revenues are placed in a reserve fund to pay for Mobile ID and the processing lab relocation costs.

Effective Regional Identification Services

January 2013 marked the beginning of renewed funding through 2018.

By state law, each local police agency is required to provide identification services, which includes inmate identification and arrest notification to state and federal entities. Individual agencies have a difficult time absorbing these expenses.

Through economy of scale, the AFIS Program provides regional identification services to all police departments within the county. This unique approach is an efficient and cost-effective solution.

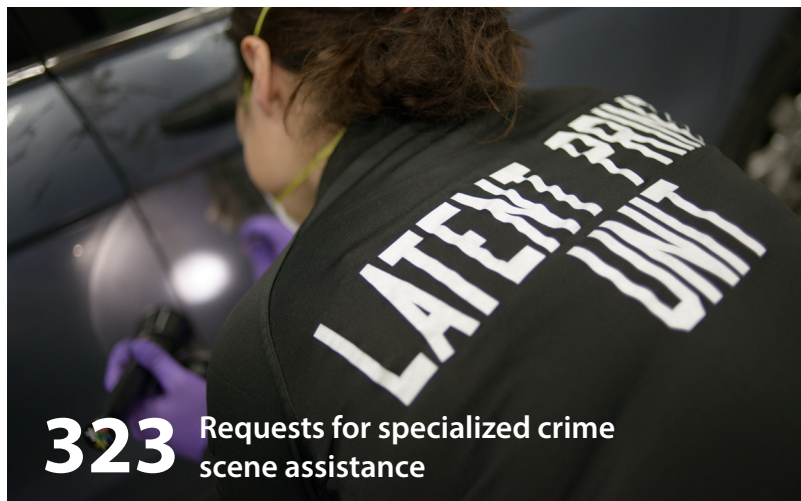
The levy funds not only technology, but also the staff that support the identification services. It is largely used to fund status quo operations, enhanced forensic fingerprint technology, and services to law enforcement agencies to identify criminals. The table to the left summarizes the 2013 revenue and expenses.

Despite the current levy goals to relocate the latent processing lab to a more functional facility, enhance services, and upgrade technologies, the current levy rate is less than the initial rate of the previous levy.

Statistics Success by the Numbers



758
Crime scene
palmprints identified



323 Requests for specialized crime scene assistance



711

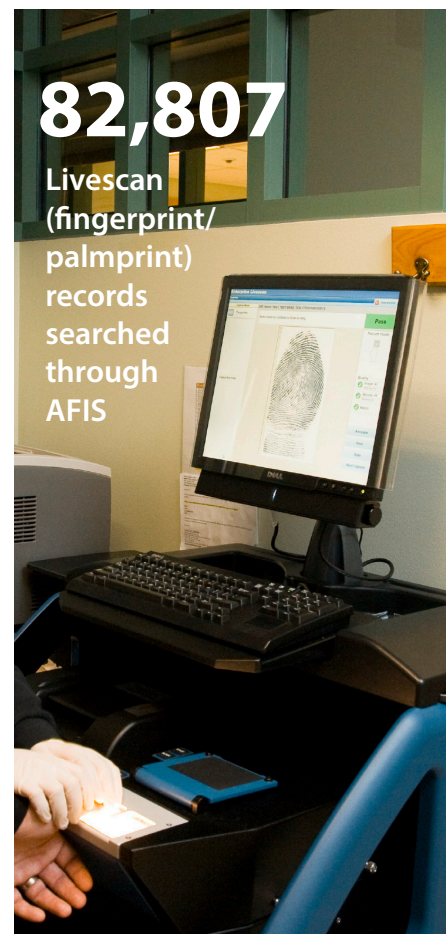
Individuals identified as giving false names upon arrest

\$1.37 million in warrants found
57 no bail 'wants'



Since the AFIS upgrade in 2011:

65 homicide cold case hits
137 other cold case hits



82,807

Livescan (fingerprint/palmprint) records searched through AFIS



15,610

Items of evidence processed for prints



5,208

Crime scene fingerprints identified

Highlights 2013 Accomplishments

Technology

DIMS

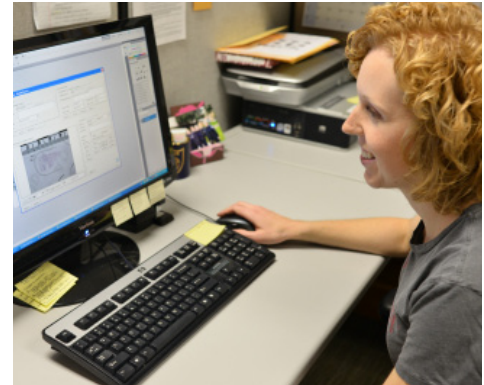
The current process for storing photographic fingerprint images involves the use of CDs. A cost-effective and time saving improvement to that process involves the recent acquisition of a Digital Imaging Management System (DIMS) to store digital images of crime scene fingerprints directly to a server.

ALERT

The AFIS Latent Evidence Request Tracking (ALERT) system was implemented in November, improving efficiency. Officers utilizing King County latent print services now submit processing requests and receive examination results electronically. This replaced a labor-intensive, manual process that used carbon copy forms.

NGI

The FBI's Next Generation Identification (NGI) provides additional capabilities to search crime scene palmprints against the federal database. The AFIS Program is connected to this system and Latent Print Examiners are impressed with its accuracy. During the first week of use, an examiner searched a previously unsolved latent print from a 1987 rape case and identified the suspect.



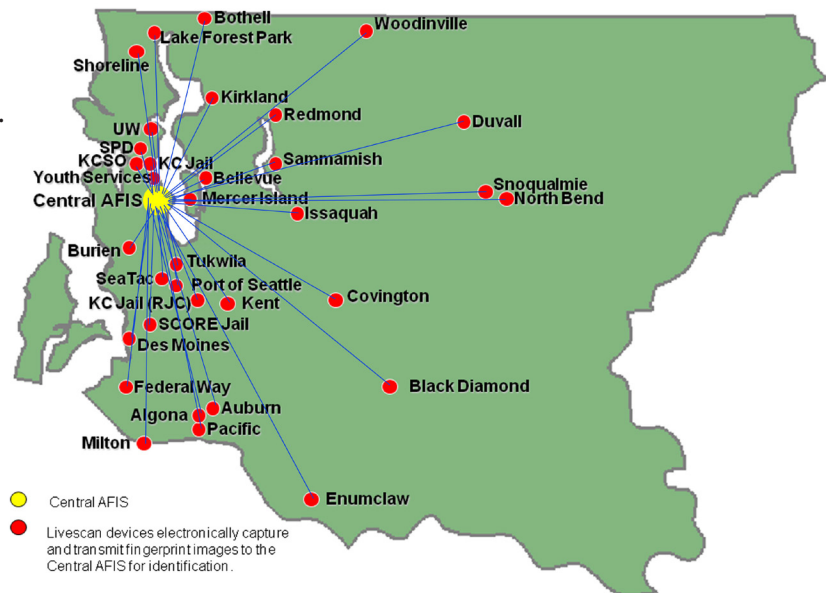
DESKTOP REPLACEMENTS

Employees' desktops were replaced to bring the program's technology up-to-date. This was a smooth process thanks to the great work of IT staff.

LIVESCANS

Livescan devices electronically capture and transmit fingerprint images to the central AFIS database for identification. These devices provide an important function to the program and are located throughout the county as shown in the map to the right. Over the year, there were device replacements and relocations to sites including Bellevue and Issaquah jails.

AFIS Connections (Livescan) in Your Area



New King County Processing Lab

Work for the new processing lab started in 2013. The project team and sponsors were selected and a broad work plan established. During initial relocation planning meetings the team discussed space requirements and considered the options of renovating existing space or constructing a new facility. Valuable space planning and lab design information was obtained when the project team visited four new forensic labs in Arizona and Kansas.

“I really am the number one fan of all the AFIS staff, from the personnel that check evidence into the lab and answer my questions, to every Latent Print Examiner I have worked with. They are extremely helpful and quick to respond to requests. They have contributed to solving many of our major crimes. They are the most highly motivated, dedicated, and friendliest group of people I have had the pleasure to work with.

I train new officers on evidence handling procedures here at Kent PD. When it comes to latent prints, I let the officers know how highly skilled the AFIS examiners are and if they have important evidence that may contain latent prints, they should send it to King County AFIS. I assure them if there is something there, your examiners will find it.”

Suzan Turley
Evidence Technician Supervisor
Kent Police Department

A New Lab Provides:

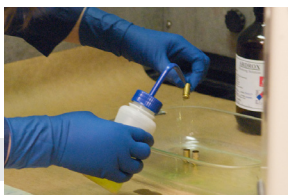
▶ Process-specific work areas



▶ Appropriately sized workspace



▶ Safety improvements



Homicide Case Solved

In June 2013, a Kent woman was found murdered in her home. An examiner recovered prints from a dresser believed to contain the victim's prescription medication and money. A search of these prints allowed the examiner to provide the detective with a new name for the investigation. The suspect was arrested, confessed to the crime, and provided the names of two other suspects. He was charged with Murder First Degree.

Mobile ID

The handheld fingerprint capture device allows an officer to search two fingerprints against the King County AFIS database and receive the search results in under two minutes. In 2013, the AFIS Program completed a successful Mobile ID pilot project involving 30 officers testing devices, which resulted in more than 800 identifications.

A permanent program will be implemented in early 2014, which will distribute 200-250 devices to police agencies throughout the county. This will be from the result

of a competitive bid process, which began in October 2013. The Mobile ID Program will include search capability with the King County AFIS, state AFIS, and the federal Repository for Individuals of Special Concern (RISC).

A Mobile ID Policy was developed and approved through the AFIS Advisory Committee. AFIS Program staff, along with Sheriff's Office and SPD command staff also met with ACLU representatives to share the intentions of the program's added functionality.



Fingerprint Evidence Leads to Conviction

In January 2013, a jury convicted a defendant of attempted murder. Three women, one seven months pregnant, went to meet a male friend who owed them money for rent and property damage. Instead of paying, the man brutally attacked the women with a knife. Two of the victims were hospitalized in critical condition. One victim underwent an emergency C-section saving her baby's life. Fingerprint evidence found at the scene and on threatening letters supported the victims' accounts of the incident. The defendant was sentenced to 51 to 66 years in prison.

Mobile ID Successes:

At a traffic stop, one suspect gave her twin sister's name, but then confessed to her true identity as soon as she saw that the Kent police officer had a Mobile ID device.



A victim in a double shooting was transported to the hospital as a John Doe. A SeaTac police officer was able to make a positive ID using a Mobile ID device and both the family and detective were notified as a result.

After receiving a tip, Burien deputies made a traffic stop and used a Mobile ID device to determine the subject was lying about his identity. The subject was one of Washington's Most Wanted fugitives and had numerous felony warrants. He was a high violent offender wanted by the Department of Corrections in King County after a 2011 conviction for punching his girlfriend in the face.



800 Identifications made during pilot project

ID responses in under **2** minutes

Services

Teamwork Builds Success

Arrest Identification Services

At correctional facilities and police agencies, Livescan devices are used to electronically capture and transmit fingerprint images to the AFIS database for identification by examiners 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Anyone found to be using a false name is reported to the arresting officer or detention facility immediately. This process ensures that inmates are positively identified prior to release from custody, preventing individuals from evading warrants and hiding criminal records, or being held wrongfully for others' warrants.

AFIS staff provide arrest information to update state and federal rapsheets. Arrest data is reported quickly and accurately so that courts, law enforcement, and licensing

agencies have access to the most current criminal history record information possible. These records are used for criminal and background investigations, warrant checks, and sentencing determinations.

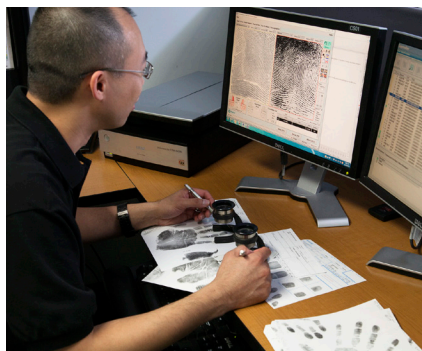
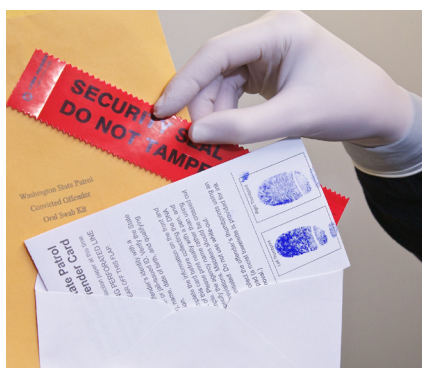
AFIS staff who work in King County correctional facilities also capture booking photos, collect DNA samples, and create photo montages ("line-ups"), which detectives use to help victims identify suspects. Additional services provided by AFIS staff include working with victims of identity theft, identifying deceased individuals for the Medical Examiner's Office, identifying injured or unconscious hospital patients, and assisting with sex offender registrations.

True Identity Uncovered

While in state custody for assault of a guardian, a young woman threatened to kill a staff member and break out all the windows in the building. Although she had documentation confirming a juvenile name and date of birth, an SPD officer took her in for fingerprinting. The fingerprint comparison revealed that she was an adult with a different name and she was subsequently booked as an adult into the King County Jail on felony charges.

Examiner Identifies Intruder

In May 2013, a North Bend family's home was invaded by the same robber two days in a row. During the second event, the suspect was fatally stabbed. His identity was unknown until the King County Medical Examiner's Office sent his fingerprints to an AFIS examiner, who found a match. The man's fingerprints had been entered into the King County AFIS database when he was arrested in 2012 on two counts of Theft Third Degree.



“No matter what time of day, our friends at King County AFIS always respond to our requests in a timely and thorough fashion. Our calls are received with courtesy and a sincere willingness to help. They provide a critical service, not only to our office, but to all the families and citizens whose loved ones come into our care.”

James Sosik
Lead Investigator
King County Medical Examiner's Office

Crime Scene Identification Services

Prints recovered from crime scenes are known as latent prints. Examiners use various techniques to reveal prints left on evidence to identify potential suspects. When there are no known suspects, latent prints are searched against millions of prints in the AFIS database. AFIS produces a list of potential matches based on ridge detail within the print. Examiners then compare the latent prints to prints on file to determine who left the prints at the crime scene. Examiners commonly testify in court regarding the conclusions they reach. They also respond to major crime scenes to collect latent prints.

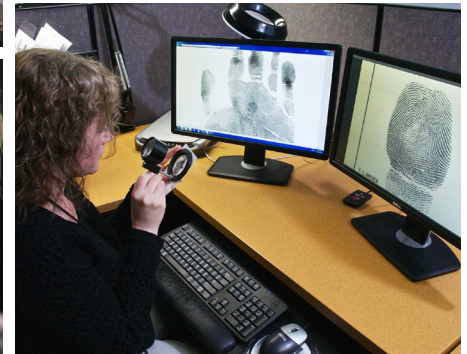
Related functions include the intake and return of crime scene evidence, case file retention and dissemination, statistical data tracking, and providing reports to law enforcement.

The AFIS Program not only provides AFIS workstations to King County and SPD, but also to the Bellevue Police Department for use by its Latent Print Examiners.

“*The King County Latent Lab has been invaluable, serving as a resource for guest speakers and experts to answer questions and help keep my curriculum on par with industry standards. I work closely with examiners on the forensics advisory board which helps educators stay current with fingerprinting techniques and protocols.*

I also have fingerprint examiners working with students on their own time (after work hours) to perform research on scars and creases when searching AFIS. My students will present their research at the Central Sound Regional Science and Engineering Fair at Bellevue College in March. The King County AFIS Program is my most reliable and helpful resource and continues to strengthen my forensics program by offering innovative opportunities for students.”

Kate Allender
Forensic Science Instructor
Redmond High School



The King County Latent Unit passed its yearly lab accreditation surveillance assessment. SPD moved closer to lab accreditation.



Bank Robbers Apprehended

In July 2013, two men were arrested in connection with five armed bank robberies in the Seattle area that stretched over several months and increased in violence. AFIS helped law enforcement identify these men by processing a water bottle left at a scene and examining a recovered print. Fingerprint searches led to suspect matches in both the King County and FBI AFIS databases.

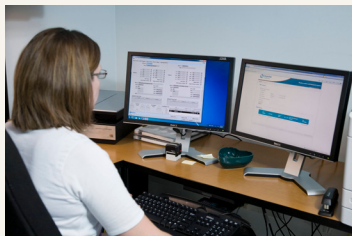
Palmprint Leads to Arrest

In September 2013, an SPD examiner assisted in processing a robbery scene. The victim heard a noise and walked into a room where a man was climbing through the window. Palmprints were recovered, searched in the AFIS database, and identified. Subsequently, an eyewitness picked the identified suspect out of a line-up.

New Arrest Print Matched Against Old Crime

In 2011, a roll of duct tape recovered at a robbery scene was submitted for processing. The examiner developed a good quality latent print on the cardboard center of the roll of tape. This latent print was photographed and searched in AFIS, but did not produce a suspect. It was registered into the unsolved latent database. In 2013, a newly arrested individual's print was matched to the print collected from the roll of duct tape, solving the robbery.

With the implementation of the new AFIS and its updated matching technology, King County re-ran all of its unsolved latent prints against the AFIS database. This project was completed in 2013 and resulted in 351 new identifications, 15 of them homicides.



Drug Trafficker Identified through Fingerprints

In April 2013, a cocaine trafficker who had been indicted in two separate cases for sending cocaine to Alaska was sentenced in federal court to 19 years in prison plus 10 years supervised release.

In his plea agreement, he admitted that he had been engaged in shipping cocaine to Alaska since at least 2009. In September 2009, he dispatched three individuals to Anchorage with 11 kilograms of cocaine concealed in their checked luggage. All three were prosecuted, but the trafficker's responsibility as the drug source did not become clear until his fingerprints were later discovered on one of the cocaine-laden boxes.

The Port of Seattle Police Department confiscated items at the airport and requested the help of AFIS to process packages that had contained drugs. The examiner was given the evidence and three names. None of the prints matched the names so the examiner searched the prints through the local, state, and federal AFIS databases, which produced three additional suspects. The identification made from the local AFIS database was to the cocaine trafficker.

“ In March 2013, Latent Print Examiners instructed a four hour training program on latent print recovery from incendiary fire scenes. The training was given to members of the Washington State Region 4 Fire Investigators Council. It consisted of both a classroom presentation that included preserving, collecting, and packaging latent print evidence and a practical workshop where the students practiced latent print recovery techniques for fire scenes. The training was well received and valuable. Participants felt it was definitely worth attending and said that an expanded class with an all-day module on the subject would be nice. **”**



**Craig Muller CFI, Unit Supervisor
King County Sheriff's Office/Criminal Investigations Division
Arson/Fire Investigation Unit**

Photography Services

The King County Sheriff's Office and SPD Photo Laboratories provide digital and film photography as well as processing and print production for forensic, crime scene, and public relation purposes. They train officers and examiners on crime scene and evidence photography. Although the AFIS levy does not fund these units, it provides supplemental funding due to the high volume of latent photography work performed for the AFIS Program.



Customer Support & Training

The Customer Support and Training workgroup provides technical instruction and helpdesk support for all AFIS and Livescan customers in King County. It organizes fingerprint related training for officers and examiners, facilitates communication among stakeholders throughout the county, and coordinates community events.



Program & Project Management

Program management oversees daily operations, acquisitions, budget, maintenance, and use of fingerprint technology and networks throughout the county. The project management team ensures compliance with state and national industry standards, administers the completion of program initiatives, and responds to issues in the ever-changing biometric and forensic disciplines.





Information Contacting AFIS

King County Regional AFIS

516 Third Avenue
Room 1A-04
Seattle, WA 98104

Connect with us:

206-263-2700
TTY Relay: 711
afis@kingcounty.gov

Customer Support & Training

206-263-2723

The AFIS Program would like to thank the individuals who contributed to this report, including program staff, the AFIS Advisory Committee, and those who shared their experiences and success stories.

Want More Information?

Come visit our website at
www.kingcounty.gov/afis

Writer/Designer: Leesha Wilson, AFIS

Editors: Carol Gillespie, Diana Watkins, Michele Triplett, and Patty Klopp, AFIS

Financial Report: Doug Palmer, King County Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget

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This report is available in alternate formats

King County Regional AFIS

516 Third Avenue, Rm 1A-04 | Seattle, WA 98104 | 206-263-2700



King County

