

## **HIDALGO COUNTY JUDGE'S OFFICE GRANT PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT**

The County Judge's Office has identified funding under the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) for Anti-Gang Initiatives and other grants to assist in reducing our Truancy rate. Grant Applications are being submitted to request supplemental funding for the on-going S.T.O.P. (Stop Truancy on Patrol) program administered by Constable Gallardo, Pct. 3. Another application is being submitted to assist the Sheriff's Office acquire a Crime Scene Processing Van to combat gang violence.

The formula-based grants from the Bureau of Justice Assistance are awarded to the Southern District of Texas based on population and criterion prescribed by legislation. The Project Safe Neighborhoods Program aims to implement: partnerships, strategic planning, training, outreach, and accountability. Anti-Gang awards will be based on the impact of gang violence within our community and measured by the same legislative criterion.

No match is being required for these grants; however, utilizing these funds to supplement existing county activities will be seen favorably by the Department of Justice. These monies cannot be used to replace local funds already appropriated for the same purpose, but may assist in subsidizing the cost of our programs and/or help the county acquire necessary equipment to implement law enforcement initiatives.

Total funding available for PSN Programs in the Southern District is approximately \$928,000.00 for all projects. The County Judge's Office is applying for an estimated \$300,000.00 grant to purchase the Crime Scene Processing Van; in addition, another request of approximately \$ 110,000.00 is being submitted to the Bureau of Justice Assistance to supplement salaries of law enforcement officials targeting our local truancy problem in collaboration with several school districts.

We thank the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court for lending us your consideration and support on these initiatives. Statistical information in this regard will be provided by the County Judge's Office upon request.