

# TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

5805 N. LAMAR BLVD • BOX 4087 • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78773-0001

512/424-2000

[www.txdps.state.tx.us](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us)



THOMAS A. DAVIS, JR.  
DIRECTOR

DAVID McEATHRON  
ASST. DIRECTOR



COMMISSION  
ERNEST ANGELO, JR.  
CHAIRMAN

Allan B. Polunsky  
Elizabeth Anderson  
COMMISSIONERS

February 29, 2008

Dear Judge:

This letter is to advise you of the availability of the FY 2008 Operation Stonegarden (OPSG-08) grant program from the U.S Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for counties directly on the U.S. – Mexico border in Texas. OPSG-08 will provide funding to eligible localities to enhance cooperation and coordination between law enforcement agencies in a joint mission to secure the United States borders.

The OPSG-08 grant can be used for law enforcement overtime and certain law enforcement operating expenses while participating in border security operations approved by DHS. OPSG-8 grant funds can also be used to purchase or replace eligible law enforcement equipment. Grant funds cannot be used to hire additional law enforcement officers. As with most federal grants, there are a host of terms and conditions attached to the grant that limit what grant funds can be used for. There are also some uncertainties about several provisions of the grant which we have requested that DHS clarify.

Only counties may apply for OPSG-08 and they may include the local Sheriff's Office, other county level law enforcement agencies, as well as municipal police departments within the county in their grant application. This is a competitive grant with \$60 million in grant funds available for award nationwide. Texas applicants will be competing with counties along the U.S. northern and southern border. Funding allocations will be determined by an assessment of risk, the Budget Narrative that applicants must provide with their grant applications and the Operations Order that applicants develop in coordination with the local Customs and Border Protection staff.

OPSG-08 grant applications from counties are due to the State Administrative Agency at the Division of Emergency Management by April 1. The State must submit its consolidated set of county grant applications and supporting documents to DHS by May 1. We anticipate DHS will announce awards in July or August. The period of performance for the grant will be up to 36 months.

Please see the attachments to this letter, which include the DHS Grant Guidance and Application Kit and forms that will assist you in applying for this grant. Pages 13 and 14 of the DHS Guidance and Application Kit outline eligible and ineligible expenses. Attachment OPSG-08 is an electronic spreadsheet that you may use to build a budget.

I encourage you to take advantage of this grant program.

Sincerely,

Jack Colley,  
Chief

Cc: County Sheriff

Attachments:

1. OPSG-08 Form A1 Local Application
2. OPSG-08 Form A-2 Designation of Grant Officials
3. OPSG-08 Form A-3 Application of Federal Assistance
4. OPSG-08 Form A-4 Budget Worksheet
5. OPSG-08 Form A-5 Assurances and Certifications
6. FY 08 OPSG Guidance
7. OPSG 08 Appendix A
8. OPSG 08 Appendix B
9. Form 74-176 Direct Deposit Form