



**Department of Justice**

Office of Justice Programs

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Office of the Assistant Attorney General

*Washington, D.C. 20531*

September 15, 2008

The Honorable J.D. Salinas  
Hidalgo County  
100 North Closner  
Edinburg, TX 78540

Dear Judge Salinas:

On behalf of Attorney General Michael B. Mukasey, it is my pleasure to inform you that the Office of Justice Programs has approved your application for funding under the OJJDP FY 08 Earmarks Programs in the amount of \$491,892 for Hidalgo County.

Enclosed you will find the Grant Award and Special Conditions documents. This award is subject to all administrative and financial requirements, including the timely submission of all financial and programmatic reports, resolution of all interim audit findings, and the maintenance of a minimum level of cash-on-hand. Should you not adhere to these requirements, you will be in violation of the terms of this agreement and the award will be subject to termination for cause or other administrative action as appropriate.

If you have questions regarding this award, please contact:

- Program Questions, Mark Morgan, Program Manager at (202) 353-9243; and
- Financial Questions, the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, Customer Service Center (CSC) at (800) 458-0786, or you may contact the CSC at [ask.ocfo@usdoj.gov](mailto:ask.ocfo@usdoj.gov).

Congratulations, and we look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeffrey L. Sedgwick".

Jeffrey L. Sedgwick  
Acting Assistant Attorney General

Enclosures



**Department of Justice**  
Office of Justice Programs  
Office for Civil Rights

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Washington, D.C. 20531

September 15, 2008

The Honorable J.D. Salinas  
Hidalgo County  
100 North Closner  
Edinburg, TX 78540

Dear Judge Salinas:

Congratulations on your recent award. In establishing financial assistance programs, Congress linked the receipt of Federal funding to compliance with Federal civil rights laws. The Office for Civil Rights (OCR), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), U.S. Department of Justice is responsible for ensuring that recipients of financial aid from OJP, its component offices and bureaus, the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), and the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) comply with applicable Federal civil rights statutes and regulations. We at OCR are available to help you and your organization meet the civil rights requirements that come with Justice Department funding.

**Ensuring Access to Federally Assisted Programs**

As you know, Federal laws prohibit recipients of financial assistance from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, or disability in funded programs or activities, not only in respect to employment practices but also in the delivery of services or benefits. Federal law also prohibits funded programs or activities from discriminating on the basis of age in the delivery of services or benefits.

**Providing Services to Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Individuals**

In accordance with Department of Justice Guidance pertaining to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d, recipients of Federal financial assistance must take reasonable steps to provide meaningful access to their programs and activities for persons with limited English proficiency (LEP). For more information on the civil rights responsibilities that recipients have in providing language services to LEP individuals, please see the website at <http://www.lep.gov>.

**Ensuring Equal Treatment for Faith-Based Organizations**

The Department of Justice has published a regulation specifically pertaining to the funding of faith-based organizations. In general, the regulation, Participation in Justice Department Programs by Religious Organizations; Providing for Equal Treatment of all Justice Department Program Participants, and known as the Equal Treatment Regulation 28 C.F.R. part 38, requires State Administering Agencies to treat these organizations the same as any other applicant or recipient. The regulation prohibits State Administering Agencies from making award or grant administration decisions on the basis of an organization's religious character or affiliation, religious name, or the religious composition of its board of directors.

The regulation also prohibits faith-based organizations from using financial assistance from the Department of Justice to fund inherently religious activities. While faith-based organizations can engage in non-funded inherently religious activities, they must be held separately from the Department of Justice funded program, and customers or beneficiaries cannot be compelled to participate in them. The Equal Treatment Regulation also makes clear that organizations participating in programs funded by the Department of Justice are not permitted to discriminate in the provision of services on the basis of a beneficiary's religion. For more information on the regulation, please see OCR's website at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ocr/etfbo.htm>.

State Administering Agencies and faith-based organizations should also note that the Safe Streets Act, as amended; the Victims of Crime Act, as amended; and the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, as amended, contain prohibitions against discrimination on the basis of religion in employment. Despite these nondiscrimination provisions, the Justice Department has concluded that the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) is reasonably construed, on a case-by-case basis, to require that its funding agencies permit faith-based organizations applying for funding under the applicable program statutes both to receive DOJ funds and to continue considering religion when hiring staff, even if the statute that authorizes the funding program generally forbids considering of religion in employment decisions by grantees.

Questions about the regulation or the application of RFRA to the statutes that prohibit discrimination in employment may be directed to this Office.

## Enforcing Civil Rights Laws

All recipients of Federal financial assistance, regardless of the particular funding source, the amount of the grant award, or the number of employees in the workforce, are subject to the prohibitions against unlawful discrimination. Accordingly, OCR investigates recipients that are the subject of discrimination complaints from both individuals and groups. In addition, based on regulatory criteria, OCR selects a number of recipients each year for compliance reviews, audits that require recipients to submit data showing that they are providing services equitably to all segments of their service population and that their employment practices meet equal employment opportunity standards.

## Complying with the Safe Streets Act or Program Requirements

In addition to these general prohibitions, an organization which is a recipient of financial assistance subject to the nondiscrimination provisions of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act (Safe Streets Act) of 1968, 42 U.S.C. § 3789d(c), or other Federal grant program requirements, must meet two additional requirements: (1) complying with Federal regulations pertaining to the development of an Equal Employment Opportunity Plan (EEOP), 28 C.F.R. § 42.301-.308, and (2) submitting to OCR Findings of Discrimination (see 28 C.F.R. §§ 42.205(5) or 31.202(5)).

### 1) Meeting the EEOP Requirement

In accordance with Federal regulations, Assurance No. 6 in the Standard Assurances, COPS Assurance No. 8.B, or certain Federal grant program requirements, your organization must comply with the following EEOP reporting requirements:

If your organization has received an award for \$500,000 or more and has 50 or more employees (counting both full- and part-time employees but excluding political appointees), then it has to prepare an EEOP and submit it to OCR for review **within 60 days from the date of this letter**. For assistance in developing an EEOP, please consult OCR's website at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ocr/eeop.htm>. You may also request technical assistance from an EEOP specialist at OCR by dialing (202) 616-3208.

If your organization received an award between \$25,000 and \$500,000 and has 50 or more employees, your organization still has to prepare an EEOP, but it does not have to submit the EEOP to OCR for review. Instead, your organization has to maintain the EEOP on file and make it available for review on request. In addition, your organization has to complete Section B of the Certification Form and return it to OCR. The Certification Form can be found at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ocr/eeop.htm>.

If your organization received an award for less than \$25,000; or if your organization has less than 50 employees, regardless of the amount of the award; or if your organization is a medical institution, educational institution, nonprofit organization or Indian tribe, then your organization is exempt from the EEOP requirement. However, your organization must complete Section A of the Certification Form and return it to OCR. The Certification Form can be found at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ocr/eeop.htm>.

### 2) Submitting Findings of Discrimination

In the event a Federal or State court or Federal or State administrative agency makes an adverse finding of discrimination against your organization after a due process hearing, on the ground of race, color, religion, national origin, or sex, your organization must submit a copy of the finding to OCR for review.

## Ensuring the Compliance of Subrecipients

If your organization makes subawards to other agencies, you are responsible for assuring that subrecipients also comply with all of the applicable Federal civil rights laws, including the requirements pertaining to developing and submitting an EEOP, reporting Findings of Discrimination, and providing language services to LEP persons. State agencies that make subawards must have in place standard grant assurances and review procedures to demonstrate that they are effectively monitoring the civil rights compliance of subrecipients.

If we can assist you in any way in fulfilling your civil rights responsibilities as a recipient of Federal funding, please call OCR at (202) 307-0690 or visit our website at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ocr/>.

Sincerely,



Michael L. Alston  
Director

cc: Grant Manager  
Financial Analyst



Department of Justice  
Office of Justice Programs  
**Office of Juvenile Justice and  
Delinquency Prevention**

**Grant**

1. RECIPIENT NAME AND ADDRESS (Including Zip Code) Hidalgo County 100 North Closner Edinburg, TX 78540		4. AWARD NUMBER: 2008-JL-FX-0556	
		5. PROJECT PERIOD: FROM 08/01/2008 TO 07/31/2010 BUDGET PERIOD: FROM 08/01/2008 TO 07/31/2010	
		6. AWARD DATE 09/15/2008	7. ACTION  Initial
1A. GRANTEE IRS/VENDOR NO. 746000717	8. SUPPLEMENT NUMBER 00		
		9. PREVIOUS AWARD AMOUNT \$ 0	
3. PROJECT TITLE OJJDP Hidalgo County Truancy Program		10. AMOUNT OF THIS AWARD \$ 491,892	
		11. TOTAL AWARD \$ 491,892	
12. SPECIAL CONDITIONS THE ABOVE GRANT PROJECT IS APPROVED SUBJECT TO SUCH CONDITIONS OR LIMITATIONS AS ARE SET FORTH ON THE ATTACHED PAGE(S).			
13. STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR GRANT This project is supported under Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 2002, 42 USC 5665-5667			
15. METHOD OF PAYMENT PAPRS			
[REDACTED] AGENCY APPROVAL [REDACTED]		[REDACTED] GRANTEE ACCEPTANCE [REDACTED]	
16. TYPED NAME AND TITLE OF APPROVING OFFICIAL Jeffrey L. Sedgwick Acting Assistant Attorney General		18. TYPED NAME AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZED GRANTEE OFFICIAL J.D. Salinas Judge	
17. SIGNATURE OF APPROVING OFFICIAL 		19. SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED RECIPIENT OFFICIAL	19A. DATE
[REDACTED] AGENCY USE ONLY [REDACTED]			
20. ACCOUNTING CLASSIFICATION CODES FISCAL FUND BUD. DIV. YEAR CODE ACT. OFC. REG. SUB. POMS AMOUNT X F JL 70 00 00 491892		21. HJLTGT1628	



Department of Justice  
Office of Justice Programs  
**Office of Juvenile Justice and  
Delinquency Prevention**

**AWARD CONTINUATION  
SHEET  
Grant**

PAGE 2 OF 2

PROJECT NUMBER 2008-JL-FX-0556

AWARD DATE 09/15/2008

*SPECIAL CONDITIONS*

1. The recipient agrees to comply with the financial and administrative requirements set forth in the current edition of the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) Financial Guide.
2. The recipient acknowledges that failure to submit an acceptable Equal Employment Opportunity Plan (if recipient is required to submit one pursuant to 28 C.F.R. Section 42.302), that is approved by the Office for Civil Rights, is a violation of its Certified Assurances and may result in suspension or termination of funding, until such time as the recipient is in compliance.
3. The recipient agrees to comply with the organizational audit requirements of OMB Circular A-133, Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations, as further described in the current edition of the OJP Financial Guide, Chapter 19.
4. Recipient understands and agrees that it cannot use any federal funds, either directly or indirectly, in support of the enactment, repeal, modification or adoption of any law, regulation or policy, at any level of government, without the express prior written approval of OJP.
5. The recipient agrees to submit quarterly financial status reports to the Office of Justice Programs using Standard Form SF 269A on the Internet at <https://grants.ojp.usdoj.gov>. These reports shall be submitted on-line not later than 45 days after the end of each calendar quarter. The final report shall be submitted not later than 90 days following the end of the grant period.
6. The recipient shall submit semiannual progress reports. Progress reports shall be submitted within 30 days after the end of the reporting periods, which are June 30 and December 31, for the life of the award. These reports will be submitted to the Office of Justice Programs, on line-through the Internet at <https://grants.ojp.usdoj.gov/>.
7. The recipient agrees to report data on the grantee's OJJDP-approved performance measures as part of the semi-annual categorical progress report. This data will be submitted on line at OJJDP's Performance Measures website (<http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/grantees/pm/index.html>) by July 31 and January 31 each year for the duration of the award. Once data entry is complete, the grantee will be able to create and download a "Performance Measures Data Report." This document is to be included as an attachment to the grantee's narrative categorical assistance progress report submitted on GMS for each reporting period.
8. No portion of these federal grant funds shall be used towards any part of the annual cash compensation of any employee of the grantee whose total annual cash compensation exceeds 110% of the maximum salary payable to a member of the Federal government's Senior Executive Service at an agency with a Certified SES Performance Appraisal System for that year.
9. The recipient is authorized to incur travel costs and draw down funds in an amount not to exceed \$3,000 for the purpose of attending the New Grantee Training in Washington, DC. The grantee is not authorized any additional expenditures, obligations, or withdrawals until the Office of the Chief Financial Officer has reviewed and approved its budget and budget narrative, and a Grant Adjustment Notice has been issued to remove this Special Condition.



**Department of Justice**

Office of Justice Programs

*Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention*

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Washington, D.C. 20531

**Memorandum To:** Official Grant File

**From:** Kathi Grasso, OJJDP NEPA Coordinator

**Subject:** Categorical Exclusion for Hidalgo County

The recipient agrees to assist OJJDP to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other related federal environmental impact analyses requirements in the use of these grant funds either directly by the recipient or by a subrecipient. Accordingly, prior to obligating grant funds, the grantee agrees to first determine if any of the following activities will be related to the use of the grant funds and, if so, to advise OJJDP and request further NEPA implementation guidance. Recipient understands that this special condition applies to its activities whether or not they are being specifically funded with these grant funds. That is, as long as the activity is being conducted by the recipient, a subrecipient, or any third party and the activity needs to be undertaken in order to use these grant funds, this special condition must first be met. The activities covered by this special condition are: a. new construction; b. minor renovation or remodeling of a property either; (1) listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places or; (2) located within a 100-year flood plain; c. a renovation, lease, or any other proposed use of a building or facility that will either; (1) result in a change in its basic prior use or; (2) significantly change its size and; d. Implementation of a new program involving the use of chemicals other than chemicals that are; (1) purchased as an incidental component of a funded activity and; (2) traditionally used, for example, in office, household, recreational, or education environments.



Department of Justice  
Office of Justice Programs  
Office of Juvenile Justice and  
Delinquency Prevention

**GRANT MANAGER'S MEMORANDUM, PT. I:  
PROJECT SUMMARY**

**Grant**

PROJECT NUMBER

2008-JL-FX-0556

PAGE 1 OF 1

This project is supported under Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 2002, 42 USC 5665-5667

1. STAFF CONTACT (Name & telephone number)

Mark Morgan  
(202) 353-9243

2. PROJECT DIRECTOR (Name, address & telephone number)

Mary Palacios  
Honorable  
100 E. Cano St., 2nd Floor  
Edinburg, TX 78539-4548  
(956) 605-1155

3a. TITLE OF THE PROGRAM

OJJDP FY 08 Earmarks Programs

3b. POMS CODE (SEE INSTRUCTIONS  
ON REVERSE)

4. TITLE OF PROJECT

OJJDP Hidalgo County Truancy Program

5. NAME & ADDRESS OF GRANTEE

Hidalgo County  
100 North Closner  
Edinburg, TX 78540

6. NAME & ADDRESS OF SUBGRANTEE

7. PROGRAM PERIOD

FROM: 08/01/2008 TO: 07/31/2010

8. BUDGET PERIOD

FROM: 08/01/2008 TO: 07/31/2010

9. AMOUNT OF AWARD

\$ 491,892

10. DATE OF AWARD

09/15/2008

11. SECOND YEAR'S BUDGET

12. SECOND YEAR'S BUDGET AMOUNT

13. THIRD YEAR'S BUDGET PERIOD

14. THIRD YEAR'S BUDGET AMOUNT

15. SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT (See instruction on reverse)

The County of Hidalgo is requesting assistance to increase services to the community, school districts, students and parents in response to the growing truancy problem. With these additional funds, new personnel will be added to expedite and expand the truancy program. Also these funds will be utilized in the development of a database to track the juvenile's progress and attendance records. As the program continues to develop, its anticipated that the school districts will elect to continue this valuable program that this grant will have helped expand. It is believed that these resources Hidalgo County (through the Truancy Program) will be able to intervene on behalf of the students and assist them in getting the vital education they need. The goals of the program are: 1) To develop a database to track students attendance; 2) Monitor students attendance; To communicate with parents regarding their children's attendance and 3) To provide joint trainings for students and parents.

The data collected will be the increase in the student's attendance before and after the enrollment in the program and the number of referrals made for truancy and other behavioral problems. NCA/NCF