



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Washington, D.C. 20531

May 29, 2008

Dear **Judge Salinas**:

As identified in the Conference Report accompanying the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008 P.L. 110-161 the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) is inviting "**Hidalgo County, TX, Truancy Program**" to submit an application for funding. The original award amount of \$517,000 is reduced by Management and Administration (M&A) for the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) for a final award amount of **\$491,892**. Please use this final award amount in your application.

OJJDP requires that applications for funding be submitted through the Internet using the Office of Justice Programs online Grants Management System (GMS). The attached Application Solicitation contains instructions for submitting your application through GMS, including details about the required content and format of the application. **Your application should be submitted under "OJJDP FY08 Earmarks Programs."** You should plan on a start date for your earmark funded project of August 1, 2008, or later. This is to allow time for OJJDP to review and approve your budget and project plans, and to work with you on any changes that are necessary.

There are two important steps when submitting an online application through GMS:

- Start your application under "OJJDP FY08 Earmarks Programs" in GMS immediately.
- Submit your application attachments in GMS by **June 19, 2008**.

Again, the enclosed Application Solicitation provides instructions for using GMS. OJJDP's GMS Specialist Al Roddy can assist you with the GMS process: 202-616-4506. Also, a GMS toll-free hotline (1-888-549-9901) is available as well for applicants requiring technical assistance.

Please note that applicants receiving grant funds of at least \$45,000 must include in the budget funds to support up to 2 staff to travel to Washington, DC for a 3 day grantee training meeting to be held in Fall 2008. Applicants should budget \$1,500 per person (i.e. airfare per person (\$500), meals and incidentals (\$50 x 4 days) and days lodging per day (\$200 x 4 days) to attend the training and record this as part of the Travel line item in the budget. This meeting will provide grantees training on programmatic and financial reporting; reporting performance measures under the Data Collection and Technical Assistance Tool (DCTAT); and using the Grants Management System (GMS). In addition, grantees will receive information on OJJDP's Socioeconomic Mapping Resource Topography (SMART) system; the Helping America's Youth (HAY) Strategies and Tools for Communities to Help Youth; and OJJDP's Model Programs Guide.

I hope that this information is helpful in preparing your application for funding. If you have any questions or need further information, please telephone **Mark Morgan** at **202-353-9243**.

Sincerely,

Jeff Slowikowski

Associate Administrator, Demonstration Programs Division