

Office of the Attorney General
Request for Applications (RFA) for the
Victim Coordinator and Liaison Grant (VCLG) Program

The Crime Victim Services Division (CVSD) of the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) is soliciting applications for projects that provide victim-related services or assistance. The purpose of the OAG VCLG program is to fund the victim assistance coordinator and crime victim liaison positions for the purposes set forth in the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Article 56.04.

Applicable Funding Source for VCLG: The Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Article 56.541(e) authorizes the OAG to use money appropriated from the Texas Compensation to Victims of Crime Fund for grants or contracts supporting victim-related services or assistance. All funding is contingent upon an appropriation to the OAG by the Texas Legislature. The OAG makes no commitment that an application, once submitted, or a grant, once funded, will receive subsequent funding.

Eligibility Requirements:

Eligible Applicants: A local criminal prosecutor, defined as a district attorney, a criminal district attorney, a county attorney with felony responsibility, or a county attorney who prosecutes criminal cases, may apply for a grant to fund the position of a victim assistance coordinator (VAC). A local law enforcement agency, defined as the police department of a municipality or the sheriff's department of any county, may apply for a grant to fund the position of crime victim liaison (CVL).

Eligibility: The OAG will initially screen each application for eligibility. Applications will be deemed ineligible if the application is submitted by an ineligible applicant; the application is not filed in the manner and form required by the Application Kit; the application is filed after the deadline established in the Application Kit; or the application does not meet other requirements as stated in the RFA and the Application Kit.

How to Obtain Application Kit: The OAG will post the Application Kit on the OAG's official agency website at <http://www.oag.state.tx.us/victims/grants.shtml>. Updates and other helpful reminders about the application process will also be posted at this location. Potential applicants are encouraged to refer to this site regularly.

Deadlines and Filing Instructions for the Grant Application:

Registration Deadline: The deadline to complete registration is 5:00 p.m. CST March 27, 2009. On-line registration is required to apply for a VCLG. **If registration is not completed by the deadline, then an Application will not be accepted and is not eligible for funding.** To register go to: <http://www.oag.state.tx.us/victims/grants.shtml>.

Application Deadline: The applicant must submit its application, including all required attachments, to the OAG and the OAG must receive the submitted application and all required attachments by 5:00 p.m. CST April 22, 2009 to be considered timely filed.

Filing Instructions: To meet the deadline, the Application must be submitted by **both hard copy and email**. An Application will be considered timely filed when the OAG receives the paper (hard copies) and the electronic (email) of the Application including any required attachments in the following ways by the required deadline:

1. Hard copies – Via a Next Day Air Overnight Delivery Service:

- The Applicant must use a Next Day Air Overnight Delivery Service that tracks its deliveries. Submission by Next Day Air Overnight Delivery Service ensures that your Application can be tracked.
- The Applicant must submit one (1) original and three (3) copies of the Application including any required attachments.
- The Application should be printed on 8.5 x 11 inch paper. Separate each Application with a binder clip. Do not staple or otherwise bind Applications.
- The Application must be sent to the following address:

CVS GRANTS APPLICATIONS – MC 005
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
300 W 15TH ST RM 102
AUSTIN, TX 78701-1649

- **The OAG cannot accept Applications submitted in other formats, including walk-in, hand delivery or same day courier service.**

2. Email copies:

- The Applicant must submit the Excel workbook by email.
- The Excel workbook must be sent to the following email address:
CVSGrantsApplications@oag.state.tx.us
- An auto-reply message will be generated by the OAG for email received at this address. If the Applicant does not receive an auto-reply message, they are strongly encouraged to contact the OAG immediately at (512) 936-1278.

The OAG will **not** consider an Application if it is not filed by the due date, 5:00 pm CST on April 22, 2009.

Minimum and Maximum Amounts of Funding Available: The minimum amount of funding a program may apply for is \$20,000 per fiscal year. The maximum amount a program may apply for is \$39,000 per fiscal year.

Start Date and Length of Grant Contract Period: The grant contract period (term) is up to two years from September 1, 2009 through August 31, 2011, subject to and contingent on funding and/or approval by the OAG.

No Match or Volunteer Requirements: There are no match or volunteer requirements for VCLG projects.

Award Criteria: The OAG will make funding decisions that support the efficient and effective use of public funds. Scoring components will include, but are not limited to, information provided by the applicant on the proposed project activities and budget.

VCLG Purpose Area: All VCLG projects must be used for victim assistance coordinator and/or crime victim liaison positions for the purposes set forth in Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Article 56.04.

Staffing: All VCLG projects must:

- (a) Include one VAC or CVL position working at least 20 hours per week or two positions working at least 10 hours each per week in the applicant's budget.
- (b) Include at least 75% of the applicant's budget in the personnel and fringe budget categories.

Preference: The OAG reserves the right to consider all other appropriations or funding an applicant currently receives when making funding decisions. The OAG may give priority to applicants that do not receive other sources of funding, including funding that originates from the Texas Compensation to Victims of Crime Fund. The OAG reserves the right to give priority to programs that provide direct victim services with grant funds, that provide information and education about victims' rights in their community, or that utilize volunteers in providing services. The OAG reserves the right to give priority to programs that provide services in certain geographic or programmatic areas. The OAG may award Other Victim Assistance Grant (OVAG) funds to programs that would otherwise be eligible for funding under the VCLG program.

Prohibitions on Use of Grant Funds: OAG grant funds may not be used to support or pay the costs of overtime, out-of-state travel, dues, or lobbying; any portion of the salary or any other compensation for an elected government official; the purchase of food and beverages except as allowed under Texas State Travel Guidelines; the purchase or lease of vehicles; the purchase of promotional items or recreational activities; costs of travel that are unrelated to the direct delivery of services that support the OAG funded program; the costs for consultants or vendors who participate directly in writing a grant application; or for any unallowable costs set forth in applicable state or federal law, rules, regulations, guidelines, policies, procedures or cost principles. Grant funds may not be used to purchase any other products or services the OAG identifies as inappropriate or unallowable within this RFA or the Application Kit.

OAG Contact Person: If additional information is needed, contact Jennifer McShane at CVSGrantsApplications@oag.state.tx.us or (512) 936-1278.