



COUNTY OF EL PASO
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY AUDITOR

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11-43

November 24, 2009

Mr. Ray Eufracio, County Auditor
Hidalgo County
P.O. Box 689
Edinburg, Texas 78540-0689

Dear Mr. Eufracio:

The Office of the Governor of the State of Texas will soon be awarding a \$4,000,000 grant to the El Paso County District Attorney's Office, whose fiscal agent will be the County of El Paso. This grant is funded for disbursement under the trusted programs within the Office of the Governor for prosecution resources for districts statewide. A number of your district attorney's have called concerning the status of the grant application and the availability of funds to pay for expenses relating to the Border Prosecutor initiative.

Under the structure recommended by the Criminal Justice Division (CJD) of the Governor's office, El Paso County will be the administering County. Each of the 15 participating jurisdictions (other than El Paso County) are to be considered as subcontracting agencies. We will work from a reimbursement model, on a quarterly basis. The fiscal year began on October 1, 2009, so the first quarter expenses you incur will be billed to El Paso County after December 31, 2009. We have spoken to program staff at CJD and have received assurance that the grant award will be retroactive to cover costs incurred from October 1, 2009 forward. Your District Attorney's office will be entitled to be reimbursed for expenses incurred under the program beginning October 1, 2009.

Each of the 15 "sub-recipient jurisdictions" will need to file a budget for the funds with the El Paso County Auditor. These budgets should identify your expenditures in three categories; personnel, operating (travel, phone, office expense, etc.) and equipment. The amount of the budget reimbursable by the Governor's office grant may not exceed \$100,000/fiscal year per district. Any budgets submitted that exceed this amount are advised that costs exceeding \$100,000/fiscal year will not be reimbursed and are local responsibility.

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Each request for reimbursement will be submitted to the local county auditor who would certify that the expenses have been incurred and ensure that adequate supporting documentation exists and is remitted to the El Paso office on a quarterly basis. I have attached a draft Memorandum of Understanding between each agency.

The Border Prosecutors Unit will be meeting next week in Ft. Worth to discuss any pending issues, approve the budgets, approve the grant application and adopt policies for the use and oversight of these funds. I will provide each of you with an update after next week's meetings as well as upon receipt of the actual grant award.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Mr. Wallace Hardgrove at ext. 3481, whardgrove@epcounty.com, or me.

Sincerely,



Edward A. Dion
County Auditor

Attachment