



TEXAS INDIGENT DEFENSE COMMISSION

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Executive Director:
James D. Bethke

April 8, 2014

The Honorable Ramon Garcia
Hidalgo County Judge

PO Box 1356

Edinburg, TX 78540

VIA E-Mail: yolanda.chapa@co.hidalgo.tx.us

Re: Notice to Proceed on FY2015 Discretionary Grant Application Hidalgo County – New Multi-year

Dear Judge Garcia,

Hidalgo County may proceed with completing the requirements of the full FY2015 Discretionary Grant proposal titled **Hidalgo County Public Defender's Office - Capital Murder Section**. The Intent to Submit Application (ISA) was submitted in accordance with the posted rules and timeframe by Jaime E Gonzalez at 3/12/2014 11:02:00 AM, Confirmation Number D201510820140312.. The Discretionary Grant Program is a competitive grant. This letter does not guarantee funding but allows the county to proceed to develop the full proposal, or Tier Two phase, as outlined in the FY15 Requests for Applications (RFA).

Hidalgo County must complete the **online application** on or before **5:00 PM on May 9, 2014**, at <http://tidc.tamu.edu>. Also, the **Resolution/Internet Submission Form** must be approved by the Commissioners Court, signed by the presiding official, scanned & emailed to TIDC before **May 9, 2014**. Any other **letters of support** or other documents supporting the final application should also be scanned and emailed by **May 9, 2014**. Please label these files carefully to avoid delays in the review process.

The Intent to Submit Application was consistent with the RFA and was determined to have met one or more of the listed priorities. Please consider the following suggestions and address any relevant issues when writing the full proposal:

- 1) Carefully review the RFA and meet the requirements specified.
- 2) Develop a full budget with a narrative that supports the activities described. Any item listed in the budget but not described in the activities section cannot be considered.
- 3) Hidalgo County must certify that an acceptable number of the local judiciary hearing capital cases will participate in the implementation of the final application. Please

review Attachment B-Cooperation Agreement on page 13 of the RFA.

- 4) The Commission has provided a significant amount of resources for defense of capital cases. Hidalgo County must coordinate with the leadership of the Lubbock County Regional Public Defender—as well as other Capital Murder defense programs around the state such as Dallas County and El Paso public defender offices—to develop the final application for this program.
- 5) Fully describe the phases involved in the development and implementation processes. Please be realistic in planning for the implementation of the project.
- 6) Please review the “Public Defender Offices and Direct Client Services” section of Attachment C-Required Program Elements on page 15 of the RFA. Be sure to include any required elements described in this section in the activities portion of the final application.
- 7) The evaluation for multi-year grants is comprised of milestones and accomplishments, measured activities and impact measures. Please provide details about how the program will be measured including hiring policies, operational procedure manual, caseload and amendments to Indigent Defense plans.
- 8) Please be sure to include the minimum qualifications of the new section’s managing attorney in the application.
- 9) Data Collection Agreements (see page 7 of the RFA) must be put into place before the start of the program and must accompany the full proposal.
- 10) TIDC staff is available to assist with the application and planning of this program. If you would like to schedule a site visit or discuss the application, please contact us.

Please call—toll free in Texas at (866) 499-0656—if you have any questions about the application process. You may also call my direct line at 512-936-6996.

Sincerely,



Bryan Wilson
Grants Administrator

Copy VIA E-MAIL:

The Honorable Bobby Flores: runbobbyrun@yahoo.com

The Honorable Aida Salinas Flores: aida398@aol.com

Mr. Jaime E Gonzalez: jimmy.gonzalez@co.hidalgo.tx.us