

Request for Applications – Specialty Court Programs

The Criminal Justice Division (CJD) of the Governor's Office is soliciting competitive applications for projects that support eligible specialty court programs during the state fiscal year 2016 grant cycle.

Purpose: The purpose of the program is to support specialty courts as defined in Chapter 121 of the Texas Government Code, which incorporate the essential characteristics of:

- 1) Family Drug Court Programs from Chapter 122 of the Texas Government Code;
- 2) Drug Court Programs from Chapter 123 of the Texas Government Code;
- 3) Veterans Court Programs from Chapter 124 of the Texas Government Code; or
- 4) Mental Health Court Programs from Chapter 125 of the Texas Government Code.

Available Funding: This solicitation may be funded from the following state funding sources:

- 1) Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Section 102.0178 authorizes state funding for the purpose of funding drug courts and designates CJD as the administering agency. Funds received under this article are deposited to the credit of the specialty court account in the general revenue fund.
- 2) Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Section 102.056 and Texas Government Code, Section 772.006 authorize the use of state funds to support criminal justice projects including specialty courts, and designate CJD as the administering agency. The source of funding is a biennial appropriation by the Texas Legislature from funds collected through court costs and fees. All awards are subject to the availability of funds appropriated by the Texas Legislature for the 2016-2017 biennium.

Funding Levels:

Minimum: \$10,000

Maximum: None

Match Requirement: None

Standards: Grantees must comply with the standards applicable to this funding source cited in the *Texas Administrative Code* (1 TAC Chapter 3), and all statutes, requirements, and guidelines applicable to this funding.

Prohibitions: Grant funds may not be used to support the following services, activities, and costs:

- 1) inherently religious activities such as prayer, worship, religious instruction, or proselytization;
- 2) lobbying;
- 3) vehicles or equipment for government agencies that are for general agency use;
- 4) weapons, ammunition, explosives or military vehicles;
- 5) admission fees or tickets to any amusement park, recreational activity or sporting event;
- 6) promotional gifts;
- 7) food, meals, beverages, or other refreshments;
- 8) membership dues for individuals;
- 9) any expense or service that is readily available at no cost to the grant project or that is provided by other federal, state or local funds (e.g., supplanting);
- 10) fundraising;
- 11) construction, remodeling or renovation;
- 12) medical services;
- 13) transportation, lodging, per diem or any related costs for participants when grant funds are used to develop and conduct training; and
- 14) Any other prohibition imposed by federal, state, or local law.

Eligible Applicants:

- 1) Counties; and
- 2) Judicial districts

Eligibility Requirements:

- 1) Pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 123.006, counties with populations of more than 200,000 are required to establish a drug court.
- 2) The court must be registered with CJD as required in the Texas Government Code, Section 121.002, and must maintain a current registration throughout the grant period.

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- 3) The court must also be registered with the Texas Department of State Health Services, Clinical Management for Behavioral Health Services database. Information about registration procedures may be accessed at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/cmbhs/default.shtm>.
- 4) The presiding judge of a drug court funded through this program must be an active judge holding elective office, an associate judge or magistrate assigned to preside over drug court, or a retired judge available as a sitting judge.
- 5) Any portion of fees collected from program participants and retained by the grantee is considered generated program income (GPI) and must be applied to the grant through a grant adjustment. GPI must be used to offset project costs and must be expended prior to seeking payment from CJD.
- 6) In order for an applicant to be eligible, the county (or counties) in which the applicant is located must have a 90% average on both adult and juvenile criminal history dispositions to the Texas Department of Public Safety for calendar years 2009 through 2013. This requirement must be met by August 1, 2015.
- 7) Applicants must have a DUNS (Data Universal Numbering System) number assigned to its agency (to request a DUNS number, go to <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/displayHomePage.do>).
- 8) Eligible applicants must be registered in the federal System for Award Management (SAM) database located at <https://www.sam.gov/portal/public/SAM/> and maintain an active registration throughout the grant period.

Project Period: Grant-funded projects must begin on or after September 1, 2015, and expire on or before August 31, 2016.

Application Process: Applicants must access CJD's grant management website at <https://eGrants.governor.state.tx.us> to register and apply for funding.

Preferences: Preference will be given to mandated drug courts under Texas Government Code, Section 123.006.

Closing Date for Receipt of Applications: All applications must be submitted via CJD's eGrants website on or before February 27, 2015.

Selection Process: Applications will be reviewed and prioritized by the Specialty Courts Advisory Council (Council) who will make funding recommendations to CJD. CJD will make all final funding decisions based on eligibility, Council recommendations, reasonableness, availability of funding, and cost-effectiveness. Copies of the scoring elements to be used by the Council for each court type are available under the Forms link at <https://eGrants.governor.state.tx.us/updates.aspx>.

Contact Person: If additional information is needed, contact the eGrants help desk at eGrants@governor.state.tx.us or (512) 463-1919.