

Request for Applications - Violent Crimes Against Women Criminal Justice and Training Projects – Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, and Stalking Program Solicitation

The Criminal Justice Division (CJD) of the Governor's Office is soliciting applications for projects that promote a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach to improving the criminal justice system's response to violent crimes against women during the state fiscal year 2016 grant cycle.

Purpose: The purpose of this funding is to assist in developing and strengthening effective law enforcement, prosecution and court strategies to combat family violence, sexual assault, sexual human trafficking, dating violence and stalking crimes against women and to develop and strengthen victim services in such cases.

Available Funding: Federal funding is authorized for these projects under the Violence Against Women Act of 2013, Pub. L. No. 113-4 (VAWA 2013). Congress has not finalized federal appropriations for federal fiscal year 2015. All awards are subject to the availability of appropriated federal funds and any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law.

Funding Levels:

Minimum: \$5,000

Maximum: None

Required Match: Grantees must provide matching funds of at least thirty-five percent (35%) of total project expenditures. This requirement may be met through either cash or in-kind contributions or a combination of both. **Please note: projects that are awarded with match above the required amount will be held to the higher amount.**

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: Grantees may not use grant funds or program income to support the following services, activities, and costs:

- 1) inherently religious activities such as prayer, worship, religious instruction, or proselytization;
- 2) lobbying;
- 3) any portion of the salary of, or any other compensation for, an elected or appointed government official;
- 4) purchase or leasing of vehicles;
- 5) admission fees or tickets to any amusement park, recreational activity, or sporting event;
- 6) promotional gifts;
- 7) non-emergency food, meals, beverages, or other refreshments;
- 8) membership dues or professional fees 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), including the Texas Crime Victims Compensation Fund;
- 10) fundraising;
- 11) overtime;
- 12) cash payments to victims, gift cards or fuel vouchers;
- 13) legal assistance and representation in civil matters other than protective orders;
- 14) legal defense services for perpetrators of violence against women;
- 15) liability insurance on buildings;
- 16) major maintenance on buildings, including minor renovations, lawn care, landscaping, painting, plumbing and HVAC repair;
- 17) property loss;
- 18) reimbursement to crime victims for expenses incurred as a result of a crime, such as insurance deductibles, replacement of stolen property, funeral expenses, lost wages, and medical bills;
- 19) services for programs that primarily focus on children and/or men;
- 20) activities exclusively related to violence prevention, such as media campaigns to educate the general public about violence against women, public awareness and community education campaigns are also prohibited;
- 21) criminal defense work, including for women who assault, kill, or otherwise injure their abusers;

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- 22) services to any person incarcerated for committing a crime of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking;
- 23) relocation expenses for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking such as moving household goods to a new location in another state or acquiring furniture or housing in a new location;
- 24) creation of a voucher program where victims are directly given vouchers for such services as housing or counseling;
- 25) prosecution of child sexual abuse when the victim is now an adult;
- 26) law enforcement equipment that is standard department issue including uniforms, safety vest, shields, weapons and ammunition;
- 27) chemical dependency or alcohol abuse programs for offenders that are not an integral part of court mandated Batterers Intervention Prevention Program;
- 28) activities that may compromise victim safety such as: pre-trial diversion programs or the placement of offenders in these programs;
- 29) development or presentation of a domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence or stalking curriculum for primary or secondary schools. Educating students from an existing curriculum would also be prohibited;
- 30) employee allowances covering routine expenses (i.e. cell phone allowances or vehicle allowances);
- 31) purchasing prepaid credit/debit or store cards for either agency or victim use;
- 32) research projects or evaluations; and
- 33) any other prohibition imposed by federal, state and local law.

Eligible Applicants:

- 1) Community supervision and corrections departments;
- 2) Councils of governments (COGs);
- 3) Indian tribal governments;
- 4) Nonprofit corporations with an active charter number from the Texas Secretary of State;
- 5) Universities and colleges;
- 6) State agencies; and
- 7) Units of local government;

Note: Nonprofit agencies seeking to provide direct victim services will not be considered for funding under this solicitation and should instead apply under the General Victim Assistance - Direct Services Request for Applications.

Eligible Activities:

- 1) Court Services/Improvements (including specialized courts);
- 2) Crisis Services;
- 3) Investigation;
- 4) Legal Advocacy;
- 5) Multi-Disciplinary Teams and Case Coordination;
- 6) Prosecution;
- 7) Protective Order Assistance;
- 8) Training;
- 9) Victim-offender meetings;
- 10) Technology; and
- 11) Forensic Interviews.

Eligibility Requirements:

- 1) 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.
- 2) Eligible applicants operating a law enforcement agency must be current on reporting Part I violent crime data to the Texas Department of Public Safety for inclusion in the annual Uniform Crime Report (UCR) and must have been current for the three previous years.

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- 3) Eligible 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>.
- 4) Eligible applicants must be registered in the federal System for Award Management (SAM) database located at <http://www.sam.gov> and maintain an active registration throughout the grant period.
- 5) Applicants must explain how their organization is culturally competent when providing services to victims. Here are some guidelines to follow: Victim service providers must have the ability to blend cultural knowledge and sensitivity with victim restoration skills for a more effective and culturally appropriate recovery process. Cultural competency occurs when: a) cultural knowledge, awareness and sensitivity are integrated into action and policy; b) the service is relevant to the needs of the community and provided by trained staff, board members, and management; and c) an advocate or organization recognizes each client is different with different needs, feelings, ideas and barriers.
- 6) Applicant agrees to implement comprehensive strategies that are sensitive to the concerns and safety of the victims and hold offenders accountable for their crimes. Applicants must indicate the percentage of their project that benefits Victim Services, Law Enforcement, Prosecution, Courts or other areas. Program emphasis decisions should be made based on the beneficiary of the funded activities. For example, a victim services coalition who provides training to police throughout the state would fall under the “law enforcement” category because the training is to benefit law enforcement.
- 7) Applicants must certify that they will comply with the following requirements:
 - a) Forensic Medical Examination Payments – Health care facilities shall conduct a forensic medical examination of a victim of an alleged sexual assault if the victim arrived at the facility within 96 hours after the assault occurred and the victim consents to the examination. The victim is not required to participate in the investigation or prosecution of an offense as a condition of receiving a forensic medical examination, nor pay for the forensic examination or the evidence collection kit. The evidence collection portion of the exam is to be paid by law enforcement per state law. Crime Victim Compensation funds may be used to pay for the medical portion of the exam unless the victim of sexual assault is required to seek reimbursement for the examination from their insurance carrier. If a health care facility does not provide diagnosis or treatment services for sexual assault victims, the facility is required to refer the victim to a facility that provides those services.
 - b) Polygraph Testing Prohibition – A peace officer or attorney representing the state may not require an adult or child victim of an alleged sex offense to submit to a polygraph examination or other truth telling device as a condition for proceeding with the investigation of such an offense. In addition, the refusal of a victim to submit to a polygraph or other truth telling examination will not prevent the investigation, charging, or prosecution of an alleged sex offense or on the basis of the results of a polygraph examination.
 - c) Protective Orders – Neither victims applying for a protective order nor their attorney may bear the costs associated with the filing, modification, enforcement, dismissal or withdrawal of an order of protections.
 - d) Judicial Notification – Offenders subject to a protection order are not allowed to possess a firearm unless the offender is a peace officer who is actively engaged in employment as a sworn, full-time paid employee of a state agency or political subdivision.
 - e) Criminal Charges - In connection with the prosecution of any misdemeanor or felony domestic violence offense, the victim may not bear the costs associated with the filing of criminal charges against a domestic violence offender, issuance or service of a warrant, or witness subpoena.
 - f) Nondisclosure of Confidential or Private Information – Personally identifying information or individual information collected in connection with services requested, utilized, or denied may not be disclosed; or, reveal individual client information without informed, written, reasonably time-limited consent of the person about whom information is sought. If release of information is compelled by statutory or court mandate, reasonable attempts to provide notice to victims affected by the disclosure of information will be made and steps necessary will be taken to protect the privacy and safety of the persons affected by the release of information.
- 8) Applicants must meet one of the following statewide priorities:
 - a) Improve the criminal justice system response to victims of violence against women;
 - b) Improve court services regarding domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.
 - c) Strengthen victim restoration; or

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- d) Increase collaboration and communication across all levels of government and among all victim services.

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

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

Preferences: Preference will be given to applicants that promote comprehensive victim restoration while incorporating an emphasis on cultural competency in underserved populations. Applicants are also strongly encouraged to streamline administrative and reporting processes by consolidating grant requests whenever possible in lieu of submitting multiple applications.

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

Selection Process:

- 1) For eligible local and regional projects:
 - a) Applications will be forwarded by CJD to the appropriate regional council of governments (COG).
 - b) The COG's criminal justice advisory committee will prioritize all eligible applications based on State priorities, identified community priorities, cost and program effectiveness.
 - c) CJD will accept priority listings that are approved by the COG's executive committee.
 - d) CJD will make all final funding decisions based on eligibility, approved COG priorities, reasonableness of the project, availability of funding, and cost-effectiveness.
- 2) For state discretionary projects, applications will be reviewed by CJD staff members or a review group selected by the executive director. CJD will make all final funding decisions based on eligibility, reasonableness, availability of funding, and cost-effectiveness.

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