

Request for Applications – Grants for Local Border Security

The Homeland Security Grants Division (HSGD) of the Governor's Office is soliciting grant applications for projects that support Operation Border Star during the 2016 grant cycle.

Purpose: The purpose of the program is to sustain interagency law enforcement operations and enhance local law enforcement patrols in an effort to deter and facilitate directed actions to interdict criminal activity. Program participants shall assist in the execution of coordinated border security operations in an effort to:

- 1) Increase the effectiveness and impact of Steady State and Surge Operations.
- 2) Reduce border-related criminal activity in Texas.
- 3) Implement and increase the effectiveness of operational methods, measures, and techniques for outbound/southbound operations.
- 4) Decrease the supply of drugs smuggled into and through Texas from Mexico.
- 5) Disrupt and deter operations of gang and cartel criminal organizations.
- 6) Decrease specifically targeted tactics (such as conveyance methods) for drugs in the Texas border region.
- 7) Decrease use of specific areas for crime as targeted in directed action missions.
- 8) Increase the effectiveness of air operations mission planning and prioritization.
- 9) Increase the coordination and integration of air-ground team operations to include Texas Military Forces (TMF) aviation, United States Customs and Border Patrol (USCBP) Air and Marine, TXDPS Aircraft Division, and United States Coast Guard (USCG) aviation support.
- 10) Increase the effectiveness of directed action missions based upon intelligence and analysis to ensure they target the most serious threats and are conducted in high pay off areas.
- 11) Increase the number and quality of analytical intelligence products developed at the Unified Command and state levels.
- 12) Increase intelligence based operations at the Unified Command level through integration of TxMap, sector specific information, and intelligence analysis.

Available Funding: State funds for these projects are authorized under the Texas General Appropriations Act, Article I, Rider 27.

Funding Levels:

Minimum: None

Maximum: None

Match Requirement: None

Standards: Applicants must comply with standards applicable to this fund source cited in the State Uniform Grant Management Standards, 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) regular time worked as part of the employee's normal duty period;
- 2) augmentees – law enforcement personnel who are not regular employees of a funded agency, but are brought on as needed to specifically cover border security operations so that there can be a force multiplier during a period of "Surge";
- 3) any portion of the salary of, or any other compensation for, an elected or appointed government official;
- 4) time spent by certified peace officers on administrative duties;

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- 5) backfill costs for personnel participating in these operations;
- 6) meals if they are provided at no cost by a governmental entity or a volunteer group;
- 7) transportation, lodging, per diem, training fees or any related costs associated with participants who attend a training event;
- 8) purchase of vehicles or equipment;
- 9) weapons, ammunition, tasers, explosives or military vehicles;

- 10) postage;
- 11) supplanting or use of grant funds to replace any other existing federal, state or local funds;
- 12) inherently religious activities such as prayer, worship, religious instruction, or proselytization;
- 13) lobbying;
- 14) admission fees or tickets to any amusement park, recreational activity or sporting event;
- 15) promotional gifts;
- 16) food, meals, beverages, or other refreshments (except for per diem as allowable);
- 17) membership dues for individuals;
- 18) fundraising;
- 19) construction;
- 20) medical services;
- 21) legal fees; or
- 22) legal services for adult offenders.

Eligible Applicants:

- 1) Units of local government; or
- 2) Native American tribes
- 3) Eligible applicants must be located within a County within one of the six TXDPS JOIC Regions including:
 - a) El Paso JOIC – El Paso County.
 - b) Coastal Bend JOIC – Aransas County, Bee County, Calhoun County, Dewitt County, Goliad County, Gonzales County, Guadalupe County, Jackson County, Jim Wells County, Karnes County, Kleberg County, Lavaca County, Live Oak County, Matagorda County, McMullen County, Nueces County, Refugio County, San Patricio County, Victoria County, and Wharton County.
 - c) Marfa JOIC – Brewster County, Culberson County, Hudspeth County, Jeff Davis County, Pecos County, Presidio County, Reeves County, and Terrell County.
 - d) Del Rio JOIC – Dimmit County, Edwards County, Kinney County, Maverick County, Real County, Uvalde County, Val Verde County, and Zavala County.
 - e) Laredo JOIC – Duval County, Frio County, Jim Hogg County, La Salle County, Webb County, and Zapata County.
 - f) Rio Grande Valley JOIC – Brooks County, Cameron County, Hidalgo County, Kenedy County, Starr County, and Willacy County.

Eligible Costs:

- 1) Overtime for increased patrol and investigative capacity for certified peace officers along with limited support for other law enforcement support personnel (i.e. Communications Officers/Dispatchers, Jailers). Project Overtime (OT) shall be reimbursed following the grantee's overtime policy and the requirements as stated below:
 - a) OT is time actually worked that exceeds the required number of hours during an employee's designated work period.
 - b) OT may be worked to increase patrol and/or in an investigative capacity.

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- c) The project OT rate will be no more than one-and-one-half (1.5) times the employee's regular hourly rate of pay.
- d) Exempt salaried employees may not be reimbursed for overtime unless the grantee's overtime policy specifically allows for this.
- e) HSGD will only reimburse the grantee for OT that does not exceed a total of 16-hours (regular +OT) worked during any 24-hour period.
- 2) Law enforcement support personnel costs may be reimbursed up to 5% of the award or \$5,000 whichever is less. These costs include:
 - a) Communications Officers/Dispatcher costs necessary to maintain a safe Officer to Dispatcher ratio when supporting law enforcement personnel that are on patrol and participating in border operations.
 - b) Jailer costs for personnel necessary to support officers that are on patrol and participating in border operations.
- 3) Certain operational costs incurred as part of these overtime patrols and investigations may be reimbursed, such as mileage while traveling in a government vehicle or fuel, transportation, lodging, per diem, or additional costs for minor emergency repairs as described below.
 - a) The cost of fuel, if mileage is not claimed, and lubricants for vehicles, aircraft, boats, generators, and similar equipment, used during the pay period in which the OT is worked.
 - b) The cost of consumables, such as flashlight and radio batteries, film, flares, and first aid supplies which are used during the operation can be replaced, provided that these items are replaced within the time frame of the operation.
 - c) The cost of minor emergency repairs, such as tire repair or fan belt replacement, to vehicles or equipment used in program operations is allowable.
 - d) Transportation, lodging, mileage, and per diem costs may be reimbursed for personnel who work on program activities more than 50 miles from their program duty station.
 - e) Costs for rentals of equipment or other services critical to success of the program, and that have been pre-approved by the HSGD, are also allowable.

Eligibility Requirements:

- 1) Eligible applicants must agree to perform the following activities:
 - a) Conduct Steady State operations and respond to calls for service.
 - b) Conduct enhanced law enforcement patrolling activities.
 - c) Conduct surveillance, interdictions, investigations, and collect and disseminate information within its jurisdiction or cross-jurisdiction lines as required.
 - d) Recognize and react to information/intelligence to adjust times and locations of enhanced patrol activities.
 - e) Report significant border related events that occur during each 24-hour period.
 - f) Identify significant border related trends or areas of interest that may be developed into focus areas for future operations.
 - g) Integrate air, ground, marine, and remote operations.
 - h) Participate in operational planning and coordination meetings, information/intelligence sharing meetings, and After Action Reviews (AARs) established by the Texas Department of Public Safety's (TXDPS) Joint Operations Intelligence Centers (JOIC).
 - i) Participate weekly on the JOIC Unified Command conference calls or meetings as required by the JOIC.
- 2) Eligible applicants must agree to submit the Daily Border Incident Assessment Report (BIAR). The BIAR is the primary incident and information-reporting tool for the Grantee in local border security operations. The grantee shall ensure all BIARs conform to the respective standards outlined by the

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JOIC and are submitted within the timeframes established by the JOIC. The grantee shall report all activities that are considered Steady State activities in addition to Enhanced Operation activities to the JOIC. Steady State activities are defined as normal patrol or investigative duties that do not use grant funds, but directly impact the overall LBSP mission (organized crime arrests, terroristic activities, weapons trafficking arrests, kidnappings, home invasions with a border or organized crime nexus, illegal immigration, border related murders, gang related murders, or drug trafficking). Enhanced (Surge) Operations originate out of the use of LBSP funds when the local agency chooses to increase the hours of patrol or investigative bodies.

- 3) 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 reported to the Texas Department of Public Safety for calendar years 2009 through 2013. This requirement must be met by August 1, 2015.
- 4) 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.
- 5) 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>).
- 6) Eligible applicants must be registered in the federal System for Award Management (SAM) database located at <https://www.sam.gov/> and maintain an active registration throughout the grant period.

Project Period: Projects selected for funding with must begin on or after October 1, 2015 and expire on or before August 31, 2016.

Application Process: Applicants must access HSGD's grant management website at <https://eGrants.gov.texas.gov> to register and apply for funding. Additional requirements are included within the online application form.

Preferences: Preference will be given to applicants who demonstrate cost effective delivery of training.

Closing Date for Receipt of Applications: All applications must be certified via HSGD's grant management website on or before September 25, 2015.

Selection Process: Applications will be reviewed by HSGD staff members in consultation with TXDPS Regional JOIC representatives. HSGD will make all final funding decisions based on eligibility and operational content which includes but is not limited to the following:

- 1) Compliance - Past compliance with grant requirements, reporting, and information sharing.
- 2) Performance – Impact and effectiveness of the Applicant's participation in previous border security operations or activities and effectiveness in using grant funds awarded for border security.
- 3) Risk – The Applicant's need as indicated by data available on border related criminal activity, population, number of officers, and other factors.
- 4) Other Funding – The Applicant's history of applying for, receiving, and/or effectively utilizing other sources of funding available to support border security activities (e.g. Operation Stonegarden).

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