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Agency Name: Hidalgo County

Grant/App: 2931302 **Start Date:** 9/1/2016 **End Date:** 8/31/2017

Project Title: Hidalgo County Domestic Violence Specialty Prosecutor

Status: Application Pending Submission

Profile Information

Applicant Agency Name: Hidalgo County

Project Title: Hidalgo County Domestic Violence Specialty Prosecutor

Division or Unit to Administer the Project: Hidalgo County DA's Office

Address Line 1: 100 N. Closner, RM 303

Address Line 2:

City/State/Zip: Edinburg Texas 78539-3563

Start Date: 9/1/2016

End Date: 8/31/2017

Regional Council of Governments(COG) within the Project's Impact Area: Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

Headquarter County: Hidalgo

Counties within Project's Impact Area: Hidalgo

Grant Officials:

Authorized Official

User Name: Ramon Garcia

Email: ramon.garcia@co.hidalgo.tx.us

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Address 1:

City: Edinburg, Texas 78539

Phone: 956-318-2600 Other Phone:

Fax: 956-318-2699

Title: Mr.

Salutation: Judge

Position: Hidalgo County Judge

Project Director

User Name: Ricardo Rodriguez

Email: ricardo.rodriguez@da.co.hidalgo.tx.us

Address 1: Hidalgo County Courthouse

Address 1: 100 N. Closner, Room 303

City: Edinburg, Texas 78539

Phone: 956-318-2300 Other Phone: 956-318-2310

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Title: The Honorable

Salutation: Mr.

Position: Criminal District Attorney

Financial Official

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Salutation: Mr.

Position: County Auditor

Grant Writer

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Title: The Honorable
Salutation: Mr.
Position: Criminal District Attorney

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Narrative Information

Introduction

Information related to this program is in the CJD funding announcement for the Violence Against Women Justice and Training Program.

Section 1: Program-Specific Questions

A. Focus Areas

Indicate the percentage (%) of your project that benefits:

Victim Services – any nonprofit, nongovernmental organization that assists victims.

0

Law Enforcement – any public agency charged with policing functions.

0

Prosecution – any public agency charged with direct responsibility for prosecuting criminal offenders.

100

Court – any civil or criminal court system.

0

Other – any initiative that indirectly affects victims (e.g., developing protocols and procedures).

0

B. Culturally Competent Victim Restoration

Guidance

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: (1) cultural knowledge, awareness and sensitivity are integrated into action and policy; (2) the service is relevant to the needs of the community and provided by trained staff, board members, and management; and (3) an advocate or organization recognizes each client is different with different needs, feelings, ideas and barriers.

Provide information in this section regarding how your organization is culturally competent when providing services to victims.

The number one priority of the Hidalgo County District Attorney's Office-Domestic Violence Unit is to address the trauma and problems encountered by victims of domestic violence in Hidalgo County. We must address this issue quickly and effectively in order to assist victims with the immediate crisis and with their recovery from the crime. Victim restoration can only be achieved when communities are sensitive to the care and safety of individuals who have been victimized while simultaneously holding offenders accountable for their crimes. Every day in the Hidalgo County violent crime turns innocent people into crime victims. This violence tears at the heart of trust in interpersonal relationships. As the executive branch of law enforcement we represent the interests of the state at all hearings throughout the trial process. Victim will be afforded their victims rights as per the Texas Administrative Code of Procedure Chapter 56. Victims' will be inform of their rights under the law, and help them understand and exercise these rights. In addition to ensuring victims' rights and assisting in obtaining restitution and compensation, representatives of the HCDA-Domestic Violence Unit will work hand in hand with the HCDA-Victims Unit staff to make sure that victims receive legal counsel and referrals to social services agencies. The Domestic Violence Unit staff will work with the following local organizations: CASA, Mujeres Unidas, Rape Crisis Center, Child Protective Services, law enforcement first responders to coordinate a community wide response to domestic violence. We take the lead in developing cultural competency by attending trainings, participating in the planning process, meeting with community partners, attending formal and informal events, and recognizing staff contributions in this area. The Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney's Office provides notification in a language that the victim can interpret, reads and writes. Victims are informed of their victims rights and criminal proceedings via mail and telephone communication. Additionally, court personnel and court interpreters provide translation services for victims in criminal cases. Additionally, the Hidalgo County Family Violence Task Force members provides resources and services to victims of family violence. The Hidalgo County Family Violence Task Force is a group that is composed of local, state, federal law enforcement agencies and local victim service agencies, who provide services to victims of family violence in Hidalgo County. The crime of family violence requires a comprehensive and collaborative response between law enforcement, prosecutors, victim service providers and the community. The Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney's Office is an active member of the Hidalgo County Family Violence Task Force.

C. Culturally Specific and Underserved Populations

Guidance

Following are relevant definitions needed to answer this question.

- Underserved populations means populations who face barriers in accessing and using victim services, and includes populations underserved because of geographic location, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, underserved racial and ethnic populations, populations underserved because of special needs (such as language barriers, disabilities, alienage status, or age), and any other population determined to be underserved by the Attorney General or by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, as appropriate.
- Culturally specific means the program is primarily directed toward racial and ethnic minority groups (as defined in section 1707(g) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300u-6(g)).
- Racial and ethnic minority group means American Indians (including Alaska Natives, Eskimos, and Aleuts); Asian Americans; Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders; Blacks; and Hispanics.
- Hispanic means individuals whose origin is Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or any other Spanish-speaking country.

Does your program have a primary focus on serving a culturally specific population? (The organization must do more than merely provide services to an underserved population or culturally specific group; rather, the organization's primary focus must be on providing culturally competent services designed to meet the specific needs of the target population in order to justify a YES response in the section below.)

Yes
 No

If you answered 'YES' above, you must explain in the box below how your organization's program is specifically designed to focus on and meet the needs of culturally specific populations. If this item does not apply enter 'N/A'.

D. Victim Referral Process

Describe how victims are referred to your agency.

Referrals will be provided by 23 police departments located in Hidalgo County

E. Relevance to Priorities

Provide a brief explanation regarding the proposed project's relevance to any or all of the following priorities. If none of these items apply enter 'N/A'

Improving the criminal justice system response.

The crime of family violence requires a comprehensive and collaborative response between law enforcement, prosecutors, victim service providers and the community. In order to improve the criminal justice system response to Domestic Violence the Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney's Office created the Domestic Violence Unit in November of 2015. The Domestic Violence Unit assigned a Specialty Prosecutor to improve prosecution of domestic violence cases. In addition the unit also has a Victim Advocate assigned to the program to ensure that victims are afforded their victims rights and they are given the opportunity to participate in the criminal justice proceedings. The DV Unit will also work with the HCDA-Victims Unit staff, the local Domestic Violence Shelter and the local police departments to ensure investigation and prosecutions are handled in a professional manner. The specialty prosecutor will continue to aid law enforcement officials in the investigations of domestic violence cases to attain favorable results.

Improve court services regarding domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

Victims of domestic violence will receive information on how to obtain a protective order, a safety plan will be provided and explained to victims in a language they can understand. The victim advocate will assist victim in applying for Crime Victims Compensation and with relocation process (once it is approved by CVC). They will be referred for immigration relief and legal counsel with the HCDA-Victims Unit staff or attorney. Victims will be accommodated with bi-lingual court information and if needed with a translator for all criminal proceedings. Victims will be registered with the VINE system to maintain them informed of criminal justice proceedings and will be referred with post sentence services with TDCJ to continue victim services after case has been disposed. The HCDA Office has implemented a procedure for victims that want to sign Affidavit's Of Non-Prosecution. If a victim requests an ANP the victim is required to meet with a victim advocate and a safety plan is provided and explained. The victim will be offered assistance to obtain a protective order and any victim services to achieve victim restoration and safety. If the victim decides to file the ANP, they will be required to meet with the prosecutor to receive information about the criminal case. This procedure was implemented in an effort to educate victims on services available and to offer them a safety plan.

Strengthen victim restoration.

Victims will be assisted in their restoration process giving priority to victim safety. Victims will be referred to local community based programs to ensure that they receive public assistance and services to help them live a life free of violence. Victims will be referred to the local Food Bank, Workforce Centers, Crime Victims Compensation, Counseling and Therapy Services, Office of the Attorney General to access child support safely, and to public housing to obtain a stable environment. Victims will be assisted with Crime Victims Compensation and relocation services, once CVC is approved.

Increase collaboration and communications across all levels of government and among all victims services.

The Specialty Prosecutor will be leading the Domestic Violence Unit and will continue to increase collaboration and communication across all levels of government and community based victim services. Duties of the Specialty Prosecutor will continue to include case screening, consulting with the victim advocate, coordination with local law enforcement, and providing law enforcement training. The prosecutor and Victim Advocate will collaborate with community based victim services agencies and will coordinate community responses to violence against women. The Domestic Violence Unit will remain victim centered and will work directly with victims to help them through the prosecution process.

F. Sustainment

How many additional years, beyond this request, do you plan to request continuation funding?

10

1) If three (3) years or fewer, provide a brief explanation of your sustainment plan, if it will be sustained; [if not to be sustained enter 'N/A']:

N/A

2) If more than three (3) years, explain the longer term sustainment plan or why other resources cannot be used to continue this project and why a sustainment strategy is not possible:

The Domestic Violence Unit was established under the new administration of Mr. Ricardo Rodriguez Jr., Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney, in November of 2015. This is a new project and it was made possible with VAWA funds. Hidalgo County has a high incidence of domestic violence cases and without this funding we will not be able to provide this crucial program to help victim.

Section 2: Certifications

In addition to the requirements found in existing statute, regulation, and the funding announcement, this program requires applicant organizations to certify compliance with the following:

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. Protection Orders

Victims applying for a protective order or their attorney may not bear the costs associated with the filing of an order of protections.

D. Judicial Notification

Offenders involved in 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 to protect the privacy and safety of the persons affected by the release of information will be taken.

G. Uniform Crime Reports

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.

H. Criminal History Reporting

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 2010 through 2014.

I. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Requests

If the applicant organization is a sheriff's department or the project is providing direct resources to or is being implemented by a sheriff's department, the following certification applies:

I certify that the applicant sheriff's department (department) participates fully, and will continue throughout the grant period to participate fully, in all aspects of the programs and procedures utilized by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to (1) notify DHS of all information requested by DHS related to illegal aliens in the custody of the department, and (2) detain such aliens in accordance with requests by DHS. I further certify that the department has no policy, procedure, or agreement that limits or restricts the department's full participation in all aspects of the programs and procedures utilized by DHS to (1) notify DHS of all information requested by DHS related to illegal aliens in the custody of the department, and (2) detain such aliens in accordance with requests by DHS. I agree that failure to comply with this certification will result in CJD terminating the grant and the department shall return all funds received to CJD. Additionally, I agree that the department will remain ineligible for future CJD funding until it can provide satisfactory evidence that the jurisdiction has been in compliance with this requirement for a period of at least one year.

J. Legal Assistance for Victims (LAV) Certification

The applicant certifies that it meets the following federal statutory requirements in regards to the provision of legal advocacy:

- (1) Any person providing legal assistance through a program funded under this VAWA Program
 - (A) has demonstrated expertise in providing legal assistance to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking in the targeted population; or
 - (B) is partnered with an entity or person that has demonstrated expertise described in subparagraph (A) and has completed or will complete training in connection with domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking and related legal issues, including training on evidence-based risk factors for domestic and dating violence homicide.
- (2) Any training program conducted in satisfaction of the requirement of paragraph (1) has been or will be developed with input from and in collaboration with a state, local, territorial, or tribal domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking victim service provider or coalition, as well as appropriate tribal, State, territorial, and local law enforcement officials.
- (3) Any person or organization providing legal assistance through a program funded under this Program has informed and will continue to inform state, local, or tribal domestic violence, dating violence or sexual assault programs and coalitions, as well as appropriate State and local law enforcement officials of their work.
- (4) The grantee's organizational policies do not require mediation or counseling involving offenders and victims physically together, in cases where sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or child sexual abuse is an issue.

Does the applicant meet the criteria outlined above?

Yes
 No

K. Civil Rights Liaison

A civil rights liaison who will serve as the grantee's civil rights point of contact and who will be responsible for ensuring that the grantee meets all applicable civil rights requirements must be designated. The designee will act as the grantee's liaison in civil rights matters with CJD and with the federal Office of Justice Programs.

Enter the Name of the Civil Rights Liaison:

Rosalinda Cantu

Enter the Address for the Civil Rights Liaison:

100 N. Closner Blvd, 5th Floor Edinburg, TX 78539

Enter the Phone Number for the Civil Rights Liaison [(999) 999-9999 x9999]:

(956)292-7600 x8085

Overall Certification

Each applicant agency must certify to the specific requirements detailed above as well as all requirements within the CJD Funding Announcement and CJD Comprehensive Certification and Assurances to be eligible for this program.

I certify to all of the above requirements.

Project Abstract :

The Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney's Office has identified the following needs: training for law enforcement, evidence collection, report writing, and more victim services to assist victims in the criminal justice process. The need to expand the Domestic Violence Unit and hire additional Specialty Prosecutors to handle domestic violence cases and assist victims in obtaining protective orders. Research also indicates that domestic violence crimes are perhaps the most difficult cases to prosecute and require specially trained investigators, prosecutors and victim advocates. Special areas of concern for the HCDA-Domestic Violence Unit still include 1) child witnesses 2) recanting domestic violence victims 3) lack of physical evidence 4) community general viewpoints about these type of crimes and 5) victimless prosecutions. Further complicating matters is the ever rising reliance on the Supreme Court case Crawford v. Washington, 124 S.Ct. 1354, (2004), where prosecutors are faced with even greater challenges when dealing with victimless prosecutions cases. This grant will help us reduce the time between arrest and disposition of the case and to maintain a reduced caseload. The reduced caseload of the prosecutor ensures that discovery, trial preparation, and pretrial issues are handled more efficiently than on a larger caseload. When appropriate, the prosecutor opposes defense requests for continuances. The prosecutor announces ready on designated trial dates, barring significant problems that may arise between filing and trial. Readiness status is increased because the prosecutor handles the case from the filing stage and therefore is better prepared. This ensures that reasonable efforts are made to reduce the time between arrest and disposition. The proposed project will achieve its stated goals and objectives by 1) improving the criminal court prosecutions and investigations of domestic violence 2) establishing a more uniform approach to handling the cases. The prosecutor will assess the program through input from police, victims, and other members of the team. The assigned specialty prosecutor will also determine how many of the domestic violence referrals lead to indictments by the Grand Jury for prosecution in Hidalgo County District Courts. The victim advocate will provide additional services including crisis counseling, case management, resources and referrals, education about the criminal justice system, registration with VINE, assistance with Victim Impact Statements, court accompaniment, assistance in applying for Crime Victims Compensation, safety planning, referrals to emergency shelter services, information on court restitution and notification of criminal proceedings. Translation services will be available for non-English speaking victims. Victims will be provided information in Spanish and English. Data: According to the 2014 Texas D.P.S. Uniform Crime Report more than 5,531 cases of family violence and 576 Sexual Assaults were reported to local enforcement agencies in Hidalgo County. The Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office responded to 2,053 calls for family violence incidents, which equates to 37 percent of calls received in 2014. In addition, the FBI Uniform Crime Report of 2014, reported a total of 340 Forcible Rapes, 1,549 incidents of aggravated assaults, and 24 homicides in Hidalgo County. These types of crimes are considered violent crimes. It is imperative that the community continues to support programs which provide services to victims and their children and must do so through the access of funding dollars earmarked for our region. It is also important that support is provided to programs which provide education to the community on issues of family violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and the effects of violence on children. Goals: The goals of prosecution in domestic violence cases are as follows: 1) to protect the victim from additional acts of violence committed by the perpetrator; 2) to reduce the exposure and/or possible injury to children or other family members from domestic violence; 3) to deter the perpetrator from committing continued acts of violence in the community and hold him accountable for his actions; 4) to create a general deterrence to domestic violence in the community; and 5) to serve justice. Geographic Area: All cities, municipalities and unincorporated areas in Hidalgo County, Texas. Target Audience: The services target victims of domestic violence which focus on keeping victims safe and holding perpetrators accountable. Gender: Of both genders and of all races Ages: Infancy and beyond Special Characteristics: Undocumented illegal aliens for both children and adults

Problem Statement :

According to the National Crime Victims Coalition, every year 1.3 million women suffer family violence by their intimate partner. This is translated to 3,869 women a day; more shocking this equals to 3 women suffering a form of family violence every minute of the day! In addition, 3 women die every day due to acts of family violence. Domestic Violence is a community wide epidemic that is affecting Hidalgo County. In 2014 there was a total of 5,531 cases of domestic violence reported and research has proven that only 30% of domestic violence are reported to law enforcement. Based on this data there is an average of 460 cases reported on a monthly basis or 115 cases reported weekly. This translates to 16 cases of domestic violence reported daily. The identified gaps in the Hidalgo County DA's office are the need for training of law enforcement, evidence collection, report writing, and the lack of capacity to give victims the support they need in a timely manner so as to better facilitate informed choices about participation in the criminal justice process. There is also a need for additional specialty prosecutors to handle domestic violence and sexual assault cases and violation of protective order in particular. Additionally, there is a need for centralized or coordinated methods of handling and tracking cases across systems that will enhance safety and offender accountability. Research also indicates that domestic violence and sexual assault crimes are perhaps the most difficult cases to prosecute and require specially trained investigators, prosecutors and victim advocates. Special areas of concern for the DA's Office include: 1) child witnesses 2) recanting domestic violence victims 3) lack of physical evidence and 4) community general viewpoints about these type of crimes and 5) victimless prosecutions. Further complicating matters is the ever rising reliance on the Supreme Court case Crawford v. Washington, 124 S.Ct. 1354, (2004), where prosecutors are faced with even greater challenges when dealing with victimless prosecutions cases. These issues continue to make it difficult for both Hidalgo County law enforcement agencies and prosecutors to present these cases to juries. In the majority of domestic violence cases, the victim and the defendant share a common relationship which poses a serious barrier to successful prosecution. Victims often recant or refuse to testify about the crime because they are scared or are in a state of denial. Many jurors are less likely to believe or be sympathetic to a victim of domestic violence who recants or returns to the abuser.

Domestic violence cases continue to be extremely difficult to successfully prosecute. Due to the difficulty in prosecution and the unique circumstances that exist in the lives of domestic violence victims, law enforcement investigators and prosecutors need to be specially trained in order to ensure the safety of both the victims and the community. This grant will help us reduce the time between arrest and disposition of the case and to maintain a reduced caseload. The reduced caseload of the prosecutor ensures that discovery, trial preparation, and pretrial issues are handled more efficiently than on a larger caseload. When appropriate, the prosecutor opposes defense requests for continuances. The prosecutor announces ready on designated trial dates, barring significant problems that may arise between filing and trial. Readiness status is increased because the prosecutor handles the case from the filing stage and therefore is better prepared. This ensures that reasonable efforts are made to reduce the time between arrest and disposition. The proposed project will achieve its stated goals and objectives by 1) improving the criminal court prosecutions and investigations of domestic violence 2) establishing a more uniform approach to handling the cases. The prosecutor will assess the program through input from police, victims, and other members of the team. The assigned specialty prosecutor will also determine how many of the domestic violence referrals lead to indictments by the Grand Jury for prosecution in Hidalgo County District Courts. The support advocate will provide additional services including crisis counseling, case management, resources and referrals, education about the criminal justice system, emergency assistance for transportation, food, and housing through the victim's emergency fund, and access to emergency relocation. Translation services will be available for non-English speaking victims. The specialty prosecutor and victim advocate will interact with other community based organizations, the local Domestic Violence Shelter, and the Hidalgo County Family Violence Task Force to coordinate community responses to violence against women and children, and work directly with victims throughout the criminal justice process to help ensure victims rights are afforded and victims voice is heard in proceedings.

Supporting Data :

According to the 2014 Texas D.P.S. Uniform Crime Report more than 5,531 cases of family violence and 576 Sexual Assaults were reported to local enforcement agencies in Hidalgo County. The Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office responded to 2,053 calls for family violence incidents, which equates to 37 percent of calls received in 2014. According to the National Crime Victims Coalition, every year 1.3 million women suffer family violence by their intimate partner. This is translated to 3,869 women a day; more shocking this equals to 3 women suffering a form of family violence every minute of the day! In addition, 3 women die every day due to acts of family violence. Research has demonstrated that only 30% of domestic violence incidents are reported to law enforcement. If we base the data that was collected in 2014 for Hidalgo County, it is safe to say that there is an average of 18,436 cases of domestic violence a year (if 5,531 is 30% of cases reported). This data is translated to an average of 54 incidents of domestic violence daily in Hidalgo County. This statistics are alarming and we need to create programs where victims feel safe an secure to break the silence of abuse and come forward to prosecute the crimes committed against them. In addition, the FBI Uniform Crime Report of 2014, reported a total of 340 Forcible Rapes, 1,549 incidents of aggravated assaults, and 24 homicides in Hidalgo County. According to the Texas Council of Family Violence, 132 women were killed in 2014 by intimate partner violence in Texas . In 2014, perpetrators used a firearm in 67% of the femicides, which is a 16% increase over the national average in 2008. Hidalgo County had 3 intimate partner homicides in 2014. Maria Cruz Coronado age 43, Daniela Ramos age 27, and Elvita Balli age 56 were murdered by their spouse in Hidalgo County. As a result of this 3 homicides, 7 children were left to deal with the aftermath of the murder, the effects of domestic violence on children and a lifetime of grief.

Project Approach & Activities:

FY2014-2015 Hidalgo County Community Plan SECTION 4 Page 10: VIOLENT CRIME AND FAMILY VIOLENCE I. Identification of Needs Violent Crime This project will address the following priorities: 1) domestic violence assistance 2) dating violence 3) child abuse investigations and support 4) victims counseling and support services, to include secondary victims 5) sexual assault – counseling and support services, to include secondary victims 6) stalking and 7) elder abuse. This project will also address the area of family violence. According to the 2014 Texas D.P.S. Uniform Crime Report there were a total of 5,531 cases of family violence incidents and 576 sexual assaults reported to law enforcement agencies in Hidalgo County. In addition, the FBI Uniform Crime Report of 2014, reported a total of 340 forcible rape, 1,549 incidents of aggravated assaults, and 24 homicides in Hidalgo County. These types of crimes are considered violent crimes. It is imperative that the community continues to support programs which provide services to victims and their children and must do so through the access of funding dollars earmarked for our region.

Capacity & Capabilities:

Performance Management :

The goals of the Hidalgo County Domestic Violence Specialty Prosecutor Program are: 1) to protect the victim from additional acts of violence committed by the perpetrator; 2) to reduce the exposure and/or possible injury to children or other family members from domestic violence; 3) to deter the perpetrator from committing continued acts of violence in the community and hold him accountable for his actions; 4) to create a general deterrence to domestic violence in the community; and 5) to serve justice.

Data Management:

Target Group :

Victims of Domestic Violence

Evidence-Based Practices:

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Project Activities Information

Type of Crime Victim

Select the type(s) of crime victim this project targets and provide the percentage of time dedicated to serving each category of crime victim. You may select more than one type; however, the sum of the percentages may not exceed 100%.

Sexual Assault Percentage (%):

10

Domestic Abuse Percentage (%):

80

Stalking Percentage (%):

5

Dating/Acquaintance Violence Percentage (%):

5

Selected Project Activities:

ACTIVITY	PERCENTAGE:	DESCRIPTION
Crisis Services	20.00	Crisis Counseling/Intervention refers to (in-person or telephone) crisis intervention, emotional support, safety planning and guidance provided at the scene of a crime, immediately after a crime or on a crisis hotline.
Investigation	10.00	Once the initial investigation is concluded, a law enforcement agency will file a case to the Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney's Office and the Speciality Prosecutor will provide support and assistance to the investigators. He/she will make sure the investigations are complete and the proper evidence was collected. He/She will make sure that the victim is notified of the proceedings and that law enforcement provides victim contact information.
Prosecution	40.00	To reduce the backlogs and improve the caseloads of domestic violence to rapidly address and reduce the violation of law. To hold the defendant accountable in a court of law.
Protective Order Assistance	20.00	The Speciality Prosecutor will provide assistance to a victim with criminal and civil legal issues in completing and or filing of temporary restraining orders, injunctions, other protective orders or obtain temporary and or permanent protective orders.
Training	10.00	Provide training to law enforcement officials to improve their ability to respond to domestic violence cases and collect evidence properly.

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Measures Information

Objective Output Measures

OUTPUT MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
Number of arrests made.	350
Number of cases filed.	350
Number of cases investigated.	200
Number of cases referred for prosecution.	350
Number of final protective orders requested.	150
Number of sexual assault, domestic violence and / or stalking cases filed.	100
Number of temporary protective orders requested.	150
Number of training events provided.	6
Number of victims seeking services who were not served.	40
Number of victims / survivors seeking services who were served.	500
Number of survivors assisted with crime victim compensation applications.	150
Number of survivors receiving crisis counseling.	300
Number of survivors receiving information and / or referral (in person / by phone).	200
Number of sexual assault, domestic violence, and / or stalking cases referred.	150
Number of criminal justice professionals trained.	30
Number of non-criminal justice professionals trained.	40

Objective Outcome Measures

OUTCOME MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
Number of charges dismissed or acquitted.	10
Number of final protective orders granted / obtained.	120
Number of temporary protective orders granted / obtained.	120
Number of cases resulting in conviction or deferred adjudication.	350
Number of convictions.	180

Custom Output Measures

CUSTOM OUTPUT MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
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Custom Outcome Measures

CUSTOM OUTCOME MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
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Budget Details Information

Budget Information by Budget Line Item:

CATEGORY	SUB CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	CJD	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	GPI	TOTAL	UNIT/%
Personnel	Advocate	Existing position- The Victim Advocate will provide support services to victim participating in the prosecution process. The victim advocate will provide victims with safety plan, referrals for protective orders, court accompaniment, registration with VINE, notification of court proceedings, assistance filing crime victims compensation, victim impact statement, and restitution information. He/she will explain victims rights as per Chapter 56 of the Texas Criminal Code of Procedure. The advocate will offer emotional support, crisis intervention services and referrals to counseling. Base Salary: \$34,624.92 + Fringe Benefits \$17,221.94 = \$51,846.86 Fringe Benefits Breakdown= Health Insurance \$6399.78, Life Insurance \$39.95, FICA \$2648.81, Retirement \$3770.66, Unemployment \$207.75, Workers Comp \$4,154.99	\$51,846.86	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$51,846.86	100
Personnel	Assistant	Administrative Assistant- will work with the prosecutor	\$50,524.31	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50,524.31	100

		in preparing court docket, case files, input data in odyssey. File cases, make copies, phone calls and assist prosecutor in daily office duties. Base Salary: \$33,616.42 + Fringe Benefits \$16,574.73 = \$50,524.31 Fringe Benfits Breakdown= Health Insurance \$6,399.78, Life Inusurance \$39.95 ,FICA \$2571.66, Retirement \$3,660.83 Unemployment \$201.70 , Workers Comp \$4,033.97							
Contractual and Professional Services	Attorney	Attorney Representation for Divorce, Custody, Immigration Relief for victims of family violence. 10 cases at \$5000 each	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50,000.00	\$0.00	\$50,000.00	0	
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Cellular, Fax, Pager, and/or Office Telephone	2 Cell Phones assignend to the ADA and Advocate assignend to the Domestic Violence Unit. Cell phone service and data card	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	0	
Contractual and Professional Services	Conference and Meeting Services (e.g., room / equipment rental)	Use of University of the Rio Grande Valley Conference Room to host trainings for law enforcement agencies and criminal justice professionals	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00	0	
Equipment	Desktop System and Accessories	3 Computer Desktop for ADA, Advocate, and Adminstrative Assistant assigned to the DV Unit. 569.99 each- \$1,709.97	\$1,709.97	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,709.97	3	
Equipment	Furniture	3 file cabinets for Prosecutor, Advocate, Administrative Assistant \$249 each- \$747 grand total	\$747.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$747.00	3	
Travel and Training	In-State Registrations Fees, Training, and/or Travel	Travel, hotel, parking, conference fees for 2 full-time employees to attend the annual Crimes Against Women Conference in Dallas, TX.	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	0	

Equipment	Laptop System and Accessories	Laptop, wireless keyboard, wireless mouse and rolling brief case for Prosecutor	\$1,185.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,185.00	1
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Office Equipment and/or Furniture (\$5,000 or less per unit)	3 Shredders and label makers for Prosecutor, Advocate, Administrative Assistant \$785 each: Grand Total \$2,355	\$0.00	\$2,355.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,355.00	0
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Office Supplies (e.g., paper, postage, calculator)	Office supplies for 3 full-time employees- such as: paper, postage, file folders, labels, paperclips, staples, ink, and other general office supplies	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	0
Equipment	Overhead / Multimedia Projector and Accessories	1 Projector w/ remote to be used by Prosecutor to provide training for law enforcement and criminal justice professionals	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	1
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Presentation and/or Training Supplies	Presentation folders, printing of training manuals and brochures	\$815.00	\$185.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	0
Equipment	Printer, Fax, and/or Scanner Equipment and Accessories (\$5,000 or less per unit)	3 Printers for workstation for Prosecutor, Advocate, & Administrative Assistant: \$250 each - \$750	\$207.85	\$542.15	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$750.00	3
Personnel	Prosecutor	Existing Position- The Speciality Prosecutor will be prosecuting cases within the Domestic Violence Unit in the Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney's Office. Duties of the prosecutor will include case screening, consulting with victim advocate, coordinating with local police departments, planning of plice training sessions and oversight of the the Domestic Violence Unit. The Speciality Prosecutor and the Victim Advocate will interact with	\$93,814.04	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$93,814.04	100

	<p>community based victim service organizations, the local domestic violence shelter, and local law enforcement agencies. He/She will assist in coordinating a community response for domestic violence incidents. He/She will work directly with victim throughout the prosecution process to help victims have a favorable court experience. The Specialty Prosecutor will also collaborate with the probation department and the Hidalgo County Family Violence Task Force. Base Salary: \$66,626.74 + Fringe Benefits \$27,187.30 = \$93,814.04 Fringe Benfits Breakdown= Health Insurance \$6399.78, Life Inusurance \$39.95 ,FICA \$5,096.95, Retirement \$7,255.65, Unemployment \$399.76 , Workers Comp \$7,999.21</p>						
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