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Agency Name: Hidalgo County Grant/App: 2537807 Start Date: 9/1/2017
 Project Title: Region 3-Border Prosecution Unit Status: Application Pending Submission End Date: 8/31/2018 Fund Source: BP-Border Prosecution Unit
 Current Grant Manager: Debbie Jacaman Current Program Manager: Arturo Mendez Liquidation Date:
 CFDA: NONE OOG Solicitation: BP18 Border Prosecution Unit Program SF

Eligibility Profile Narrative Activities Measures Budget Documents Conditions of Funding Submit Application Summary Upload Files My Home
 Details Grant Vendor

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General Information and Instructions

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[View Designate Grant Officials](#)

[View Update/Reassign Grant Officials](#)

[View Messages to OOG](#)

Identifying Information

Applicant Agency Name:

Project Title:

Division or Unit to Administer the Project:

Agency Address Line 1:

Agency Address Line 2:

City: State: Zip Code:

Start Date:

End Date:

Plan Year:

Target Area Information


Select Your Project's Geographic Impact:
 Local Regional Statewide

Select Your Primary Service County:
 The county in which the majority of services will be provided, or select Impact is Statewide:

Your project will provide services within:

Select all of the counties within the project's service area:

View the list of counties you selected that are within the project's service area: 

Brooks, Cameron, Duval, Hidalgo, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Starr, Willacy 

Grant Officials Information

Authorized Official Email Address:

ramon.garcia@co.hidalgo.tx.us

Assign Authorized Official

Title:

Mr.

Last Name:

Garcia

Business Phone:

956-318-2600

Position:

Hidalgo County Judge

Address Line 1:

302 W. University

City:

Edinburg

Zip Code:

78539

First Name:

Ramon

Fax Number:

956-318-2699

Salutation:

Judge

Address Line 2:

State:

Texas

Financial Officer Email Address:

ray.eufracio@auditor.co.hidalgo.tx.us

Assign Financial Officer

Title:

Mr.

Last Name:

Eufracio

Business Phone:

956-318-2511

Position:

County Auditor

Address Line 1:

2808 S. Business Hwy 281

City:

Edinburg

Zip Code:

78539

First Name:

Ray

Fax Number:

956-318-2577

Salutation:

Mr.

Address Line 2:

State:

Texas

Project Director Email Address:

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

Assign Project Director

Title:

The Honorable

Last Name:

Rodriguez

Business Phone:

956-318-2300

Position:

Criminal District Attorney

Address Line 1:

Hidalgo County Courthouse

City:

Edinburg

Zip Code:

78539

First Name:

Ricardo

Fax Number:

956-318-2078

Salutation:

Mr.

Address Line 2:

100 N. Closner, Room 303

State:

Texas

Grant Writer Email Address:

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

Assign Grant Writer

Title:
The Honorable

Last Name:
Rodriguez

Business Phone:
956-318-2300

Position:
Criminal District Attorney

Address Line 1:
Hidalgo County Courthouse

City:
Edinburg

Zip Code:
78539

First Name:
Ricardo

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Salutation:
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Address Line 2:
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State:
Texas

Notes by Grantee to OOG:

Note from Grantee to OOG



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Status: Application Pending Submission

Grant Vendor Information

Organization Type: County

Organization Option: applying to provide homeland security services

Applicant Agency's State Payee Identification Number (e.g., Federal Employer's Identification (FEI) Number or Vendor ID): 17460007176041

Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS): 103110834

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Narrative Information

Primary Mission and Purpose

The Texas Legislature appropriated funds to support programs that provide prosecution resources for District and County Attorneys along the Texas-Mexico border and for counties that are significantly affected by border crime.

Funding Levels

The anticipated funding levels for these programs are as follows:

- Minimum Award - \$10,000
- Maximum Award - None
- The program does not require a grantee to provide matching funds.

For more information regarding grantee match, please click on the **Budget** tab, and then click on the **Source of Match** tab in eGrants.

Note: If you voluntarily include matching funds that exceed the minimum match requirement, you will be held to that amount throughout the grant period.

Program Requirements

Eligible Activities

Prosecution - Prosecuting criminals charged with border crimes as defined by Texas Government Code 772.0071(a)(1).

Training - Training to members of the unit and to law enforcement agencies in the border region on specific issues and techniques relating to the investigation and prosecution of border crime.

Eligibility Requirements

Uniform Crime Reporting - Eligible applicants operating a law enforcement agency must be current on reporting Part I violent crime data to the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) for inclusion in the annual Uniform Crime Report (UCR). To be considered eligible for funding, applicants must have submitted a full twelve months of accurate data to DPS for the most recent calendar year.

Criminal History Reporting - Entities receiving funds from HSGD must be located in a county that has an average of 90% or above on both adult and juvenile dispositions entered into the computerized criminal history database maintained by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) as directed in the *Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Chapter 60*. The disposition completeness percentage is defined as the percentage of arrest charges a county reports to DPS for which a disposition has been subsequently reported and entered into the computerized criminal history system.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement Requests

The full text of this certification can be found at http://gov.texas.gov/cid/dhs_detainerrequest. To be in compliance with this requirement, any county or municipal government that includes a department that detains individuals after arrest for a criminal violation must provide a letter signed by the head of each such department certifying to the requirements. This letter may be used for any application submitted to OOG for a period of up to two years from the date it is signed. If that period expires during the project period of any grant, the grantee must submit an updated letter for each such grant to remain in compliance with this requirement.

All applicants must select one of the following options:

- Applicant is not a county or municipal government.
- Applicant is a county or municipal government and does not include any department that detains individuals after arrest for a criminal violation at any time.
- Applicant is a county or municipal government that includes department(s) that detain individuals after arrest for a criminal violation. Letters certifying compliance and signed by the heads of all such departments have been uploaded to this application.
- Applicant is a county or municipal government that includes department(s) that detain individuals after arrest for a criminal violation. The Authorized Official has read the certification found on the aforementioned website. Further, the Authorized Official will not be submitting signed letters certifying compliance from the heads of all such departments and understands that failure to comply with this certification may result in OOG, at its sole discretion, rejecting this application and any other application from the relevant county or municipal government.

Training - Eligible applicants must be in compliance with the Texas Administrative Code (37 TAC Chapters 221-225) and all rules established by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) regarding the training of law enforcement in Texas; or, contract or reimburse for services with training providers who meet this requirement.

DUNS - Eligible applicants must have a DUNS (Data Universal Numbering System) number assigned to its agency.

System for Award Management - Eligible applicants must be registered in the federal System for Award Management (SAM) database and maintain an active registration throughout the grant application period.

Program Income

Applicant agrees to comply with all federal and state rules and regulations for program income and agrees to report all program income that is generated as a result of the project's activities. Applicant agrees to report program income to HSGD through a formal grant adjustment and to secure HSGD approval prior to use of the program income. Applicant agrees to use program income for allowable costs and agrees to expend program income immediately after HSGD's approval of a grant adjustment and prior to requesting reimbursement of HSGD funds.

Deduction Method - Program income shall be deducted from total allowable costs to determine the net allowable costs. Program income shall be used for current costs unless HSGD authorizes otherwise. Program income shall be used to reduce the HSGD award and grantee match rather than to increase the funds committed to the project. Exceptions to the deduction method must be approved by the HSGD Director.

Note: Program income must be spent on project expenses before expending OOG grant funds. Program income is subject to the same statutes, rules, regulations, and guidelines applicable to the use of the OOG-funded portion of the grant.

Asset Seizures and Forfeitures - Program income from asset seizures and forfeitures is considered earned when the property has been adjudicated to the benefit of the plaintiff (e.g., law enforcement entity).

Certification

Each applicant agency must certify to the specific requirements detailed above as well as all requirements within the HSGD Funding Announcement, the eGrants application, the OOG's *Guide to Grants*, and the OOG's *Grantee Conditions and Responsibilities* to be eligible for this program.

_ I certify to all of the application content and requirements.

Project Summary :

Briefly summarize the project, including proposed activities and intended impact.

--This project will allow the Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney's Office to continue to focus additional manpower and resources into the prosecution of criminal activity that has a nexus to the jurisdiction's border with Mexico. --Being able to facilitate the transfer of information and intelligence from the streets to the courtrooms and vice versa will enhance the capabilities of prosecutors and law enforcement officials alike in recognizing emerging trends of criminal enterprises, thus providing a more efficient and effective administration of justice. --Both Hidalgo County Border Prosecution Unit attorneys and the Border Prosecution Unit Region 3 attorney, have been and will continue to be available to the area law enforcement officers 24 hours a day. Having these prosecutorial assets at their disposal will immensely increase the ability of police officers to investigate criminal enterprises operating in the border region of the Rio Grande Valley. --The enhanced coordination between prosecutorial assets and the multitude of law enforcement agencies operating in the Rio Grande Valley and Region 3 of the Border Prosecution Unit, has the ability to identify previously unknown or unrecognized emerging trends, similarities and nuances of the border-based criminal enterprises. By identifying connections between these criminal enterprises, the investigation of such can be redirected to allow greater cooperation between agencies and thus more efficiently use the limited resources available to local, state and federal law enforcement officials.

Problem Statement :

Provide a detailed account of the issues, threats or hazards that your project will target. For federal Homeland Security Grants, include specific references to the regional or state *Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA)*, as applicable.

--Prosecutors have experienced an increase in caseloads tied to border crimes, especially those involving violent criminal street gangs that have formed alliances with Transnational Criminal Organizations. Some of these cases include drug traffickers, money laundering operations, car theft rings, illegal weapons transactions, human trafficking operations and large scale gambling (8-liner) operations. The increase in caseloads can be attributed to an enhanced presence in federal, state and local law enforcement along the Texas/Mexico border. Particularly the Texas Department of Public Safety's, "Operation Strong Safety"/"Operation Secure Texas" initiative has significantly added to these caseloads in Hidalgo County, Texas and Region 3 of the Border Prosecution Unit. With the increased law enforcement presence, there is a need to provide better prosecution services for the general public, as well as, both the state and local law enforcement entities. Increasingly, effective prosecutorial response to the threat of transnational criminal acts requires a high level of collaboration between and among fellow prosecutor offices in the border region, together with a high level of coordination and communication with law enforcement agencies at all levels federal, state, and local. --In addition, due to a large part of the geographic area of Region 3 consisting of wide-open country that are sparsely settled, rural areas have become especially vulnerable for criminal organizations to set up and conduct their smuggling operations. Most of Hidalgo County's towns, along the border, are among the poorest in Texas and lack the sufficient local resources to combat this situation. The best way to address this threat is to have prosecutors work in greater day-to-day cooperation with law enforcement organizations, thereby joining together their investigation and prosecution resources in a seamless joint enterprise. --Need for specialized prosecution assets to effectively and efficiently handle the myriad of crimes attributed to criminal enterprises operating on both sides of the Texas/Mexico Border.

Existing Capability Levels :

Describe the existing capability levels, including resources that are currently in place to support this project prior to the use of grant funds.

--From September 2014 through August 2015, the Hidalgo County Border Prosecution Unit attorneys were involved in the prosecution of over 135 felony criminal cases. Additionally, during this same time period, several hundred requests for assistance from local and regional law enforcement were handled. Also, through BPU, the Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney hosted nearly 250 area peace officers for

two days of continuing education training at no-cost to the law enforcement agencies. --By working with Border Prosecution Unit attorneys in Region 3, as well as other areas of the State of Texas, the Hidalgo County Border Prosecution Unit attorney lent assistance numerous times to other jurisdictions in order to facilitate and provide for more effective criminal prosecutions. --As a result of the creation of the Border Prosecution Unit, and the funding thereof, the Hidalgo County Border Prosecution Unit attorneys, were able to develop and/or teach programs to countless law enforcement officers on the nuances of investigating synthetic cannabinoids (a growing problem among young individuals in the Region), interdiction, 4th amendment, and money laundering. As a result, the ability to identify, investigate and prosecute continuing criminal activity was enhanced for Hidalgo County, the Rio Grande Valley and Region 3. --In South Texas, the Department of Public Safety reports growing number of cases involving transshipment of narcotics and guns. Most recently the cartels have shifted to the movement of human cargo into the border region of Texas, leading to an increase in cases involving human smuggling. Also, the well documented phenomenon of illegal entry of unaccompanied minors, many from Central American countries other than Mexico, has put more strain on local and state enforcement resources. In response to these activities the state of Texas authorized additional funding for the Department of Public Safety "Operation Strong Safety" initiative to continue to operate thus leading to an increase in filings of border crime cases.

Existing Capability Gaps:

Describe the capability gaps which will be addressed by the project. For federal Homeland Security Grants, include specific references to the regional or statewide State Preparedness Report (SPR).

The Border Prosecution Unit serves the community plan and region by enhancing border security through increased intelligence gathering and collaboration between law enforcement and state prosecutors.

Impact Statement :

Describe the project goals/objectives and how this project will maintain capabilities or reduce capability gaps.

--To enhance the capabilities of the Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney's Office to effectively handle the prosecution of criminal caseloads attributable to border crime in the Rio Grande Valley, through collaboration and coordination with other law enforcement agencies, particularly the Texas Department of Public Safety. --Work closely with area law enforcement to increase and improve the investigation of complex organized crime and criminal enterprises which are facilitating illegal activity in the Rio Grande Valley and Region 3 of the Border Prosecution Unit.

Homeland Security Priority Actions:

Identify the Texas Homeland Security Priority Action most closely aligned with this project. Each Priority Action is linked with an *Objective from the Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan (HSSP)*. List the Priority Action by number and text (e.g. *1.2.3 Expand and enhance the network of human sources that can provide detailed and relevant information on known or suspected terrorist and criminal enterprises.*)

1.3.5 Expand the program to establish full-time border prosecutor positions focused on cases involving violent crime and criminal organizations, and enhance state-federal prosecution partnerships in the border region.

Target Group :

Identify the target group and population expected to benefit from this project.

Several large, sophisticated drug smuggling operations have been dismantled through the assistance on the Hidalgo County Border Prosecutor and the Regional Prosecutor. Home invasion crews are being targeted and prosecutions are commencing. However, as criminals are prosecuted and sentenced, new offenders are ascending the ranks of the criminal organizations and are continuing to commit criminal offenses in Hidalgo County and Region 3 of the Border Prosecution Unit.

Long-Term Approach:

Describe how the applicant agency will maintain the capabilities supported by this project without additional federal funds. If sustainment is dependent upon federal grants, describe the ongoing need for future grants, as applicable.

Sustainment is fully dependent upon federal grants, the major challenge the County of Hidalgo faces is the lack of sufficient local resources. It is well known that this area is among the poorest, if not the poorest, not only in Texas, but in the United States. According to the United States Census Bureau website, the percentage of persons living in poverty in Hidalgo County is 33.5% as compared to the national average of 15.6%. The median household income in Hidalgo County is \$34,952.00; below the national average of \$53,482.00. If federal funds were not awarded the burden will be placed on the constituents of the county.

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Project Activities Information

Reserved

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Selected Project Activities:

ACTIVITY	PERCENTAGE:	DESCRIPTION
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Measures Information

Objective Output Measures

OUTPUT MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
----------------	--------------

Objective Outcome Measures

OUTCOME MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
-----------------	--------------

Custom Output Measures

CUSTOM OUTPUT MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
-----------------------	--------------

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/%
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DESCRIPTION	MATCH TYPE	AMOUNT
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Summary Source of Match/GPI:

Total Report	Cash Match	In Kind	GPI Federal Share	GPI State Share
\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

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Budget Summary Information

Budget Summary Information by Budget Category:

CATEGORY	CJD	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	GPI	TOTAL
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Budget Grand Total Information:

CJD	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	GPI	TOTAL
\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

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Resolution from Governing Body

Applications from nonprofit corporations, local units of governments, and other political subdivisions must include a resolution that contains the following:

1. Authorization by your governing body for the submission of the application to OOG that clearly identifies the name of the project for which funding is requested;
2. A commitment to provide all applicable matching funds;
3. A designation of the name and/or title of an authorized official who is given the authority to apply for, accept, reject, alter, or terminate a grant (Note: If a name is provided, you must update OOG should the official change during the grant period.); and
4. A written assurance that, in the event of loss or misuse of grant funds, the governing body will return all funds to OOG.

Upon approval from your agency's governing body, upload the approved resolution to eGrants by clicking on the **Upload Files** tab and following the instructions on *Uploading eGrants Files*.

Contract Compliance

Will grant funds be used to support any contractual or professional services?

- Yes
 No

For applicant agencies that selected **Yes** above, describe how you will monitor the activities of the sub-contractor(s) for compliance with the contract provisions (including equipment purchases), deliverables, and all applicable statutes, rules, regulations, and guidelines governing this project.

Enter a description for monitoring contract compliance:

Lobbying

For applicant agencies requesting grant funds in excess of \$100,000, have any federally appropriated funds been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any federal contract, the making of any federal grant, the making of any federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any federal contract, grant loan, or cooperative agreement?

Note: Pursuant to Texas Government Code §556.005, a political subdivision or private entity that receives state funds may not use the funds to pay a person required to register as a lobbyist or for lobbying expenses. A political subdivision or private entity that violates this provision is not eligible to receive additional state funds.

- Yes
 No
 N/A

For applicant agencies that selected either **No** or **N/A** above, have any non-federal funds been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress in connection with this federal contract, loan, or cooperative agreement?

- Yes
 No
 N/A

Fiscal Year

Provide the begin and end date for the applicant agency's fiscal year (e.g., 09/01/20xx to 08/31/20xx).

Enter the Begin Date [mm/dd/yyyy]:

Enter the End Date [mm/dd/yyyy]:

Sources of Financial Support

Each applicant must provide the amount of grant funds expended during the most recently completed fiscal year for the following sources:

Enter the amount (\$) of Federal Grant Funds:

Enter the amount (\$) of State Grant Funds:

Single Audit

Applicants who expend less than \$750,000 in federal grant funding or less than \$750,000 in state grant funding are exempt from the Single Audit Act and cannot charge audit costs to a HSGD grant. However, HSGD may require a limited scope audit as defined in CFR Part 200, Subpart F - Audit Requirements.

Has the applicant agency expended federal grant funding of \$750,000 or more, or state grant funding of \$750,000 or more during the most recently completed fiscal year?

- Yes
 No

Applicant agencies that selected **Yes** above, provide the date of your organization's last annual single audit, performed by an independent auditor in accordance with the State of Texas Audit Circular or CFR Part 200, Subpart F - Audit Requirements.

Enter the date of your last annual single audit:

Debarment

Each applicant agency will certify that it and its principals (as defined in 2 CFR Part 180.995):

- Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, sentenced to a denial of Federal benefits by a State or Federal Court, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any federal department or agency;
- Have not within a three-year period preceding this application been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (federal, state, or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of federal or state antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property; or
- Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (federal, state, or local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in the above bullet; and have not within a three-year period preceding this application had one or more public transactions (federal, state, or local) terminated for cause or default.

- I Certify
 Unable to Certify

If you selected **Unable to Certify** above, please provide an explanation as to why the applicant agency cannot certify the statements.

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