

Agency Name: Hidalgo County

Grant/App: 2931304

Start Date:  
9/1/2018

Project Title: Hidalgo County Domestic Violence  
Specialty Prosecutor

Status: Application Pending  
Submission

End Date:  
8/31/2019

Fund Source: WF-Violence Against Women Formula Grants

Current Grant Manager: Donald Stout

Current Program Manager:  
Scott Kelly

Liquidation  
Date:

Original Award: \$0.00

Current Budget: \$0.00

Current Award: \$0.00

CFDA: 16.588

OOG Solicitation: WF18-PY19 Violence Against Women Justice and Training  
Program Announcement

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**Identifying 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

Agency Address Line 1: ?

100 N. Closner, RM 303

Agency Address Line 2:

City:

Edinburg

State:

Texas ▼

Zip Code:

78539-3563

Start Date: ?

9/1/2018

End Date:

8/31/2019

Plan Year:

2019

**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**: Hidalgo ▼

Your project will provide services within: ?

Hidalgo

Peer Review for Your Project Performed by:  
Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

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

[Click to View County List](#)

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

Hidalgo

**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:**

[Assign Financial Officer](#)

Title:

Last Name:

Business Phone:

956-318-2511

Position:

County Auditor

Address Line 1:

2808 S. Business Hwy 281

City:

Edinburg

Zip Code:

78539

First Name:

Fax Number:

956-318-2577

Salutation:

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

<b>Title:</b> The Honorable	<b>First Name:</b> Ricardo
<b>Last Name:</b> Rodriguez	<b>Fax Number:</b> 956-318-2078
<b>Business Phone:</b> 956-318-2300	<b>Salutation:</b> Mr.
<b>Position:</b> Criminal District Attorney	<b>Address Line 2:</b> 100 N. Closner, Room 303
<b>Address Line 1:</b> Hidalgo County Courthouse	<b>State:</b> Texas
<b>City:</b> Edinburg	
<b>Zip Code:</b> 78539	

**Notes by Grantee to OOG:**

Note from Grantee to OOG

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**Vendor Identifying Information**

**Organization Type**

Select your type of organization. Then, if prompted, select any additional organization information:

County  ?

- applying to provide direct services to victims only
- applying to provide services to all others
- applying to provide services through a Community Supervision and Corrections Department (CSCD)

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

17460007176041

Select matching payment information:

- 17460007176060: Hidalgo County , 2810 S. Business 281, Edinburg, TX, 78539-6243
- 17460007176000: HIDALGO COUNTY, 100 N CLOSNR ANNEX BLDG, EDINBURG, TX, 78539
- 17460007176062: Hidalgo County, 100 East Cano, Third Floor, Edinburg,, TX, 78540-0689
- 17460007176041: HIDALGO COUNTY, 2810 S HIGHWAY 281, EDINBURG, TX, 78539-6243
- No Match

**Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS):**

103110834

**System for Award Management (SAM)**

Applicant assures that it is currently registered or will register in the federal System for Award Management (SAM) database. Information about registration procedures can be accessed at <https://www.sam.gov/>.

Enter the SAM Expiration Date: 12/18/2018

Is your Agency actively seeking a valid SAM registration?  Yes

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**Upload Banking Documents**

Complete this section to upload banking documents to this project in eGrants.

Choose file type to upload:  Direct Deposit  Texas Payee ID  W9

When the Name of the File displays in the box below, click on the Upload button:

Choose File

No file chosen

Upload

Uploaded Documents

File Description	Uploaded By User Name	Date / Time File Uploaded	Size of File
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Note from Grantee to OOG

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**Agency Name:** Hidalgo County  
**Grant/App:** 2931304 **Start Date:** 9/1/2018 **End Date:** 8/31/2019

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**Status:** Application Pending Submission

## Narrative Information

### Introduction

This application is for grants under the Violence Against Women Justice and Training Program.

Please read the Program [funding announcement](#) for program rules and application guidelines and review the *Guide to Grants, Grantee Conditions and Responsibilities* and *Standard Certifications and Requirements* - all available at [CJD's resources webpage](#) - for standard rules and conditions the applicant agrees to when certifying an application.

*How to Apply for a CJD Grant* contains special instructions for this application, and *Developing a Good Project Narrative* is essential reading for drafting effective responses to the nine boxes below in the "Project Narrative" section. Both are also available at [CJD's resources webpage](#), and applicants wishing to receive a grant should review them closely. Applicants that fail to adequately respond to the prompts will NOT be selected by CJD for funding.

Applications for local or regional projects under this announcement will first be reviewed and ranked by the relevant regional Council of Governments' (COG) Criminal Justice Advisory Committee, and some COGs have additional, mandatory application procedures. Applicants should contact their COG's criminal justice planner early as possible for instructions. The local criminal justice planners are also the first, best contact for questions regarding the application or program, and [their contact information can be found here](#).

Unless otherwise specifically instructed, DO NOT UPLOAD ATTACHMENTS with further information. Use the space provided here to address any aspects of the project you consider relevant.

### Program-Specific Questions

#### A. 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.

#### B. 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'.

#### C. Victim Referral Process

If your project provides direct services to victims, describe how victims are referred to your agency. If your project does not provide direct services to victims, enter 'N/A'.

#### D. 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.

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

Strengthen victim restoration.

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

#### E. Sustainment

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

1) If you entered three (3) years or fewer, provide a brief explanation of your sustainment plan (if you entered more than three years or the project will not be sustained, enter 'N/A'):

2) If you entered 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 (if you entered three years or fewer or the project will not be sustained, enter 'N/A'):

#### **F. Rural Victim Services**

Does your project serve victims in rural areas or rural counties, as defined by the Texas Health and Safety Code\*?

\* Texas Health and Safety Code and Title 25, Health Services Section of the Texas Administrative Code, define "rural area" as (1) a county with a population of 50,000 or less; or (2) a relatively large, isolated, and sparsely populated area in a county with a population of more than 50,000.

Yes

No

If you answered 'YES' above, list the counties or areas of service below and their populations to demonstrate how the definition of "rural area" is met. If you answered 'NO' above, enter 'N/A'.

#### **G. Vehicle Purchases**

Applicants seeking grant funds for the purchase of vehicles - eligible for VOCA applicants only - must describe below:

1) What are the current program transportation needs that will be addressed with vehicle purchases under this project;

2) What evidence exists to support the need for transportation funding that is specific to the program site;

3) What current transportation services exist at each specific program site and how will these current services be enhanced;

4) What transportation services will be provided; and

5) How the grantee will ensure the safe transportation of victims/survivors to and from the program site.

If this application does not seek funds for the purchase of a vehicle, enter 'N/A'.

#### **H. Applicants Performing Sexual Assault Forensic Exams**

If an applicant is currently performing sexual assault forensic exams as any part of their current operations, provide the following information regarding the 12 months prior to submitting the application (enter "0" for all fields if the applicant does not currently perform sexual assault forensic exams).

Number of victims referred for an exam that did not complete one:

Number of report exams performed:

Number of non-report exams performed:

#### **I. Evaluation Projects**

This section regards any evaluation budget line item and/or selection of "Program Evaluation" as a project activity.

##### **Tier-One Evaluations**

Evaluations of programs that have been implemented and the evaluations will test the fidelity of the program based on proven models or best-practices. The evaluation also will review available program output and outcome information.

Does this application include a tier-one evaluation?

Yes

No

If you answered 'YES' above, describe below the best practices/model to be used in a fidelity and performance evaluation, the goal(s) of the evaluation, and why it is needed. If you answered 'No' above, enter 'N/A'.

##### **Tier-Two Evaluations**

Evaluations directed at measuring the effectiveness of proposed new program models or significant changes in present program models.

The goal of tier-two evaluations is both to measure the program's effectiveness and to produce data and evidence necessary for others to replicate the program models and to develop best practices that CJD can use in supporting similar efforts.

Does this application include a tier-two evaluation?

Yes

No

If you answered 'YES' above, describe below why this new program model is needed and the goal(s) of the evaluation. If you answered 'No' above, enter 'N/A'.

If you answered NO to both questions above, check this box.

#### **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. Confidentiality and Privacy**

Applicant agrees to maintain the confidentiality of client-counselor information and research data, as required by state and federal law. 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.

#### **C. 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:

Enter the Address for the Civil Rights Liaison:

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

#### **D. Activities that Compromise Victim Safety and Recovery**

Applicant agrees to not engage in activities that jeopardize victim safety, deter or prevent physical or emotional healing for victims, or allow offenders to escape responsibility for their actions.

#### **E. 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

#### **F. 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.

#### **G. 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.

#### **H. Offender Firearm Prohibition**

Per 18 USC § 992(g), offenders convicted of a felony or misdemeanor level crime of domestic violence and anyone subject to a domestic violence protective order is prohibited from possessing a firearm.

#### **I. 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.

#### **J. 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 previous year.

#### **K. 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 2011 through 2015.

#### **L. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Requests**

The full text of this certification can be found [here](#). 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 at [http://gov.texas.gov/cjd/dhs\\_detainerrequest](http://gov.texas.gov/cjd/dhs_detainerrequest). 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.

#### **M. Immigration Legal Services**

CJD prioritizes funding of projects that provide a full spectrum of counseling, crisis services, and other direct victim services. CJD will not fund projects that focus primarily on immigration legal services and do not provide a significant level of other types of victim services.

#### **N. Services to Victims of Crime**

Applicant agrees to provide services to victims of crime which include: responding to the emotional and physical needs of crime victims; assisting victims in stabilizing their lives after victimization; assisting victims to understand and participate in the criminal justice system; and providing victims with safety and security. If the application is for a project that serves victims of sexual assault, applicant agrees to provide services to victims of sexual assault which includes providing core services, direct intervention, and related assistance to victims of sexual assault in order to assist with their recovery from the physical and psychological trauma of rape and sexual assault.

#### **O. Volunteers**

If awarded VOCA funds, applicant agrees to use volunteers to support either the project or other agency-wide services/activities, unless CJD determines that a compelling reason exists to waive this requirement.

#### **P. Crime Victims' Compensation**

Applicant agrees to assist crime victims in applying for crime victims' compensation benefits.

#### **Q. Community Efforts**

Applicant agrees to promote community efforts to aid crime victims. Applicants should promote, within the community, coordinated public and private efforts to aid crime victims. Coordination efforts qualify an organization to receive these funds, but are not activities that can be supported with these funds.

#### **R. Records**

Applicant agrees to maintain daily time and attendance records specifying the time devoted to allowable victim services.

#### **S. Civil Rights Information**

Applicant agrees to maintain statutorily required civil rights statistics on victims served by race, national origin, sex, age, and disability of victims served, within the timeframe established by CJD. This requirement is waived when providing services, such as telephone counseling, where soliciting the information may be inappropriate or offensive to the crime victim.

#### **T. Victims of Federal Crime**

Applicant agrees to provide equal services to victims of federal crime. (Note: Victim of federal crime is a victim of an offense that violates a federal criminal statute or regulation; federal crimes also include crimes that occur in an area where the federal government has jurisdiction, such as Indian reservations, some national parks, some federal buildings, and military installations.)

#### **U. No Charge**

Applicant agrees to provide grant-funded services at no charge to victims of crime. Applicants are also prohibited from billing Crime Victims Compensation, private insurance, Medicaid, or Medicare for services provided using VOCA funds.

#### **V. Discrimination**

Applicant agrees not to discriminate against victims because they disagree with the State's prosecution of the criminal case.

#### **W. Effective Services**

Applicants applying for funds to provide victim services must demonstrate a record of providing effective services to crime victims. If the applicant cannot yet demonstrate a record of providing effective services, the applicant must demonstrate that at least 25 percent of its financial support comes from non-federal sources. (See "Capacity & Capabilities" instructions in the Funding Announcement.)

#### **Overall Certification**

Each applicant agency must certify to the specific requirements detailed above as well as to comply with all requirements within the CJD Funding Announcement, the *Guide to Grants*, the *Grantee Conditions and Responsibilities*, any authorizing or applicable state and federal statutes and regulations to be eligible for this program.

- I certify to all of the application content & 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. We need to expand the Domestic Violence Unit and hire additional administrative staff to help the Specialty Prosecutor in the prosecution of domestic violence cases and assist victims in obtaining protective orders. 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. It will serve all cities, municipalities and unincorporated areas in Hidalgo County, Texas. The services will target victims of domestic violence while focusing on keeping victims safe and holding perpetrators accountable. We will serve both genders, all ages and races will be served; to include Undocumented victims of crime.

### **Problem Statement :**

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.

### **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. 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:**

This project will address the following priorities in the LRGVDC Regional Strategic Plan: domestic violence, dating violence, child abuse, sexual assault, and stalking. It will also address counseling and support for victims and secondary victims. The Domestic Violence Specialty Prosecutor will review, investigate, and prosecute cases of family violence, stalking, dating violence, and sexual assault. The Victim Advocate will provide victim assistance to assist victims through the judicial process. The victim advocate will also refer victims to community based services. They will help victims obtain protective orders. The Victim 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.

### **Capacity & Capabilities:**

The Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney Office represents the state of Texas government in the prosecution of criminal offenses in the County of Hidalgo. The grant is administered by the D.A.'s Office and all required reports and justification for the grant are provided on a yearly basis. In addition, the D.A.'s office runs the domestic violence unit and oversees that the grant monies are adequately expended. The D.A.'s office also works closely with the County Auditor's Office to ensure the proper use of grant funds and to budget accordingly. The Domestic Violence Specialty Prosecutor is an attorney for the state with 5 years of prosecutorial experience in domestic violence cases. The Victim Advocate has a BS in Social Work and has 10 years victim assistance experience.

### **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. The objectives of the program are to have 350 cases referred, filed and investigated for prosecution. To file 150 protective orders for victims, and to provide 6 training events. Assist 500 victims with victim assistance services to include, 150 crime victim compensation applications, to provide 200 victims with information and referrals, and 300 victims with crisis counseling. The program success will be measured by providing every victim that we serve with a Service Evaluation. The service evaluation will be in Spanish and English and will measure how effective our services were rendered to the victim.

### **Data Management:**

The Hidalgo County District Attorney's office will provide a Client Satisfaction Survey to monitor and track the how victims are receiving services. The advocate and prosecutor will submit monthly reports to the Victim's Unit Director to track the outcomes and make sure that they are in compliance with all grant requirements.

### **Target Group :**

Victims that reside in Hidalgo County population of 842,304 as of the last Census Hidalgo County has a 91.3% of Hispanic Population Female Population in Hidalgo County is 51.2% Victims of Domestic Violence- All age groups 0-99 years of age Spanish Speaking Victims Undocumented Victims Female & Male Victims

### **Evidence-Based Practices:**

The Hidalgo County District Attorney's Office implemented the Victims Unit in a effort to comply with Article 56.05(c) of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure that states the Attorney representing the state has the duty to ensure that victims are afforded their rights. The office of the attorney representing the state has the duty to ensure to the extent practicable that a victim, guardian of a victim, or close relative of a deceased victim is afforded the rights granted by Subsection (a) of the CCP, Chapter 56. Subchapter A. Art. 56.02 and 56.021, and upon request, an explanation of those rights. Art. 56.02(c) If the offense is a capital felony, the victim has the right to receive by mail from the court a written explanation of defense-initiated victim outreach if the court has authorized expenditures for a defense-initiated victim outreach specialist. The victim has the right to not be contacted by the victim outreach specialist unless the victim, guardian, or relative has consented to the contact by providing a written notice to the court. The victim may designate a victim service provider to receive all communications from a victim outreach specialist acting on behalf of any person. Art. 56.02(a)(16)(A-C) The Hidalgo County District Attorneys Office used the guide issued by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Division "CRIME VICTIM ASSISTANCE STANDARDS" developed and distributed by the Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse in accordance with Article 56.05(c) of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure to aid Law Enforcement Officers and Attorneys Representing the State of Texas in performing duties imposed by Chapter 56. Rights of Crime Victims. [https://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/documents/Victim\\_Assistance\\_Standards.pdf](https://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/documents/Victim_Assistance_Standards.pdf)

You are logged in as **User Name:** HidalgoCDA

**Agency Name:** Hidalgo County

**Grant/App:** 2931304 **Start Date:** 9/1/2018 **End Date:** 8/31/2019

**Project Title:** Hidalgo County Domestic Violence Specialty Prosecutor

**Status:** Application Pending Submission

## Project Activities Information

### Introduction

This section contains questions about your project. It is very important for applicants to review their funding announcement for guidance on how to fill out this section. Unless otherwise specified, answers should be about the EXPECTED activities to occur during the project period.

For the activities under the "OOG-Defined Project Activity Area" section near the end of this page, see *CJD Grant Activities and Measures* for definitions and related measures, available at [CJD's resources page](#).

### Estimated Individuals Participating/Served/Trained

This question is for the majority of CJD grants that serve or train individuals, or has individuals participating in a program. This question does not apply to projects that ONLY purchase equipment, etc., that will be used generally (such as purchasing a colposcope, vehicle, or communications system), or target the general public (a public awareness campaign, etc.). Please estimate the following for the project period, or if this does not apply to your project, enter "0" in each box.

Number of individuals NEWLY participating/ trained/ being served:

Number of carry-over individuals participating/ training/ being served in the program at the beginning of the project period:

Number of individuals who will receive the full course of services/ successfully complete the program or training:

Choose one:

- My program does not have individuals served or participating
- My program's typical designed (ideal) length is best measured in HOURS of services delivered/ participation/ training for each individual
- My program's typical designed (ideal) length is best measured in DAYS of services delivered/ participation/ training for each individual

Enter the number of hours or days (depending on selection above) of the typical designed (ideal) length of the program for each individual. Enter "0" if you indicated that your program does have individuals participating, served, or trained:

### Special Project Types and Information

Select all special project types that apply to your project.

Task forces: Project will support the operations and coordination activities of a task force.

- Yes
- No

If you answered 'YES' above, enter the name of the task force. If you selected **No**, enter **N/A**.

If you answered 'YES' above, enter the agencies or organizations that participate in the above-named task force. If you selected **No**, enter **N/A**.

Gang activity: Project involves a focus specifically on gang activity.

- Yes
- No

Transnational and organized crime: Project involves a focus specifically on transnational and organized crime.

- Yes
- No

Border activities: Project involves a focus specifically related to the Texas-Mexico border.

- Yes
- No

Human trafficking (select all that apply):

- Project focuses on human trafficking
- Project specifically focuses on trafficking of minors
- Project specifically focuses on trafficking of adults
- Project specifically focuses on sex trafficking
- Project specifically focuses on labor trafficking
- Project does not have any particular focus on human trafficking

### Campus-Based Projects

This project is based on – or serves – one or more specific educational campuses (K-12 or higher education).

How many TOTAL students at ALL campuses will be served by the project? (enter "0" if this project is not based on – or serves – specific educational campuses):

List each educational campus that will be served by this project. Enter 'N/A' if this project is not based on – or serves – specific educational campuses.

### Crime or Victim Type

Select the type(s) of crime or crime victim this project targets and provide the percentage of time dedicated to each. Applicants with projects that target multiple-offense offenders or multiple-victimization victims should assign percentages that best describe the activity. Percentages may not exceed 100%.

- Sexual assault (%):
- Domestic abuse (%):
- Child abuse (%):
- DUI / DWI (crashes for victim services) (%):
- Survivors of homicide (%):
- Assault (%):
- Adults molested as children (%):
- Elder abuse (%):
- Robbery (%):
- Stalking (%):
- Dating/acquaintance violence (%):
- Human trafficking (%):
- Child sex trafficking (%):
- All Other Crimes / No Specific Crimes or Victims Targeted (%):

**Child Sex Trafficking**

This section is only for projects serving victims of child sex trafficking. All others should enter "0" when asked to provide a number.

CJD acknowledges that grantees serving child sex trafficking victims may initially enroll, serve, or assess individuals who are eventually determined to be ineligible for services due to their age. For planning purposes, project the total number of victims expected to be served/enrolled that will be:

Under the age of 18:

Ages 18 - 22:

Over the age of 22:

As a component of your organization's victim services, do you offer direct medical care to victims?

- Yes
- No

Of the number of victims expected to be served/enrolled (see under Section 1 above), how many victims are projected to be served for:

Under 6 months:

6-12 months:

Over 12 months:

Estimate figures related to screenings and assessments:

Number of screenings for child sex trafficking victim status performed:

Number of individuals screened for child sex trafficking victim status:

Number of individuals screened with the result of "reason to believe" or "suspicions not confirmed":

Number of individuals assessed for victim-related needs:

Multi-disciplinary teams.

Number of expected regular team meetings:

Number of estimated emergency team meetings:

Wrap-around services:

Number of hours of wrap-around services provided to victims during regular business hours:

Number of hours of wrap-around services provided to victims outside of regular business hours:

Respite:

Number of nights of respite provided to foster children:

Number of respite episodes facilitated for foster families:

**Selected Project Activities:**

ACTIVITY	PERCENTAGE:	DESCRIPTION
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**CJD Purpose Areas**

PERCENT DEDICATED	PURPOSE AREA	PURPOSE AREA DESCRIPTION
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**Agency Name:** Hidalgo County

**Grant/App:** 2931304 **Start Date:** 9/1/2018 **End Date:** 8/31/2019

**Project Title:** Hidalgo County Domestic Violence Specialty Prosecutor

**Status:** Application Pending Submission

**Budget Details Information**

**Budget Information by Budget Line Item:**

CATEGORY	SUB CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	GPI	TOTAL	UNIT/%
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**Source of Match Information**

**Detail Source of Match/GPI:**

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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**Agency Name:** Hidalgo County

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**Budget Summary Information**

**Budget Summary Information by Budget Category:**

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

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

You are logged in as **User Name:** HidalgoCDA

**Agency Name:** Hidalgo County

**Grant/App:** 2931304 **Start Date:** 9/1/2018 **End Date:** 8/31/2019

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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 CJD 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 CJD 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 CJD.

Upon approval from your agency's governing body, upload the approved resolution to eGrants by clicking on the **Upload Files** sub-tab located in the **Summary** tab.

### Contract Compliance

Will CJD grant funds be used to support any contracts for 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.

### 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?

- 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 CJD grant. However, CJD may require a limited scope audit as defined in 2 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 Single Audit Circular; or CFR Part 200, Subpart F - Audit Requirements.

Enter the date of your last annual single audit:

## **Equal Employment Opportunity Plan**

### **Type I Entity**

Defined as an applicant that meets one or more of the following criteria:

- the applicant has less than 50 employees;
- the applicant is a non-profit organization;
- the applicant is a medical institution;
- the applicant is an Indian tribe;
- the applicant is an educational institution, or
- the applicant is receiving a single award of less than \$25,000.

### Requirements for a Type I Entity

- The applicant is exempt from the EEOP requirements required to prepare an EEOP because it is a Type I Entity as defined above, pursuant to 28 CFR 42.302;
- the applicant must complete Section A of the Certification Form and send it to the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) to claim the exemption from developing an EEOP; and
- the applicant will comply with applicable federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination in employment and in the delivery of services.

### **Type II Entity**

Defined as an applicant that meets the following criteria:

- the applicant has 50 or more employees, and
- the applicant is receiving a single award of \$25,000 or more, but less than \$500,000.

### Requirements for a Type II Entity - Federal law requires a Type II Entity to formulate an EEOP and keep it on file.

- The applicant agency is required to formulate an EEOP in accordance with 28 CFR 42.301, et seq., subpart E;
- the EEOP is required to be formulated and signed into effect within the past two years by the proper authority;
- the EEOP is available for review by the public and employees or for review or audit by officials of CJD, CJD's designee, or the Office of Civil Rights, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, as required by relevant laws and regulations;
- the applicant will comply with applicable federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination in employment and in the delivery of services; and
- the EEOP is required to be on file in the office of (enter the name and address where the EEOP is filed below):

Enter the name of the person responsible for the EEOP and the address of the office where the EEOP is filed:

### **Type III Entity**

Defined as an applicant that is NOT a Type I or Type II Entity.

### Requirements for a Type III Entity - Federal law requires a Type III Entity to formulate an EEOP and submit it for approval to the Office for Civil Rights, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.

- The EEOP is required to be formulated and signed into effect within the past two years by the proper authority;
- the EEOP has been submitted to the Office of Civil Rights (OCR), Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice and has been approved by the OCR, or it will be submitted to the OCR for approval upon award of the grant, as required by relevant laws and regulations; and
- the applicant will comply with applicable federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination in employment and in the delivery of services.

Based on the definitions and requirements above, the applicant agency certifies to the following entity type:

- Type I Entity
- Type II Entity
- Type III Entity

## **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.

Select the appropriate response:

- 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.

## **FFATA Certification**

**Certification of Recipient Highly Compensated Officers**

The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) requires Prime Recipients (CJD) to report the names and total compensation of each of the five most highly compensated officers (a.k.a. positions) of each sub recipient organization for the most recently completed fiscal year preceding the year in which the grant is awarded if the subrecipient answers **YES** to the **FIRST** statement but **NO** to the **SECOND** statement listed below.

In the sub recipient's preceding completed fiscal year, did the sub recipient receive: (1) 80 percent or more of its annual gross revenue from Federal contracts (and subcontracts), loans, grants (and subgrants) and cooperative agreements; AND (2) \$25,000,000 or more in annual gross revenue from Federal contracts (and subcontracts), loans, grants (and subgrants) and cooperative agreements?

- Yes
- No

Does the public have access to information about the compensation of the senior executives through periodic reports filed under Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m(a), 78o(d)) or Section 6104 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986?

- Yes
- No

If you answered **YES** to the **FIRST** statement and **NO** to the **SECOND** statement, please provide the name and total compensation amount of each of the five most highly compensated officers (a.k.a. positions) within your agency for the current calendar year. If you answered **NO** to the first statement you are **NOT** required to provide the name and compensation amounts. NOTE: "Total compensation" means the complete pay package of each of the sub recipient's compensated officers, including all forms of money, benefits, services, and in-kind payments (see SEC Regulations: 17 CCR 229.402).

Position 1 - Name:

Position 1 - Total Compensation (\$):

Position 2 - Name:

Position 2 - Total Compensation (\$):

Position 3 - Name:

Position 3 - Total Compensation (\$):

Position 4 - Name:

Position 4 - Total Compensation (\$):

Position 5 - Name:

Position 5 - Total Compensation (\$):

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