

Print This Page

Agency Name: Hidalgo County
Grant/App: 2931307 **Start Date:** 9/1/2021 **End Date:** 8/31/2022

Project Title: Domestic Violence Specialty Prosecutor
Status: Application Pending Submission

Profile Information

Applicant Agency Name: Hidalgo County
Project Title: 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: 9/1/2021
End Date: 8/31/2022

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

Name: Richard F. Cortez
Email: countyjudge@co.hidalgo.tx.us
Address 1: 100 East Cano, 2nd Floor
Address 1:
City: Edinburg, Texas 78539
Phone: 956-318-2600 Other Phone:
Fax: 956-318-2699
Title: The Honorable
Salutation: Judge
Position: Hidalgo County Judge

Financial Official

Name: Maria Arcilia Duran
Email: arcilia.duran@auditor.co.hidalgo.tx.us
Address 1: 2808 S. Business Hwy 281
Address 1:
City: Edinburg, Texas 78539
Phone: 956-318-2511 Other Phone:
Fax: 956-318-2577
Title: Ms.
Salutation: Ms.
Position: County Auditor

Project Director

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
Fax: 956-318-2078
Title: The Honorable
Salutation: Mr.
Position: Criminal District Attorney

Grant Writer

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

Fax: 956-318-2078

Title: The Honorable

Salutation: Mr.

Position: Criminal District Attorney

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

[Print This Page](#)

Agency Name: Hidalgo County

Grant/App: 2931307 **Start Date:** 9/1/2021 **End Date:** 8/31/2022

Project Title: Domestic Violence Specialty Prosecutor

Status: Application Pending Submission

Grant Vendor Information

Organization Type: County

Organization Option: applying to provide services to all others

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

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

Agency Name: Hidalgo County

Grant/App: 2931307 **Start Date:** 9/1/2021 **End Date:** 8/31/2022

Project Title: Domestic Violence Specialty Prosecutor

Status: Application Pending Submission

Narrative Information

Introduction

The purpose of this funding is to solicit applications for projects that promote a coordinated, multi-disciplinary approach to improve the justice system's response to violent crimes against women, including domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

The funding announcement, located on the [eGrants Calendar](#) page, describes the organization types, activities, and costs that are eligible under the announcement. The PSO's [eGrants User Guide to Creating an Application](#) guides applicants through the process of creating and submitting an application in eGrants. Information and guidance related to the management and use of grant funds can be found in the The PSO's Guide to Grants, located on the [PSO Resource for Applicants and Grantees webpage](#).

Program-Specific Questions

Culturally Competent Victim Restoration

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 Hidalgo County District Attorney's (HCDA) Office Domestic Violence Unit (DVU) provides assistance to all victims of crime and prosecutes domestic violence cases. The attorney that works under the Domestic Violence Specialty Prosecutor Grant (DVSP) integrates cultural knowledge, acceptance, and sensitivity to accomplish effective advocacy. The Victims Unit staff acknowledges that every victim has different needs, ideas and barriers that require diverse services. The attorney provides a network of support services in addition to the guidance to ensure that victims understand the criminal justice process. All of the Victims Unit staff is bilingual in Spanish and English and we have developed a LEP Policy that ensures that victims that need assistance in another language have access to culturally specific services. The attorney is part of the of the Hidalgo County Family Violence Task Force and the Hidalgo County Crime Victim Liaisons Unit and work collaboratively with all the community based programs that service victims in our region to ensure that all the needs of victims are met. Victims Unit staff are required to take the Culture Competency Training every year. We currently use the online webinar provided by the Office of Victims of Crime "Culture, Diversity, and Inclusivity". This training covers the skills needed to interact with and assist crime victims from all cultures and backgrounds by addressing cultural barriers such as stereotyping, value differences, communication styles, and language and interpreter bias. This training also prepares the Victims staff to help victims who may be different from them. In addition, every conference that Victims Unit staff attends is victim centered and includes a Cultural Competency track.

Culturally Specific and Underserved Populations

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**'.

N/A

State Priorities

Provide a brief explanation regarding the proposed project's relevance to any or all of the following state 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 Domestic Violence Prosecutor to improve prosecution of domestic violence cases. The DV Unit works with the HCDA-Victims Unit staff, the local Domestic Violence Shelter and the local police departments to ensure investigation and prosecutions are handled in an efficient professional manner and always keeping the victim's safety a priority . The Domestic Violence 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 victims in applying for the Crime Victims Compensation Program (CVC) and with the relocation process. Once approved by CVC, victims will be referred for immigration relief with community based legal service agencies by the legal counsel and the HCDA-Victims Unit staff. Victims will be accommodated with bi-lingual court information and if needed with a translator for all criminal proceedings. Victims will also be registered with the Texas Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) system to maintain them informed of criminal justice proceedings and will be referred with post sentence services to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) to continue victim services after case has been disposed. The HCDA Office has implemented a procedure for victims that want to sign Affidavits Of Non-Prosecution (ANP). 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 their 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. Victims will also be referred to the Office of the Attorney General to access child support safely and register for the Address Confidentiality program. Transitional Housing Programs and/or Public Housing Programs will also be referred to the Victims in order for them to obtain a stable home 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 Domestic Violence 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 Domestic Violence Prosecutor will continue to include case screening, consulting with the victim advocate, coordination with local law enforcement, and providing law enforcement training. The Domestic Violence 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.

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:

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 120 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. 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Offender Firearm Prohibition

The applicant certifies that its judicial administrative policies and practices include notification to domestic violence offenders of the requirements delineated in section 18 USC § 992(g)(8) and (g)(9).

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.

Criminal History Reporting

Entities receiving funds from PSO 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 66*. 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.

Beginning January 1, 2021, counties applying for grant awards from the Office of the Governor must commit that the county will report at least 90 percent of convictions and other dispositions within five business days to the Criminal Justice Information System at the Department of Public Safety. Click [here](#) for additional information from DPS on this new reporting requirement.

Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR)

Eligible applicants operating a law enforcement agency must be current on reporting complete UCR data and the Texas specific reporting mandated by 411.042 TGC, to the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) for inclusion in the annual Crime in Texas (CIT) publication. 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 by the deadline(s) established by DPS. Due to the importance of timely reporting, applicants are required to submit complete and accurate UCR data, as well as the Texas-mandated reporting, on a no less than monthly basis and respond promptly to requests from DPS related to the data submitted. Note: UCR is transitioning from summary reporting to NIBRS only in 2021. Applicants are encouraged to transition to NIBRS as soon as possible in order to maintain their grant eligibility.

Immigration Legal Services

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

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.

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 VAWA funds.

Discrimination

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

Compliance with State and Federal Laws, Programs and Procedures

Local units of government, including cities, counties and other general purpose political subdivisions, as appropriate, and institutions of higher education that operate a law enforcement agency, must comply with 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 Agency's custody; and (2) detain such illegal aliens in accordance with requests by DHS. Additionally, counties and municipalities may NOT have in effect, purport to have in effect, or make themselves subject to or bound by, any law, rule, policy, or practice (written or unwritten) that would: (1) require or authorize the public disclosure of federal law enforcement information in order to conceal, harbor, or shield from detection fugitives from justice or aliens illegally in the United States; or (2) impede federal officers from exercising authority under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a), § 1226(c), § 1231(a), § 1357(a), § 1366(1), or § 1366(3). Lastly, eligible applicants must comply with all provisions, policies, and penalties found in Chapter 752, Subchapter C of the Texas Government Code.

Each local unit of government, and institution of higher education that operates a law enforcement agency, must download, complete and then upload into eGrants the [CEO/Law Enforcement Certifications and Assurances Form](#) certifying compliance with federal and state immigration enforcement requirements. This Form is required for each application submitted to PSO and is active until August 31, 2022 or the end of the grant period, whichever is later.

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

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 PSO 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 E Cano 2nd Floor Administration Building Edinburg, TX 78539

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

9562927600

Overall Certification

Each applicant agency must certify to the specific requirements detailed above as well as to comply with all requirements within the PSO 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 developed a Victim Centered Approach to address the prosecution and victim services for domestic violence cases that are submitted to our office. Domestic violence is one of the most difficult cases to prosecute and requires specialty trained prosecutors. Special areas of concern for the Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney's Office include: 1) Children Exposed to Domestic Violence 2) Reducing the number of Affidavits of Non Prosecution filed by victims 3) Increase Participation of Victim in The Criminal Justice Process 4) Lack of Physical Evidence during investigation of crime 5) Changing the viewpoints in the community about domestic violence victims and decreasing victim blaming while holding perpetrators accountable. 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.

Problem Statement :

In 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. Due to the fact that many jurors are less likely to believe or be sympathetic to a victim of domestic violence who recants or returns to the abuser, these cases continue to be extremely difficult to successfully prosecute. Because of 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. One of the primary areas of concern of the Hidalgo County District Attorney's Office (HCDA) is to address the safety of children that are exposed to domestic violence at home. The program follows guidelines found in the Evidence-Based Practices for Children Exposed to Violence of the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S Department of Health and Human Services. These guidelines use and a set of key principles to address children's exposure to domestic violence such as safety focused victim services, culturally appropriate victim services, and referrals to trauma informed community based victim services for children. Our office understands that in cases of domestic violence ensuring the safety of the victim and their children is paramount. It is very common for victims of domestic violence to decide to recant their testimony and not follow through on pursuing charges against their intimate partner for fear and other reasons. HCDA has implemented a Safety Planning program to ensure that every domestic violence victim that comes to our office to submit an Affidavit of Non Prosecution meets in person with a Victim Advocate. The advocates informs victims of the resources available to them and goes through a Safety Plan with them in a language they can read and understand. Also assistance is offered to victims in applying for a Protective Order. If the victim states that they still want to submit the Affidavit of Non Prosecution the Advocates advises them that the case will still be reviewed by the Specialty Domestic Violence Prosecutor and that the outcome of the case is not the victim's responsibility. We educate them on the criminal justice process and explain to victims that our office is prosecuting the violation of the law. The defendant will be held accountable and the primary concern of our office is to ensure victim safety. The Domestic Violence Specialty Prosecutor will work with all the Domestic Violence Unit staff. 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 :

The Texas Family Violence Code defines Family Violence as an act by a member of a family or household against another member that is intended to result in physical harm, bodily injury, assault or a threat that reasonably places the member of fear of imminent physical harm. The Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney's Office provided victim assistance to 4,701 victims of domestic violence from January – December of 2019. This number constitutes to 56.7 % of victims that were served in 2019. According to the Texas Department of Public Safety Uniform Crime Report of 2019 there were a total of 196,902 of family violence incidents in the State of Texas. The 2019 Honoring Texas Victims reported 150 women and 31 males killed by an intimate partner in Texas. Hidalgo County lost 3 lives to family violence incidents in 2019.

Project Approach & Activities:

The Domestic Violence Prosecutor will review, investigate, and prosecute cases of family violence, stalking, and dating violence. The Victim Advocate, that will be pay from another source, will assist victims through the judicial process. An Investigator, also paid from another funding source, will work with local law enforcement agencies to provide guidance, training and develop victim centered responses to domestic violence incidents. He will also refer victims to community based services and work closely with the HCDA Victims Unit to ensure victims receive a Safety Plan and victim services. They will assist victims in applying for protective orders. The Domestic Violence Specialty Prosecutor, the Victim Advocate and Administrative Assistant that compromise the Domestic Violence Unit will work together to effectively prosecute domestic violence cases . Translation services will be available for non-English speaking victims. The Domestic Violence Unit staff 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 domestic violence and work directly with victims throughout the criminal justice process to help ensure victims' rights are afforded and the victim's 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 victim services are tracked by the use of the Victim Services (VS) tracking software to ensure accurate data collection. The Domestic Violence Prosecutor will be an attorney for the state with 4 years of prosecutorial experience in domestic violence cases. He will attend continuous specialized training on domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and crimes against women.

Performance Management :

The Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney's office has developed a victim centered approach to address the prosecution and victim services for domestic violence cases that are being submitted in our office for prosecution. Domestic violence is one of the most difficult cases to prosecute and requires specialty trained prosecutor. The goals of the Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney's Office Domestic Violence Specialty Prosecutor program include: 1) improve and increase the prosecution of domestic violence cases 2) reducing the number of Affidavits of Non Prosecution filed by victims 3) increase participation of victim in the criminal justice process 4) train law enforcement officers to improve the collection of physical evidence during investigation of the crime 5) change the viewpoints in the community about domestic violence victims and decrease victim blaming while holding perpetrators accountable. The objectives are to provide victim advocacy and educate victims of domestic violence on victims' rights, victim impact statements, prosecution process, restitution, post sentence services, safety planning, community based services and assist victims in obtaining protective orders in an effort to increase the safety and inform victims of the services available to them so they can leave abusive relationships and live a life free of violence. Perform targeted prosecution and case reviews for domestic violence cases; provide training to law enforcement officers to improve the physical evidence collection in an effort to improve the prosecution of domestic violence cases. 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. In addition, a training evaluation will be provided at every training to measure the success and learning objectives.

Target Group :

The target group are victims of domestic violence ages 12 and up, to include but not limited to all races and ethnicities, all genders and or sexual orientations, undocumented victims, all socio-economic and education backgrounds who reside in the County of Hidalgo.

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 Attorney's 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

[Print This Page](#)

Agency Name: Hidalgo County

Grant/App: 2931307 **Start Date:** 9/1/2021 **End Date:** 8/31/2022

Project Title: 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.

Selected Project Activities:

ACTIVITY	PERCENTAGE:	DESCRIPTION
Prosecution	100.00	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 Specialty 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. 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. The Specialty Prosecutor will provide assistance to a victim with the criminal and civil legal issues in completing protective orders and temporary ex-parte.

CJD Purpose Areas

PERCENT DEDICATED	PURPOSE AREA	PURPOSE AREA DESCRIPTION
-------------------	--------------	--------------------------

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

[Print This Page](#)

Agency Name: Hidalgo County

Grant/App: 2931307 **Start Date:** 9/1/2021 **End Date:** 8/31/2022

Project Title: Domestic Violence Specialty Prosecutor

Status: Application Pending Submission

Measures Information

Objective Output Measures

OUTPUT MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
Number of sexual assault, domestic violence and / or stalking cases filed.	300
Number of sexual assault, domestic violence, and / or stalking cases referred.	50

Objective Outcome Measures

OUTCOME MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
Number of cases resulting in conviction or deferred adjudication.	75
Number of charges dismissed or acquitted.	25

Custom Output Measures

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

Custom Outcome Measures

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

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

[Print This Page](#)

Agency Name: Hidalgo County

Grant/App: 2931307 **Start Date:** 9/1/2021 **End Date:** 8/31/2022

Project Title: Domestic Violence Specialty Prosecutor

Status: Application Pending Submission

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 the Public Safety Office (PSO) 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 the PSO 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 PSO.

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 PSO grant funds be used to support any contracts for professional services?

Select the appropriate response:

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?

Select the appropriate response:

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?

Select the appropriate response:

- 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]:

1/1/2021

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

12/31/2021

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 (in Whole Dollars \$) of Federal Grant Funds expended:

74145579

Enter the amount (in Whole Dollars \$) of State Grant Funds expended:

12666343

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 PSO grant. However, PSO 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?

Select the appropriate response:

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:

12/13/2018

Equal Employment Opportunity Plan

Compliance

EEOP certification information must be submitted to the Office of Civil Rights, Office of Justice Programs through their on-line [EEOP Reporting Tool](#) within 120 days of the grant award date. For more information and guidance on how to complete and submit the federal EEOP certification information, please visit the US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs website at <https://ojp.gov/about/ocr/eeop.htm>.

Type I Entity

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

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

Requirements

- The applicant agency is exempt from the requirement to prepare an EEOP because it is a Type I Entity as defined above, pursuant to 28 CFR 42, subpart E;
- the applicant will comply with applicable federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination in employment and in the delivery of services; and
- the applicant must submit EEOP Certification information the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) to claim the exemption from developing an EEOP.

Type II Entity

Defined as an applicant that meets the following criteria:

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

Requirements

- The applicant agency is required to formulate an EEOP in accordance with 28 CFR 42.301, 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 OOG, OOG'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;
- the applicant must submit EEOP information to the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) to claim the exemption from submitting an EEOP to OCR; and
- the EEOP is required to be on file with the applicant agency.

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

- 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; and
- the applicant must submit EEOP information to the Office for Civil Rights (OCR).

Certification

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 (\$):

0

Position 2 - Name:

Position 2 - Total Compensation (\$):

0

Position 3 - Name:

Position 3 - Total Compensation (\$):

0

Position 4 - Name:

Position 4 - Total Compensation (\$):

0

Position 5 - Name:

Position 5 - Total Compensation (\$):

0

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

General Information and Instructions

Agency Type

Implementing Agency Type - Government

Which designation best describes your agency (select only one):

- Corrections
- Courts
- Juvenile justice
- Law enforcement
- Prosecutor
- Other – describe below

If Other is selected describe below:

Purpose of Award

Check all that apply:

- Continue an OOG-funded victim project funded in a previous year
- Expand or enhance an existing project not funded by OOG in the previous year
- Start up a new victim services project
- Start up a new Native American victim services project
- Expand or enhance an existing Native American project

Type of Crime Funding Distribution

Identify the percent of funding dedicated to each type of victimization. The percentages provided below should not include matching funds. Cumulative total for all types of victimization must equal 100%.

Type of Crime	Percent of Funds Dedicated to Crime <i>Enter whole percentages only</i>	Funds Dedicated to Crime <i>Current Award x Percent Entered</i>
Domestic and Family Violence	95	\$75,269.43
Adult Sexual Assault	5	\$3,961.55
Adults Molested As Children	0	\$0.00
Elder Abuse	0	\$0.00
Adult Human Trafficking	0	\$0.00
Other Non-Violent Crimes	0	\$0.00

Description:

SUM of %'s
Sum of % MUST = 100% 100

SUM of Funds
Sum of Funds MUST = OOG Current Budget \$79,230.98

Use of Funds

Does this project provide **DIRECT SERVICES** to victims:

- Yes
 No

Types of Victimization

Check the types of victimization that best describe the victims the grant-funded project will serve. "Other" refers to a type that is not associated with any of the types provided in the list. Check all that apply:

Type of Victimization

- Adult sexual assault
 Adults sexually abused/assaulted as children
 Domestic and/or family violence
 Human trafficking: sex
 Stalking/harassment
 Teen dating victimization
 Other

If Other is TRUE provide explanation:

Budget and Staffing

Answer the questions below based on your current fiscal year. Report the total budget available to the victim services program by source of funding. Do not report the entire agency budget, unless the entire budget is devoted to victim services program.

Annual funding amounts allocated to all victimization programs and/or services for the current fiscal year:

Identify by source the amount of funds allocated to the victimization program/services budget for your agency. DO NOT

COUNT FUNDS IN MORE THAN ONE CATEGORY. OTHER FEDERAL includes all federal funding except the award amount for this grant.

OOG Current Budget:	\$79,230.98
Other State Funds:	\$0.00
Other Local Funds:	\$0.00
Other Federal Funds:	\$0.00
Other Non-Federal Funds:	\$0.00
Total Victimization Program Budget:	\$79,230.98

Total number of paid staff for all grantee victimization program and/or services:

COUNT each staff member once. Both full and part time staff should be counted as one staff member. DO NOT prorate based on FTE.

Total number of staff:	22
------------------------	----

Number of staff hours funded through THIS grant award (plus match) for grantee's victimization programs and/or services:

Total COUNT of hours to work by all staff supporting the work of this award, including match.

Total number of hours:	2080
------------------------	------

Number of volunteer staff supporting the work of this award (plus match) for grantee's victimization programs and/or services:

COUNT each volunteer staff once. DO NOT prorate based on FTE.

Total number of volunteer staff:	0
----------------------------------	---

Number of volunteer hours supporting the work of this award (plus match) for grantee's victimization programs:

Total COUNT of hours to work by all volunteers supporting the work of the award, including match.

Total hours to work by all volunteers:	0
--	---

Agency Name: Hidalgo County

Grant/App: 2931307

Start Date:
9/1/2021

Project Title: Domestic Violence Specialty Prosecutor

Status: Application Pending Submission

End Date:
8/31/2022

Fund Source: WF-Violence Against Women Formula Grants

Current Grant Manager: Madison Ballard

Current Program Manager: Jason Buckner

Liquidation Date:

Original Award: \$0.00

Current Budget: \$79,230.98

Current Award: \$0.00

CFDA: 16.568

OOG Solicitation: FY22 Violence Against Women Justice and Training Program Announcement

Eligibility Profile Narrative Activities Measures Budget Documents Victim.Services Conditions.of.Funding Submit.Application Summary Upload.Files My.Home

General Information and Instructions

[View Introduction](#)

[View Instructions](#)

Fund Source Information and Instructions

List of Application Errors and Incomplete Information

Item(s) that Need to be Resolved	Tab Name
Required: The Direct Deposit form must be uploaded before you can submit your application.	GrantVendor
Required: The W9 form must be uploaded before you can submit your application.	GrantVendor
Required: The Texas Payee ID form must be uploaded before you can submit your application.	GrantVendor
Invalid: The Cash Match Total on Budget Details tab must equal the Cash Match Total on the Source of Match tab. Budget Details Total Cash Match: \$33,956.13 / Source of Match Total Cash Match: \$0.00	Source of Match

List of Post-Award Conditions of Funding and Other Fund-Specific Requirements

Condition of Funding / Project Requirement	Date Created	Date Met	Hold Project Funds	Hold Line Item Funds

[Submit Initial Application](#)

[Withdraw Application](#)

Statement of Grant Award (SOGA)

The Statement of Grant Award is the official notice of award from the Office of the Governor (OOG). This Grant Agreement and all terms, conditions, provisions and obligations set forth herein shall be binding upon and shall inure to the benefit of the Parties and their respective successors and assigns and all other State of Texas agencies and any other agencies, departments, divisions, governmental entities, public corporations, and other entities which shall be successors to each of the Parties or which shall succeed to or become obligated to perform or become bound by any of the covenants, agreements or obligations hereunder of each of the Parties hereto.

The approved project narrative and budget for this award are reflected in eGrants on the 'Narrative' and 'Budget/Details' tabs. By accepting the Grant Award in eGrants, the Grantee agrees to strictly comply with the requirements and obligations of this Grant Agreement including any and all applicable federal and state statutes, regulations, policies, guidelines and requirements. In instances where conflicting requirements apply to a Grantee, the more restrictive requirement applies.

The Grant Agreement includes the Statement of Grant Award; the OOG Grantee Conditions and Responsibilities; the Grant Application in eGrants; and the other identified documents in the Grant Application and Grant Award, including but not limited to: 2 CFR Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards; Chapter 783 of the Texas Government Code, Title 34, Part 1, Chapter 20, Subchapter E, Division 4 of the Texas Administrative Code, and the Uniform Grant Management Standards (UGMS) developed by the Comptroller of Public Accounts; the state Funding Announcement or Solicitation under which the grant application was made, and for federal funding, the Funding Announcement or Solicitation under which the OOG was awarded funds; and any applicable documents referenced in the documents listed above. For grants awarded from the U.S. Department of Justice, the current applicable version of the Department of Justice Grants Financial Guide and any applicable provisions in Title 28 of the CFR apply. For grants awarded from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), all Information Bulletins and Policies published by the FEMA Grants Program Directorate apply. The OOG reserves the right to add additional responsibilities and requirements, with or without advance notice to the Grantee.

By clicking on the 'Accept' button within the 'Accept Award' tab, the Grantee accepts the responsibility for the grant project, agrees and certifies compliance with the requirements outlined in the Grant Agreement, including all provisions incorporated herein, and agrees with the following conditions of grant funding. The grantee's funds will not be released until the grantee has satisfied the requirements of the following Condition(s) of Funding and Other Fund-Specific Requirement(s), if any, cited below:

Grant Number:	2931307	Award Amount:	\$79,230.98
Date Awarded:	PREVIEW - AWARD NOT ACTIVE	Grantee Cash Match:	\$33,956.13
Grant Period:	09/01/2021 - 08/31/2022	Grantee In Kind Match:	\$0.00
Liquidation Date:	11/29/2022	Total Project Cost:	\$113,187.11
Program Fund:	WF-Violence Against Women Formula Grants		
Grantee Name:	Hidalgo County		
Project Title:	Domestic Violence Specialty Prosecutor		
Grant Manager:	Madison Ballard		
DUNS Number:	103110834		

CFDA: 16.588 - Violence Against Women Formula Grants
Federal Awarding Agency: U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women
Federal Award Date:
Federal/State Award ID Number: 2021-WF-AX-xxxx
Total Federal Award/State Funds Appropriated: \$11,000,634.00
Pass Thru Entity Name: Texas Office of the Governor – Criminal Justice Division (CJD)

Is the Award No

R&D:

Federal/State Award The STOP Program continues to encourage the development and implementation of effective, victim centered law enforcement, prosecution, and court strategies to address violent crimes against women and the development and enhancement of victim services in cases involving violent crimes against women. It envisions a partnership among law enforcement, prosecution, courts, and victim services organizations to enhance victim safety and hold offenders accountable for their crimes against women.

Description:

Agency Name: Hidalgo County

Grant/App: 2931307

Start Date:
9/1/2021

Project Title: Domestic Violence Specialty
Prosecutor

Status: Application Pending
Submission

End Date:
8/31/2022

Fund Source: WF-Violence Against Women Formula Grants

Current Grant Manager: Madison Ballard

Current Program Manager: Jason
Buckner

Liquidation
Date:

Original Award: \$0.00

Current Budget: \$79,230.98

Current Award: \$0.00

CFDA: 16.588

OOG Solicitation: FY22 Violence Against Women Justice and Training Program
Announcement

- Eligibility
- Profile
- Narrative
- Activities
- Measures
- Budget
- Documents
- Victim,Services
- Conditions.of.Funding
- Submit.Application
- Summary
- Upload.Files
- My.Home
- Grant.History
- Award.Preview
- Grant.Issues

General Information and Instructions

[View Introduction](#)

[View Instructions](#)

Summary of Grant Issues and Other Items

Item(s)	Tab Name	Item Description	Created By	Item Date
---------	----------	------------------	------------	-----------

[Refresh List](#)