

**Snapshot Description:** Application - Submitted by Applicant  
**Created:** 2/10/2022 4:28:47 PM

**Agency Name:** Hidalgo County  
**Grant/App:** 4218502 **Start Date:** 10/1/2022 **End Date:** 9/30/2023

**Project Title:** Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office Victim Assistance Program  
**Status:** Application Pending AO Certification

### **Eligibility Information**

**Your organization's Texas Payee/Taxpayer ID Number:**  
17460007176041

### **Application Eligibility Certify:**

Created on:1/21/2022 12:45:18 PM By:Eddie Guerra

### **Profile Information**

**Applicant Agency Name:** Hidalgo County  
**Project Title:** Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office Victim Assistance Program  
**Division or Unit to Administer the Project:** Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office  
**Address Line 1:** 711 El Cibolo Rd  
**Address Line 2:**  
**City/State/Zip:** Edinburg Texas 78542-0471  
**Start Date:** 10/1/2022  
**End Date:** 9/30/2023

**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:** Eddie Guerra  
**Email:** sheriff.guerra@hidalgoso.org  
**Address 1:** 711 El Cibolo Road  
**Address 1:**  
**City:** Edinburg, Texas 78540  
**Phone:** 956-383-8114 Other Phone: 956-393-6002  
**Fax:** 956-393-6179  
**Title:** Mr.  
**Salutation:** Sheriff  
**Position:** Sheriff

#### **Grant Writer**

**Name:** Eddie Guerra  
**Email:** sheriff.guerra@hidalgoso.org  
**Address 1:** 711 El Cibolo Road  
**Address 1:**  
**City:** Edinburg, Texas 78540  
**Phone:** 956-383-8114 Other Phone: 956-393-6002  
**Fax:** 956-393-6179  
**Title:** Mr.  
**Salutation:** Sheriff  
**Position:** Sheriff

#### **Grant Vendor Information**

**Organization Type:** County  
**Organization Option:** 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  
**Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS):** 103110834

#### **Narrative Information**

##### Introduction

The purpose of this program is to provide services and assistance directly to victims of crime to speed their recovery and aid them through the criminal justice process. Services may include the following:

- responding to the emotional and physical needs of crime victims;
- assisting victims in stabilizing their lives after a victimization;
- assisting victims to understand and participate in the criminal justice system; and
- providing victims with safety and security.

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 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.

With every new hire the employee completes training in dynamics of the community which we serve. In this training is dynamics on Domestic Violence and the prevalence of Domestic Violence particular in our Hispanic Ethnic Groups which make a majority of our community members. Our agency as well has a long standing relationship with our Hidalgo County Family Violence Taskforce which aims to combat domestic violence which our current crime victim's liaison is a member to. In this taskforce's monthly meeting there are always new ideas and approaches to reaching our victims of domestic violence. Also provided are trainings in our response to our community and the different cultures in which we serve. Our current advocate with years of experience recognizes each individual victim with their different needs, beliefs, feelings and barriers, it is with training anew advocate and staff to our Domestic Violence Unit that this appropriate response with empathy and sensitivity will continue to carry on to our victims.

### **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**'.

As being the Sheriff's Office our victims are community members who live outside of the city limits. Since they live outside the city they are not close to local stores, resource centers, our District Attorney's Office, etc. Out in the county jurisdiction are a few county resource centers and in these centers our Domestic Violence Unit would be working with establishing outreach events, trainings for the community and informative events. The goal of these events would be to educate our victims and/or possible victims of domestic violence and the resources of help available to them. A majority of our low income families living out in the county do not always have adequate transportation to come to a police department or a public library and seek help, with the funds of this grant our Domestic Violence Unit would be able to establish a response team to go out into the community and provide assistance and resourceful information to the victim's home. In meeting the victim where they are; literally in their home the D.V.U. can conduct a lethality assessment, safety plan, assist the victim in completing the Crime Victim's Compensation Application, and assist the victim in completing the application for a final protective order at the District Attorney's office. Otherwise victims may not have the transportation means to get to the District Attorney's office or a domestic violence center and apply for this protective order.

### **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**

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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.

**Cybersecurity Training Requirement**

Local units of governments must comply with the Cybersecurity Training requirements described in Section 772.012 and Section 2054.5191 of the Texas Government Code. Local governments determined to not be in compliance with the cybersecurity requirements required by Section 2054.5191 of the Texas Government Code are ineligible for OOG grant funds until the second anniversary of the date the local government is determined ineligible. Government entities must annually certify their compliance with the training requirements using the Cybersecurity Training Certification for State and Local Governments. A copy of the Training Certification must be uploaded to your eGrants application. For more information or to access available training programs, visit the Texas Department of Information Resources Statewide Cybersecurity Awareness Training page.

**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.

Counties applying for grant awards from the Office of the Governor must commit that the county will report at least 90% of convictions within five business days to the Criminal Justice Information System at the Department of Public Safety.

**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.