

[Print This Page](#)**Agency Name:** Hidalgo County**Grant/App:** 2997510 **Start Date:** 9/1/2024 **End Date:** 8/31/2025**Project Title:** Local Border Security Program-Constable PCT1**Status:** Application Pending Submission

Narrative Information

Introduction

The purpose of the program is to sustain interagency law enforcement operations and enhance local law enforcement patrols to facilitate directed actions to deter and interdict criminal activity. Program participants shall assist in the execution of coordinated border security operations in an effort to:

- Increase the effectiveness and impact of Steady State and Surge Operations.
- Reduce border-related criminal activity in Texas.
- Implement and increase the effectiveness of operational methods, measures, and techniques for outbound/southbound operations.
- Decrease the supply of drugs smuggled into and through Texas from Mexico.
- Disrupt and deter operations of gang and cartel criminal organizations.
- Decrease specifically targeted tactics (such as conveyance methods) for drugs in the Texas border region.
- Decrease use of specific areas for crime as targeted in directed action missions.
- Increase the effectiveness of air operations mission planning and prioritization.
- Increase the coordination and integration of air-ground team operations to include Texas Military Forces (TMF) aviation, United States Customs and Border Patrol (USCBP) Air and Marine, Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) Aircraft Division, and United States Coast Guard (USCG) aviation support.
- Increase the effectiveness of directed action missions based upon intelligence and analysis to ensure they target the most serious threats and are conducted in high pay off areas.
- Increase the number and quality of analytical intelligence products developed at the Unified Command and state levels. Increase intelligence based operations at the Unified Command level through integration of TxMap, sector specific information, and intelligence analysis.
- Aid in the humane retrieval and processing of the remains of undocumented migrants.

Program Requirements

Coordination with Regional Joint Operations Intelligence Center (JOIC)

Grantees must agree to perform the following activities:

- Participate in operational planning and coordination meetings, information/intelligence sharing meetings, and After Action Reviews (AARs) established by the Texas Department of Public Safety's (DPS) Joint Operations and Intelligence Centers (JOIC).
- Participate weekly on the JOIC Unified Command conference calls or meetings as required by the JOIC.
- Report significant border-related events that occur during each 24-hour period.
- Conduct enhanced law enforcement patrolling activities.
- Recognize and react to information/intelligence to adjust times and locations of enhanced patrol activities.
- Identify significant border-related trends or areas of interest that may be developed into focus areas for future operations.
- Conduct surveillance, interdictions, investigations, and collect and disseminate information within its jurisdiction or cross-jurisdiction lines as required.
- Conduct Steady State operations and respond to calls for service.
- Integrate air, ground, marine, and remote operations.

Grantees must agree to submit BIAR reports to the JOIC:

The grantee shall report all border-related events to the JOIC using the BIAR. BIAR reporting shall include events that occur during Enhanced Operation activities AND events that occur during Steady State activities.

Enhanced (Surge) Operations originate out of the use of LBSP funds when the local agency chooses to increase the hours of patrol or the number of investigative bodies. Steady State activities are defined as normal patrol or investigative duties that do not use grant funds, but directly impact the overall LBSP mission, such as organized crime arrests, terroristic activities, weapons trafficking arrests, kidnappings, human trafficking, human smuggling, home invasions with a border or organized crime nexus, illegal immigration, border-related murders, gang-related murders, vehicle thefts, or drug trafficking.

The BIAR is the primary incident and information-reporting tool for the grantee in local border security operations. The grantee shall ensure all BIARs conform to the respective standards outlined by the JOIC and are submitted within 24 hours of the end of shift and/or the timeframes established by the JOIC.

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:

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.

Entities That Collect Sexual Assault/Sex Offense Evidence or Investigate/Prosecute Sexual Assault or Other Sex Offenses

In accordance with Texas Government Code, Section 420.034, any facility or entity that collects evidence for sexual assault or other sex offenses or investigates or prosecutes a sexual assault or other sex offense for which evidence has been collected, must participate in the statewide electronic tracking system developed and implemented by the Texas Department of Public Safety. Visit DPS's [Sexual Assault Evidence Tracking Program](#) website for more information or to set up an account to begin participating. Additionally, per Section 420.042 "A law enforcement agency that receives evidence of a sexual assault or other sex offense...shall submit that evidence to a public accredited crime laboratory for analysis no later than the 30th day after the date on which that evidence was received." A law enforcement agency in possession of a significant number of Sexual Assault Evidence Kits (SAEK) where the 30-day window has passed may be considered noncompliant.

Program Income

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

Deduction Method - Program income shall be deducted from total allowable costs to determine the net allowable costs. Program income shall be used for current costs unless PSO authorizes otherwise. Program income which the grantee did not anticipate at the time of the award shall be used to reduce the PSO award and grantee match rather than to increase the funds committed to the project.

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

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, 2024 or the end of the grant period, whichever is later.

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.

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

Project Summary :

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

Enhance uniformed patrol activities within Hidalgo County Pct 1. Increase patrol activities in rural areas / routes commonly used by border criminal elements and not normally addressed by other Law Enforcement agencies such as Human smuggling, Drug Smuggling, illegal entry by terrorist on our southern Border.

Problem Statement :

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

We patrol the Mexico/ U.S. Border in south Texas. Our area is a high crime traffic area for narcotics crossing from Mexico to the U.S. We also encounter illegal Aliens, stash houses and vehicle pursuits. The lack of manpower in the rural areas is also a problem we face on a daily basis. Based on Biar reports submitted by our agency, we had over 200 undocumented alien detained and turned over to the Border Patrol. Our department has also seized hundreds of pounds of marijuana, cocaine, fentanyl, heroin, and other illegal narcotics. Several vehicles used during the commission of a felony offense were also seized during the criminal acts such as human smuggling and narcotics trafficking. Firearms were also seized during that time.

Existing Capability Levels :

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

We have Deputies patrolling the eastern side of Hidalgo County capable of working traffic/interdiction. Units are equipped with radar cameras for the purpose of stopping and deterring criminal activity. Deputies are also armed with long rifles, body cameras, and body armor to help counter any threats to the Hidalgo Pct. 1, the state of Texas and the United States. The Existing capability Levels include: 1 Constable, 1 Chief Deputy, 1 Sergeant, and 11 Deputy Constables.

Capability Gaps:

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

The capability gap is that Pct. 1 Constable is lacking local funding for overtime for enhance patrols. Our office is lacking vehicle operating costs such as fuel, lubricants, tires, maintenance, and storage to sustain mission

accomplishment to satisfy this grants efforts.

Impact Statement :

Describe the project goals/objectives and how this project will maintain capabilities or reduce capability gaps. The overtime funding will increase number of patrol units with designation of identification, apprehension and disruption of border criminal elements within Hidalgo County Pct. 1 Border criminal elements who utilize Hidalgo County Pct 1 to facilitate acts of narcotic smuggling, human smuggling and acts of border related violence in borders to Mexico to the south and Cameron County, Texas to the east, both designated as source areas. Maximize continued efforts with multi-agency intelligence while working operations, and detail with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies within Hidalgo County Pct 1. Increase timely reports to JOIC, by BIARs or by teleconference, based on but not limited to independent intelligence, enforcement actions, suspected smuggling routes and citizen contributions. Participate in south bound operations at US Ports of Entry. Hidalgo County Pct 1 currently has two (2) ports of entry located within the jurisdiction.

Homeland Security Priority Actions:

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

1.3.1 In conjunction with federal agencies, conduct unified state and local law enforcement operations to deny the use of the Texas border region to terrorists and criminal organizations, particularly between the ports of entry.

Target Group :

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

All the citizens, residents or visitors of Hidalgo County will benefit from this project. Population 880,356.

Long-Term Approach:

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

We need this grant to be able to have better security on our Precinct. Without this funding, we do not have the same capabilities to secure our area as when we do have funds. Having more manpower on the street reduces crime, injuries to our citizens, and injuries or death to law enforcement officers.

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