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**Agency Name:** Hidalgo County

**Grant/App:** 4588402 **Start Date:** 9/1/2024 **End Date:** 8/31/2025

**Project Title:** Bullet-Resistant Shield

**Status:** Pending OOG Review

### **Narrative Information**

#### **Introduction**

The Bullet-Resistant Shield Grant Program equips law enforcement officers at risk of shootings with bullet-resistant shields.

#### **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:

### **Constitutional Compliance**

Applicant assures that it will not engage in any activity that violates Constitutional law including profiling based upon race.

### **Active Shooter Policy**

All eligible organizations that apply for grant funds will ensure its law enforcement agency adopts a Critical Incidents In-Progress (Active Shooter) policy implementing, at a minimum, protocols for assessing an active threat or violent encounter and immediately responding in order to stop the killing, stop the dying, and provide rapid casualty evacuation. The policy should include procedures that address:

- Concepts and Principles
- Community/First Responder Agency Notifications
- Mutual Aid Implementation
- Solo Officer Deployment
- Officer Team Deployment
- Follow-On Responders (Rescue Task Force)
- Incident Command - Unified Command Considerations
- Incident Debriefing
- Training

### **ALERT Training**

All officers provided with a grant funded ballistic shield must have either attended 16 hours of ALERT (Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training) within the last 24 months or commit to attend within the next 24 months. ALERT's upcoming course catalog can be found here: <https://alerrt.org/Upcoming>.

### **NIJ Ballistic Shield Standards**

Applicant assures that shields purchased with grant funds will comply with the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Level III, III+, or IV.

### **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 Government](#). 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.

## **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, 2025 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.

**I certify to all of the application content & requirements.**

## **Project Abstract :**

Enhance uniformed patrol activities within Hidalgo County Precinct 1. Better equip patrol deputies in rural areas area in responding to emergency situations such as hostage negotiations, barricaded subjects, and active shooter situations. Equip deputies with proper tools to combating emergency situations and enhance preparedness in preserving life and eliminating the threat.

## **Problem Statement :**

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 assist other local, state, and federal agencies in emergency encounters such as hostage negotiations, barricaded subjects, and active shooter threats, high risk executions of search and arrest warrants, stash houses, vehicle and foot pursuits. The lack of emergency tactical equipment responding to these events is a problem we face on a regular basis.

## **Supporting Data :**

Precinct 1 has over 60 grade school campuses within our precinct and over 5 college campuses or vocational schools. Our precinct as well has a vast amount of business within our municipalities and rural county areas with large amounts of staff personnel working within these offices. Our office assists local agencies in [security/crowd control during community events](#) where a large amount of citizens are present. In the [unfortunate event that an emergency situation arises to preserve life due to a security threat](#) it is imperative

that our deputies are tactically equipped to control the scene and save lives.

### **Project Approach & Activities:**

Deputies will assist other agencies within the county and municipalities in regards to emergency calls for service such as domestic violence in progress, assaults in progress, evading arrests, aggravated robberies, hostage negotiations, barricaded subjects, active shooter threats, and other 911 emergency calls. Deputies will conduct routine school and local building patrols within our precinct. Marked police units patrolling neighborhoods and school districts during the day and night time hours will deter criminal activity and any threat to public safety.

### **Capacity & Capabilities:**

We have deputies patrolling the eastern side of Hidalgo County capable of responding to emergency encounters. Deputies are armed with long rifles and body armor to help counter any threats to the Hidalgo Precinct 1, the State of Texas and the United States. Hidalgo County Precinct 1 Constables Office has collaborative partnerships with DEA's High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) taskforce, United States Customs and Border Patrol, Texas Alcohol and Beverage Commission, Texas Department of Public Safety, as well as other federal, state, and local agencies. The Existing capability Levels include: 1 Constable, 1 Chief Deputy, 1 Sergeant, and 15 Deputy Constables.

### **Performance Management :**

Reports will be filed to collect, track, and maintain relevant data proving standards are achieved throughout this grant to include any use of force documentation. Hidalgo County Precinct 1 Constables Office will maintain the same standards of report writing and documenting using Spillman software.

### **Target Group :**

All the citizens, residents or visitors of Hidalgo County will benefit from this project. Population 860,661.

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

We need this grant to be able to better equip our deputies to ensure a high level of success and a tactical advantage in responding to security threats in and around our Precinct. Without this funding, we do not have the same capabilities to secure public safety in our area as when we do have funds. Having only five shields puts our agency at a tactical disadvantage with a critical need for more tactical equipment for deputies on the street assisting in preserving life, quicker response to our citizens in need of assistance, and prevent injuries or death to law enforcement officers.

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