

Hidalgo County Taskforce Grant Application for Fiscal Year 2025
[Request for Application \(RFA\)](#) (need link to rfa)

The total cash match from the budget does not match the total cash match from the source of the matches detail. These must match before the application can be submitted.

Primary Agency / Grantee Legal Name: *Hidalgo County*
Organization Type: *Law Enforcement*
Organization ORI (if applicable): *TX1080000: HIDALGO CO SO (MIP)*

Program Title Please enter a short description of the proposed program that can be used as the title.
Hidalgo County Combined Auto Theft Task Force

Application Category (See **Request for Applications [RFA]** for category details and descriptions RFA Priority Funding Section):
New Grant - 2025 is the first year of the MVCPA Taskforce Grants. All 2025 grant applicants use the new grant category.

MVCPA Program Category (see **RFA** and TAC 43, 3 §57.14). Check all that apply.

- Law Enforcement, Detection and Apprehension
- Prevention, Anti-Theft Devices and Motor Vehicle Registration
- Reduction of the Sale of Stolen Vehicles or Parts
- Education Programs and Marketing

Taskforce Grant Participation and Coverage Area

Provide a General Description of the Participating and Coverage Area of this Grant Application

Define in the tables below the grant relationships and geographic area of the taskforce:

Applicant will add the participating and coverage agencies from the ORI list below. If an agency is not in the ORI list, please include the agency and role in the general description above. Make sure to follow the definitions below and select an agency in the dropdown. Use the *Add as Participating Agency* or *Add as Coverage Agency* button to populate the list.

Participating Agencies are agencies that materially participate in the grant application through the exchange of funds for reimbursement and cash match. Participating agencies are defined after the grant award by interlocal/interagency agreements. Each applicant must select their own agency first. Then select agencies that will receive or provide funding and/or resources. [Note: Interlocal/interagency agreements do not need to be submitted with the application. Interlocal agreements will need to be executed prior to the first payment being made if selected for a grant. Letters of support with the application from the participating agencies are strongly recommended.]

Coverage Agencies are agencies that provided some level of coverage, assistance or support by this grant application but will not materially exchange funds as cash match or reimbursement. The coverage is not supported by an after the award with interlocal/interagency agreements. Coverage agencies as law enforcement agencies may have jurisdictional coverage agreements unrelated to the grant (Ex. City Y is within County X or vice versa). Agencies selected in this list include agencies that will be covered or where the agency indicates that their agency will coordinate or call upon the taskforce. Letters of support with the application from the participating agencies are strongly recommended.

| Participating Agencies | Coverage Agencies |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| TX1080000 HIDALGO CO SO (MIP) | |
| TX1080400 EDINBURG PD | |
| TX1080600 HIDALGO PD | |

TX1080900 MERCEDES PD
TX1081400 WESLACO PD

Resolution: Complete a Resolution and submit to local governing body for approval. [Sample Resolution](#) is found in the Request for Application or send a request for an electronic copy to grantsMVCPA@txdmv.gov. The completed and executed Resolution must be attached to this on-line application.

Grant Budget Form

MVCPA recommends that the applicant complete the total costs (MVCPA and Cash Match combined) for this program. The applicant can then enter the desired amount of Cash Match (not less than 20% per TAC Title 43, Â§57.36). The system will then calculate the correct grant and match amounts.

Budget Entry Option:

Enter Total and let system calculate MVCPA Funds and Cash Match, Match Percentage: 20%

| Budget Category | MVCPA Expenditures | Cash Match Expenditures | Total Expenditures | In-Kind Match |
|---|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| <i>Personnel</i> | \$548,249 | \$109,651 | \$657,900 | |
| <i>Fringe</i> | \$199,661 | \$39,933 | \$239,594 | |
| <i>Overtime</i> | \$14,679 | \$2,936 | \$17,615 | |
| <i>Professional and Contract Services</i> | | | | |
| <i>Travel</i> | | | | |
| <i>Equipment</i> | \$273,633 | \$54,727 | \$328,360 | |
| <i>Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses (DOE)</i> | \$57,460 | \$11,492 | \$68,952 | |
| Total | \$1,093,682 | \$218,739 | \$1,312,421 | |
| Cash Match Percentage | | 20.00% | | |

| Description | Subcategory | Pct Time | MVCPA Funds | Cash Match | Total | In-Kind Match |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Personnel | | | | | | |
| HCSO Lieutenant III | Investigator/LEO | 100 | \$68,524 | \$13,705 | \$82,229 | |
| HCSO Sr. Deputy III | Investigator/LEO | 100 | \$53,734 | \$10,747 | \$64,481 | |
| HCSO Sr. Deputy IV | Investigator/LEO | 100 | \$58,293 | \$11,659 | \$69,952 | |
| HCSO Admin. Assistant III | Administrative / Support | 100 | \$30,735 | \$6,147 | \$36,882 | |
| Edinburg PD TFOs | Investigator/LEO | 100 | \$142,681 | \$28,536 | \$171,217 | |
| Mercedes PD TFOs | Investigator/LEO | 100 | \$34,883 | \$6,977 | \$41,860 | |
| Hidalgo PD TFOs | Investigator/LEO | 100 | \$66,456 | \$13,291 | \$79,747 | |
| Weslaco PD TFOs | Investigator/LEO | 100 | \$92,943 | \$18,589 | \$111,532 | |
| Total Personnel | | 800 | \$548,249 | \$109,651 | \$657,900 | |
| Fringe | | | | | | |
| HCSO Lieutenant III | Investigator/LEO | | \$24,243 | \$4,849 | \$29,092 | |
| HCSO Sr. Deputy III | Investigator/LEO | | \$20,663 | \$4,133 | \$24,796 | |
| HCSO Sr. Deputy IV | Investigator/LEO | | \$21,863 | \$4,373 | \$26,236 | |
| HCSO Admin. Assistant III | Administrative / Support | | \$16,477 | \$3,295 | \$19,772 | |
| Edinburg PD TFOs | Investigator/LEO | | \$54,658 | \$10,932 | \$65,590 | |
| Mercedes PD TFOs | Investigator/LEO | | \$14,632 | \$2,926 | \$17,558 | |
| Hidalgo PD TFOs | Investigator/LEO | | \$16,328 | \$3,266 | \$19,594 | |
| Weslaco PD TFOs | Investigator/LEO | | \$30,797 | \$6,159 | \$36,956 | |
| Total Fringe | | | \$199,661 | \$39,933 | \$239,594 | |
| Overtime | | | | | | |
| HCSO Lieutenant III | Investigator/LEO | | \$3,277 | \$655 | \$3,932 | |
| HCSO Sr. Deputy III | Investigator/LEO | | \$2,474 | \$495 | \$2,969 | |
| HCSO Sr. Deputy IV | Investigator/LEO | | \$2,743 | \$549 | \$3,292 | |
| HCSO Admin. Assistant III | Administrative / Support | | \$1,537 | \$307 | \$1,844 | |

| Description | Subcategory | Pct Time | MVCPA Funds | Cash Match | Total | In-Kind Match |
|----------------|------------------|----------|-------------|------------|----------|---------------|
| Weslaco PD | Investigator/LEO | | \$4,648 | \$930 | \$5,578 | |
| Total Overtime | | | \$14,679 | \$2,936 | \$17,615 | |

Professional and Contract Services

Total Professional and Contract Services

Travel

Total Travel

Equipment

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------|--|--|-----------|----------|-----------|--|
| HCSO Laptop | | | \$8,333 | \$1,667 | \$10,000 | |
| HCSO Misc. Equipment | | | \$2,500 | \$500 | \$3,000 | |
| Edinburg PD Vehicle | | | \$82,800 | \$16,560 | \$99,360 | |
| Hidalgo PD Vehicle | | | \$83,333 | \$16,667 | \$100,000 | |
| Weslaco PD | | | \$96,667 | \$19,333 | \$116,000 | |
| Total Equipment | | | \$273,633 | \$54,727 | \$328,360 | |

Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses (DOE)

| | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|----------|----------|----------|--|
| HCSO Lease of Vehicle (3) | | | \$37,500 | \$7,500 | \$45,000 | |
| HCSO Cellular Service and Cell Phone (4) | | | \$2,000 | \$400 | \$2,400 | |
| HCSO Promotional Item (999) | | | \$4,167 | \$833 | \$5,000 | |
| HCSO Fuel (999) | | | \$8,333 | \$1,667 | \$10,000 | |
| Edinburg Fuel (999) | | | \$5,460 | \$1,092 | \$6,552 | |
| Total Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses (DOE) | | | \$57,460 | \$11,492 | \$68,952 | |

Budget Narrative

A. Personnel

-Hidalgo County Sheriff Office aims to hire 1 Lieutenant to over see the task force and 2 TFOs and an Admin Assistant to assist with overseeing the task force. -Edinburg PD Salary for 2 full time task force officers. -Mercedes PD Salary for 1 full time task force officers. -Hidalgo -Hidalgo PD Salary for 2 full time task force officers -Weslaco PD Salary for 2 full time task force officers

B. Fringe

-HCSO Fringes related to salaries and Overtime for 1 Lieutenant, 2 TFOs and 1 Admin. - Edinburg PD Fringes related Salary for 2 TFOs - Mercedes PD Fringes related Salary for 1 TFOs - Hidalgo PD Fringes related Salary for 2 TFOs - Weslaco PD Fringes related Salary for 2 TFOs

C. Overtime

-HCSO Overtime for Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office for 1 Lieutenant, 2 TFOs and 1 Admin. -Weslaco Overtime for 2 task force officers

D. Professional and Contract Services

Lease of 3 vehicles for 2 TFOs and Lieutenant, the vehicles will be used to transport the officers on their daily investigations.

F. Equipment

-HCSO Laptop will be used by investigators and admin staff to enter reports and access databases from HCSO and keep in contact with the participating agencies. -HCSO Misc. Equipment to purchase any equipment that the investigators will require as -Edinburg PD 2 vehicles for TFOs needed for regular use and investigations related to auto theft. -Hidalgo PD 1 Chevy Tahoe need for regular use and investigations related to auto theft. -Weslaco PD 2 vehicles for TFOs needed for regular use and investigations related to auto theft.

G. Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses (DOE)

- HCSO Promotional items to be utilized for promo items including brochures, flyers, etc. to provide info on combating catalytic converter theft and auto theft. - HCSO Cellular Services and Cell Phone assigned to analyst and deputy being paid by grant to be used for daily use and operations. - HCSO Lease of three vehicles for twelve months to be used by investigators on the grant. - HCSO Fuel will be utilized to fuel up the lease vehicles for the investigators. - Edinburg PD Fuel will be utilized to fuel up the lease vehicles for the investigators.

Revenue

Indicate Source of Cash and In-Kind Matches for the proposed program. Click on links to go to match detail pages for entry of data.

Statistics to Support Grant Problem Statement

| Reported Cases | 2022 | | | 2023 | | |
|--|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| | Motor Vehicle Theft (MVT) | Burglary from Motor Vehicle (BMV) | Fraud-Related Motor Vehicle Crime (FRMVC) | Motor Vehicle Theft (MVT) | Burglary from Motor Vehicle (BMV) | Fraud-Related Motor Vehicle Crime (FRMVC) |
| Jurisdiction | | | | | | |
| No Statistical Data has been entered yet. | | | | | | |

Application Narrative

Grant Introduction (Executive Summary) and General Information

- 1.1 Briefly describe the organization and program operation. Provide a high level summary to the application and how it will affect the local community. (500 words or less)

The Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) plays a vital role in our community with over 270 sworn officers and a focus on combatting specific crimes. Amid a rise in auto thefts and nationwide police shortages, HCSO faces significant challenges. Currently, the Auto Theft Division operates with only two officers handling a workload of 380 motor vehicle theft cases, among other crimes. This strain necessitates immediate action and additional resources to effectively combat auto-related crimes.

Proposed is the formation of an Auto Theft Task Force, augmenting manpower and resources. This task force, covering Hidalgo County, aims to increase field presence, conduct thorough investigations, and employ specialized skills to identify patterns and apprehend offenders. With dedicated resources, comprehensive investigative strategies can be implemented, including analytics, digital forensics, LPR alerts, business inspections, bait vehicle operations, and intel sharing.

Investing in this task force not only improves efficiency and reduces auto theft rates but also addresses broader vehicle-related crimes and organized criminal networks involved in stolen vehicles and parts trade. By taking proactive measures, HCSO aims to enhance community safety and security.

- 1.2 Describe the taskforce governing, organization and command structures. Include a description of the nature of support and agreements that will be in place if the grant is awarded. Provide any details unique to the taskforce organization or geographical target area. Describe whether any part of this grant will be directed to serve a specific target population (or subset of the community)?

The Hidalgo County Auto Theft Task Force aims to address auto-related crimes throughout Hidalgo County. Operating from our headquarters in north Edinburg, it will serve as a central reporting agency for coordinated efforts. The Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office seeks cooperation from local police departments like McAllen P.D., Edinburg P.D., Pharr P.D., and Mission P.D. By pooling resources and intelligence, we can identify crime patterns using statistical data from police reports.

The Task Force strategy includes deploying License Plate Readers (LPRs), sharing intel with local agencies, conducting analytical work, covert operations, business inspections, and public education to deter theft. Given Hidalgo County's proximity to Mexico, it faces heightened risks of vehicle smuggling and slow inter-agency communication on stolen vehicles. The Task Force's proactive efforts are crucial in reducing auto theft and dismantling criminal networks, ensuring community safety.

Grant Problem Statement

- 2.1 Provide an assessment of the burglary from a motor vehicle (including theft of parts) problem in the coverage area of this application. Include loss data consistent with the reported incident numbers above.

The issue of burglary from motor vehicles in our coverage area is a significant concern that mirrors the magnitude of motor vehicle theft. In 2023, the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office reported a staggering 331 incidents of burglary from motor vehicles. As of April 30, 2024, a total of 88 such incidents have already been reported, indicating a persistent problem. It's important to note that these figures don't encompass numbers reported within the municipalities within Hidalgo County, suggesting that the actual scale of the issue could be even larger.

The proliferation of junk and salvage yards, pawn shops, and clandestine locations that trade in stolen auto parts exacerbates the situation. The lack of stringent regulations governing these establishments increases the likelihood of them engaging in transactions involving stolen vehicle parts. This creates a lucrative market for organized criminal organizations, particularly those operating across the border in Mexico, who specifically target vehicles for dismantling and selling the metal parts in the U.S.

By allocating dedicated resources to investigate and disrupt these illicit operations, law enforcement agencies can significantly reduce the impact of auto theft and related crimes on the community. This includes conducting thorough inspections of businesses suspected of dealing in stolen auto parts, collaborating with regulatory bodies to enforce stricter regulations, and leveraging intelligence-sharing mechanisms to track down and dismantle criminal networks involved in the illegal trade of stolen vehicle parts. Such proactive measures are essential in safeguarding public safety and security while also deterring criminals from engaging in these illicit activities.

- 2.2 Provide an assessment of the motor vehicle theft problem in the coverage area of this application. Include loss data consistent with the reported incident numbers above.

Hidalgo County's geographical position along the border makes it highly vulnerable to auto theft, a trend that has had a significant impact on the local community. In 2022, the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) reported a staggering 397 auto thefts. This

number increased even further, with an additional 664 thefts reported to neighboring law enforcement agencies within the county. The trend continued into the following year, with HCSO recording 380 auto thefts in 2023. As of 2024 year-to-date, there have already been 140 reported auto thefts.

The unique driving force behind auto theft in our coverage area stems from our close proximity to the Mexican border. A considerable percentage of stolen vehicles are smuggled into Mexico, often ending up in the hands of organized criminal groups and cartels. Unfortunately, the recovery rate for these stolen vehicles is extremely low, leading to significant losses for victims and posing a persistent challenge for law enforcement agencies.

The transnational nature of auto theft in our region underscores the need for collaborative efforts between local, state, and federal agencies. This includes implementing advanced tracking and surveillance technologies, enhancing border security measures, and fostering cooperation with Mexican law enforcement counterparts to combat cross-border vehicle smuggling.

Additionally, public awareness campaigns and community engagement initiatives are vital in educating residents about preventive measures and reporting suspicious activities. By addressing the root causes and implementing targeted interventions, we can work towards reducing the prevalence of auto theft and minimizing its impact on our community and beyond.

- 2.3 Provide an assessment of the fraud-related motor vehicle crime problem in the coverage area of this application. Include loss data consistent with the reported incident numbers above.

In 2023, the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office diligently investigated 10 false reports of stolen vehicles, a number that has slightly decreased to 4 as of 2024 year-to-date. This reduction can be attributed to the implementation of enhanced strategies, including the use of License Plate Readers (LPRs) to verify the locations and times of alleged stolen vehicles. The integration of intelligence-driven tracking techniques has also proven successful in identifying false or fraudulent claims related to stolen vehicle incidents.

The adoption of additional equipment and resources has significantly bolstered the agency's ability to uncover fraudulent claims consistently. Advanced technologies such as LPRs provide real-time data and precise location information, enabling law enforcement to validate reported thefts more effectively. Furthermore, intelligence-driven investigations leverage data analysis and collaboration with other agencies, enhancing the accuracy of identifying false reports.

As a result of these enhanced strategies and technological advancements, the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office has seen an improvement in the detection and verification of false reports related to stolen vehicles. This proactive approach not only reduces the burden on law enforcement resources but also contributes to maintaining the integrity of reported crime incidents and ensuring swift and accurate responses to genuine theft cases.

- 2.4 Provide an assessment of motor vehicle crime not covered above like insurance fraud, preventing stolen vehicles from entering Mexico, bridge/port stolen vehicle export crime, disruption of cartels and organized criminal enterprises related to motor vehicle crime, etc...

In recent years, there has been a concerning surge in stolen vehicles being trafficked to Mexican cartels and organized criminal enterprises. Criminals have adopted sophisticated techniques, using electronics to aid in theft and swiftly transporting vehicles across the border before they are reported missing. This trend poses a significant challenge for law enforcement agencies, requiring innovative strategies to combat.

To address this issue, the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office has strategically deployed mobile License Plate Readers (LPRs) near ports of entry, focusing on outbound traffic. This proactive approach aims to receive alerts and track stolen vehicles before they can cross the border, enhancing interception capabilities and preventing successful smuggling attempts. Additionally, intelligence sharing among agencies has played a pivotal role in identifying cartel members receiving stolen vehicles and operatives involved in thefts within the U.S.

By combining proactive surveillance measures, intelligence-driven investigations, and collaborative efforts, law enforcement can effectively disrupt the flow of stolen vehicles to criminal organizations. This multifaceted approach not only aids in recovering stolen property but also serves as a deterrent to future criminal activities, safeguarding communities on both sides of the border.

Grant Goals and Activities

There are two parts to this section: 1) Functions of Proposed Program and 2) Goals Strategies and Activities (GSA). In the following boxes, describe the functions of the proposed program and then complete a fillable form called GSA.

MVCPA programs must completely describe the actions, methods and tactics that law enforcement and civilian staff will perform for each of the categories below. Describe the reliance on technology or other program elements to solve the problem statement above and goals below. Functions must be detailed and consistent with the requested budget. If a grant is awarded, funds expended towards activities not described in this section will result in the reimbursement being denied.

Part 1

- 3.1 Functions of the proposed program related to burglary from a motor vehicle (including theft of parts)

The Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office Task Force is implementing a comprehensive strategy to combat burglary of motor vehicles, including theft of parts. Task Force personnel will be experienced investigators, particularly in motor vehicle theft, and will conduct various operations to identify, recover, and apprehend individuals and groups involved in these crimes.

One major initiative involves business inspections targeting salvage yards, repair shops, and parts recycling centers to uncover stolen parts or vehicles. Task Force investigators will conduct these inspections, tracing the origins of stolen goods and holding businesses accountable for any involvement in the trade of stolen items.

Additionally, the Task Force plans to conduct "bait car" operations in high theft areas, utilize analysts to develop trends and patterns,

deploy License Plate Readers (LPRs), and collaborate with other HCSO divisions and local agencies to share information. The Task Force will also raise public awareness through outreach events, educating the community on prevention measures, conducting etching programs on frequently stolen items, and making public announcements to increase awareness. This proactive approach aims to catch organized groups, hold businesses accountable, assist in arrests, recover stolen parts, and ultimately reduce incidents of theft from motor vehicles, safeguarding the community against these crimes.

3.2 Functions of the proposed program related to motor vehicle theft.

The Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office Task Force is implementing proactive strategies to combat motor vehicle theft, focusing on collaboration across judicial boundaries and developing regional strategies with other agencies. Given the proximity to the Mexican border and the cartels' involvement in vehicle theft, the Task Force aims to unify intel sharing and strategic efforts. They will send electronic updates on trends or "hot sheets," hold monthly meetings with invited agencies, and deploy License Plate Readers (LPRs) county-wide and near ports of entry for quick response and monitoring of stolen vehicles. Similarly to combating burglary the Task Force will also conduct "bait car" operations in high theft areas, using surveillance during regular and overtime hours. Analysts will develop trends to identify high crime areas and repeat offenders, and the Task Force will work with other divisions for surveillance on persons of interest. Monthly or quarterly meetings will be held to discuss updates and trends, along with law enforcement training activities. Specialized equipment will be used to identify cloned or fraudulent vehicle identification numbers (VIN) and capture data useful for locating stolen vehicles and suspects. Additionally, the Task Force will raise public awareness through outreach events, social media campaigns, and outdoor signage to educate the community on theft prevention measures and deter potential criminals.

3.3 Functions of the proposed program related to fraud-related motor vehicle crime (such as title and registration fraud)

The Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office Task Force will systematically combat fraud-related motor vehicle crimes using a technologically advanced approach. Investigators will employ tools such as OBD readers, scope cameras, and infotainment software to verify vehicle identification numbers (VINs) and secondary VINs, ensuring accurate ownership determination and stolen vehicle identification. In cases of cloned or stolen vehicles, specialized equipment will detect VIN tampering and gather crucial data to uncover fraudulent registrations. Analysts will utilize data collection software and applications to identify patterns of fraudulent activity related to vehicle ownership and registration, enabling the detection of sophisticated fraud schemes. Additionally, digital forensics will be applied to electronic devices in vehicles, extracting information like GPS locations and usage history. This comprehensive strategy ensures the Task Force is well-equipped to tackle complex fraud-related motor vehicle crimes, aiming to reduce vehicle fraud and enhance ownership security in the community.

3.4 Functions of the proposed program related to preventing motor vehicle crime (motor vehicle theft, burglary from a motor vehicle and fraud-related motor vehicle crime)

To prevent motor vehicle crimes, a HCSO task force can implement a multifaceted strategy that includes proactive patrols in high-crime areas, utilizing technology such as license plate readers (LPRs) to monitor and identify stolen vehicles, and conducting undercover operations to catch thieves in the act. Engaging the community through educational programs about vehicle security and theft prevention measures is also vital. Additionally, collaboration with other law enforcement agencies to share intelligence and conduct joint operations can enhance efforts to curb motor vehicle crimes. Regular inspections of salvage yards and repair shops to identify stolen parts and enforcing strict regulations can also deter criminal activities related to vehicle theft.

3.5 Functions of the proposed program for other motor vehicle crimes investigations and activities consistent with the statutory requirements (preventing stolen vehicles from entering Mexico, stopping illegal export of stolen vehicle from bridge/ outbound port operations, disruption of cartel or organized criminal enterprises using stolen motor vehicles or fraud related motor vehicle crime, insurance fraud, etc...)

To prevent motor vehicle crimes, the Hidalgo County Task Force will undertake multiple operations employing various tactics. This includes proactive patrols in high-crime areas, deploying license plate readers (LPRs) for real-time monitoring, and conducting undercover operations to apprehend thieves. Additionally, we will maintain open communication with border security to keep them informed of any suspicious vehicles heading southbound towards the Mexican border. Collaboration with other law enforcement agencies will enhance our intelligence sharing and joint operations, ensuring a comprehensive approach to tackling motor vehicle crimes. These efforts aim to reduce vehicle theft, increase recovery rates, and improve overall community safety.

3.6 Collaboration Effort -- Describe the taskforce method to collaborate, and not duplicate existing activities. Describe the cross boundaries regional approach to grant activity implementation. Describe how the applicant staff and jurisdiction will coordinate with other taskforces and law enforcement agencies to implement this program.

The Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office Task Force will work extensively with partnering agencies to combat motor vehicle-related crimes through various strategies:

1. Direct Action Operations: The Task Force will conduct targeted missions to apprehend suspects, recover stolen vehicles, reduce fraud, and decrease vehicle burglaries. Analysts will research targets and employ surveillance, traffic stops, business inspections, and other techniques. Operations will be consistent across jurisdictions, with approved operational plans. Due to the border proximity, crime information will be shared with all participating agencies before, during, and after missions.

2. Interdiction Operations: The Task Force will focus on routes used by thieves to transport stolen vehicles. Analysts will use LPR

data and other intelligence to identify these routes. Marked units will make traffic stops, while plain clothes officers follow vehicles to their destinations to confirm intelligence and identify targets for future missions. High-traffic routes will be communicated to neighboring jurisdictions.

3. Intelligence Sharing: Regular group meetings and briefings will facilitate the sharing of intelligence, including "hot sheets" and BOLOs. Alerts will be standardized for easy understanding across agencies.

4. LPR Alerts: License plate readers will be used to generate alerts for vehicles linked to theft, aiding in immediate response and surveillance efforts.

This comprehensive approach aims to enhance coordination and efficiency in combating motor vehicle crimes across jurisdictions.

3.7 If the proposed application requests any exceptions or deviation from any general grant rules, RFA conditions or grant administrative policy, please indicate in the section below. Indicate the section of the specific issue and citation that you are asking the MVCPA to consider and the rationale for the request.

We request a waiver of the 20% cash match requirement for the grant awarded to Hidalgo County. As one of the larger counties in Texas, Hidalgo County faces significant economic challenges that necessitate financial flexibility to meet the grant requirements.

With a population of over 860,000, Hidalgo County is the eighth most populous county in Texas. Despite its size, the county struggles with a high poverty rate of 30.2% in 2020, well above the national average of 10.5%. The economic hardship is further compounded by the county's location along the U.S.-Mexico border, requiring substantial resources to manage unique cross-border issues such as heightened security and law enforcement demands. A 20% cash match would impose a significant financial burden, potentially diverting crucial resources from essential public services. Granting a waiver will allow us to maximize the grant funds' impact, focusing on initiatives to improve community safety and public welfare.

Part II

Goals, Strategies, and Activities

Select Goals, Strategies, and Activity Targets for the proposed program.

Click on the link above and select the method by which statutory measures will be collected. Law Enforcement programs must also estimate targets for the MVCPA predetermined activities. The MVCPA board has determined that grants programs must document specific activities that are appropriate under each of the three goals. Applicants are allowed to write a limited number of user defined activities.

| ID | Activity | Measure | Target |
|---|---|---|--------|
| Statutory Motor Vehicle Theft Measures Required for all Grantees. | | | |
| 1.1.15 | Increase the recovery rate of stolen motor vehicles | Report the number of vehicles recovered by taskforce | |
| 1.1.16 | Increase the clearance rate of MVTs | Report the number of MVT cases cleared | |
| 1.1.17 | Increase the number of persons arrested for motor vehicle theft | Report the number of persons arrested for motor vehicle theft by taskforce | |
| Statutory Burglary of a Motor Vehicle Measures Required for all Grantees | | | |
| 2.1.12 | Increase the clearance rate of motor vehicle burglaries | Report the number of BMV including parts cases cleared | |
| 2.1.13 | Increase the number of persons arrested for motor vehicle burglary | Report the number of persons arrested for burglary by taskforce | |
| Statutory Fraud-Related Motor Vehicle Crime Measures Required for all Grantees | | | |
| 8.1.1 | Increase the clearance rate of fraud-related motor vehicle crime cases. | Report the number of fraud-related motor vehicle cases cleared | |
| 8.1.2 | Increase the number of persons arrested for fraud-related motor vehicle crimes. | Report the number of persons arrested for fraud-related motor vehicle crimes | |
| Measures for Grantees. Add Target values for those that you will measure. | | | |
| 1 | Goal 1: Reduce the Incidence of Motor Vehicle Theft through Enforcement Strategies | | |
| 1.1 | Strategy 1: Conduct Activities that Result in the Arrest, Clearance, and Recoveries of Motor Vehicle Theft | | |
| 1.1.1 | Identify groups of auto theft offenders through intelligence gathering, crime analysis and the use of informants | Number of MVT groups identified. Include gangs, cartels or other criminal enterprise with two or more members | 4 |
| 1.1.2 | Identify and document/record prolific MVT offenders [Prolific is defined as "linked to MVT offenses three or more times"] | Number identified/documented offenders | 10 |

| ID | Activity | Measure | Target |
|--------|---|---|--------|
| 1.1.5 | Conduct inspections of local businesses related to vehicle enterprise (transportation code or occupation code authorized companies such as salvage yard, repair shop, parts recycling center, used car dealership, salvage rebuilder, title service company, other). (see 1.3.3 to report the number of vehicles inspected in these businesses) | Number of businesses inspected | 4 |
| 1.1.6 | Conduct bait vehicle operations that target MVT offenders | Number of bait vehicle deployments. Include BMV bait operations here. | 3 |
| 1.1.8 | Deploy license plate readers (LPR) | Number of times LPR deployed. Deploy: If stationary unit then total number of days or partial days unit was operable and on. Mobile unit number of days the unit was on and operable. | 365 |
| 1.1.9 | Respond to taskforce license plate reader (LPR) alert notifications | Number of times investigators responded to taskforce LPR alert notifications regardless of whether vehicle was located | 24 |
| 1.1.12 | Conduct covert operations targeting MVT offenders | Number of covert operations | 10 |
| 1.1.13 | Conduct warrant "round-up" operations targeting motor vehicle crime offenders, including people wanted for MVTs, motor vehicle burglaries, theft of vehicle parts and motor vehicle fraud related crime. | Number of warrant round-up operations performed for MVT, BMV and FRMVC. | 2 |
| 1.1.20 | Number of Altered Vehicles Recovered | Report the total number of vehicles recovered with altered Vehicle Identification Number. Note: Please remember that a vehicle recovered must be reported in 1.1.15 | 5 |
| 1.2 | Strategy 2: Conduct Collaborative Efforts that Result In Reduction of Incidents of Motor Vehicle Theft | | |
| 1.2.1 | Provide Agency Assists for MVT and motor vehicle related fraud | Number of agency assists related to MVT. Assist means responding or answering questions via phone, e-mail, or in person. Providing recommendation, guidance, strategy, support or information that other LEOs will use to resolve their cases. The assist generally does not have the direct responsibility for an investigation nor uses LEO authority. The assist helps another LEO or agency investigate cases. Analysts and civilian employees will record their assists to outside LEOs and agencies met here along with officers. | 12 |
| 1.2.2 | Collaborate with other units or divisions (i.e. homicide, vice, narcotics, etc.) within the taskforce department(s) where a motor vehicle was used in the commission of the crime (includes identification of vehicles). Include all participating jurisdiction departments here. | Number of times collaborated within departments or SOs participating in taskforce related to MVT. Collaboration means physically using law enforcement resources, tactics and authority to perform activity on cases that draw upon or aid in the investigation intended to further the resolution of any case, identify parties to crime, identify vehicles, interview witnesses/suspects and apprehend suspects. Collaboration will include any help, recommendation, contribution or support requested from or provided to another unit or offered by the taskforce that aids in the furtherance of motor vehicle theft investigations. | 5 |
| 1.2.3 | Collaborate with all other outside LE agencies and other organizations that assist in the reduction of MVTs. Include all coverage jurisdictions here. | Number of times collaborated with coverage area agencies or other law enforcement agencies and organizations that assist in the reduction of MVT. Collaboration means physically using law enforcement resources, tactics and authority to perform activity on cases that draw upon or aid in the investigation intended to further the resolution of any case, identify parties to crime, identify vehicles, interview witnesses/suspects and apprehend suspects. Collaboration will include any help, recommendation, contribution or support requested from or provided to another unit or offered by the taskforce that aids in the furtherance of MVTtheft investigations. | 8 |
| 1.2.5 | Conduct intelligence information-sharing (Personal attendance) | Number of intelligence meetings attended (include attending as presenter, participant or attendee) | 4 |
| 1.2.6 | Conduct intelligence information-sharing (Written information) | Crime analysis bulletins disseminated (include information distributed to law enforcement agencies via text, e-mail, or intra-net communications) | 24 |
| 1.2.7 | Collaborate with other MVCPA taskforces | Number of times collaborated with other MVCPA taskforces that assist in the reduction in MVT, BMV and FRMVC. | 4 |
| 1.3 | Strategy 3: Prevent and Reduce the Incidence of Fraud-Related Motor Vehicle Activities | | |
| 1.3.1 | Collaborate with agencies relating to investigation and enforcement of vehicle insurance fraud and FRMVC | Number of collaborations | 4 |
| 1.3.2 | Conduct confidential 68(A) inspections (for TxDMV assignment or reassignment of VIN required by Tx Trans. Code §501.032) | Number of vehicles inspected to complete a TxDMV 68A inspection form per TxDMV (VIN assignment, reassignment, bonded title) | 150 |

| ID | Activity | Measure | Target |
|---------|---|--|--------|
| 1.3.3 | Conduct VIN verification inspections. (All other reasons except bridge or port) | Number of vehicles inspected by taskforce to identify the vehicles not reported in confidential (68A) or bridge and port sections. | 4 |
| 1.3.4 | Coordinate with TxDMV/Tax Offices relating to investigation and enforcement of fraudulent titles and registration of stolen vehicles | Number of collaborations with TxDMV HQ, TxDMV Regional Service Centers or County Tax Assessor Collector offices. | 6 |
| 2 | Goal 2: Reduce the Incidence of Theft from Motor Vehicles through Enforcement Strategies | | |
| 2.1 | Strategy 1: Conduct Activities that Result in the Arrest, Clearance, and Recoveries of Burglary of Motor Vehicles and Theft of Vehicle Parts and Accessories | | |
| 2.1.1 | Conduct bait vehicle operations that target vehicle burglary offenders | Number of bait vehicle burglary deployments | 4 |
| 2.1.2 | Identify "prolific BMV offenders" through informants and intelligence [Prolific is defined as "linked to BMV and theft of vehicle parts and accessories offenses three or more times"] | Number of offenders identified | 12 |
| 2.2 | Strategy 2: Conduct Collaborative Efforts that Result in the Reduction of Incidents of Theft From a Motor Vehicle | | |
| 2.2.1 | Provide Agency Assists BMW. | Number of agency assists related to BMV or stolen parts. Assist means responding or answering questions via phone, e-mail, or in person. Providing recommendation, guidance, strategy, support or information that other LEOs will use to resolve their cases. The assist generally does not have the direct responsibility for an investigation nor uses LEO authority. The assist helps another LEO or agency investigate cases. Analysts and civilian employees will record their assists to outside LEOs and agencies met here along with officers. | 2 |
| 2.2.2 | Collaborate with other units or divisions within the taskforce department(s) (i.e. homicide, vice, narcotics, etc.) where theft of parts occurred in the commission of the crime (includes identification of vehicle). Include all participating jurisdiction departments here. | Number of times collaborated within departments or SOs participating in taskforce related to BMV or stolen parts. Collaboration means physically using law enforcement resources, tactics and authority to perform activity on cases that draw upon or aid in the investigation intended to further the resolution of any case, identify parties to crime, identify vehicles, interview witnesses/suspects and apprehend suspects. Collaboration will include any help, recommendation, contribution or support requested from or provided to another unit or offered by the taskforce that aids in the furtherance of BMV theft investigations. | 2 |
| 2.2.3 | Collaborate with all other outside LE agencies and other organizations where theft of parts occurred in the commission of the crime (includes identification of vehicle). Include all coverage jurisdictions here. | Number of times collaborated with coverage area agencies or other law enforcement agencies and organizations that assist in the reduction of BMV or stolen parts. Collaboration means physically using law enforcement resources, tactics and authority to perform activity on cases that draw upon or aid in the investigation intended to further the resolution of any case, identify parties to crime, identify vehicles, interview witnesses/suspects and apprehend suspects. Collaboration will include any help, recommendation, contribution or support requested from or provided to another unit or offered by the taskforce that aids in the furtherance of motor vehicle theft investigations. | 2 |
| 3 | Goal 3: Educate/Train Citizens and Qualified Personnel in Detection and Prevention of Motor Vehicle Theft, Burglary of Motor Vehicles and Theft of Vehicle Parts and Accessories | | |
| 3.1 | Strategy 1: Conduct Public Awareness Related Activities Used to Educate Citizens | | |
| 3.1.1 | Conduct educational outreach events (include trade show, exhibits, booths at community events, vehicle displays, brochures, etc.) | Number of outreaches | 4 |
| 3.1.2 | Conduct educational presentations to the public | Number of presentations. Presentation means in person, on-line, original written document, article, or webpage. | 2 |
| 3.1.4 | Conduct vehicle identification initiative/event | Number of etching events. Include windows, component parts, VIN stamps and catalytic converters. | 2 |
| 3.1.4.1 | Conduct vehicle identification initiative/event | Number of Participants/Attendees (Vehicles Marked) | 20 |
| 3.1.5 | Purchase advertisements in local outlets | Number of advertisements purchased or provided complimentary for taskforce. Include all types of media purchased or provided free (social, tv, utility inserts, billboards, transportation, etc.). Describe in 6.1.1. | 1 |
| 3.1.6 | Conduct vehicle report card initiatives. | Number report cards issued | 0 |
| 3.1.7 | Utilize social media outlets (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) | Number of postings in social media outlets | 40 |
| 3.1.8 | Deploy outdoor public notification signage | Number of deployments per month (if sign remains several months, count as 1 deployment per month) | 2 |

| ID | Activity | Measure | Target |
|--------|--|--|--------|
| 3.1.10 | Conduct media outreach, including, public service announcements, press releases, and interviews | Number of outreaches | 4 |
| 3.2 | Strategy 2: Conduct Law Enforcement Training Activities to Educate Officers on Recognition and Apprehension of Stolen Vehicles and Property | | |
| 3.2.1 | Conduct law enforcement training (TCOLE) | Number of classes provided for TCOLE credit | 2 |
| 3.2.3 | Conduct vehicle crimes presentations to law enforcement agencies (non TCOLE) | Number of classes or presentations. Presentations may include electronic roll call documents, shift BOLOs and other written or presented materials based on local practices. | 5 |

Grant Evaluation

4.1 Describe the local method and/or practice used to collect the data for reporting Goals, Strategies, and Activities and to evaluate the grant program effectiveness. Describe management and staff participation. Include descriptions of systems (forms and software) that will be used to ensure reliable and accurate data is collected and reported. Describe any other evaluation methods used in the applicant agency to determine effectiveness or cost efficiency of the program.

The Task Force will utilize the current Records Management System (RMS), "Spillman," within the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office. As the agency prepares to transition into the "New World" system, TFT will ensure all statistics are maintained in both systems. This dual approach enables the team to generate reports and easily convert them to Excel format for enhanced usability and analysis. Before inputting data into the RMS, supervisors will review collected data for accuracy. This meticulous review process ensures that the information entered into the system is reliable and can be effectively utilized for strategic decision-making and operational planning within the TFT

4.2 Provide any other suggested measures that would better reflect the law enforcement or prevention work that the proposed program will perform. If the suggested measure fits into one of the stated goals above please indicate.

None

TxGMS Standard Assurances by Local Governments

We acknowledge reviewing the [TxGMS Standard Assurances by Local Governments](#) as promulgated by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts and agree to abide by the terms stated therein.

Certifications

The certifying official is the authorized official, Richard F Cortez, Hidalgo County Judge.

By submitting this application I certify that I have been designated by my jurisdiction as the authorized official to accept the terms and conditions of the grant. The statements herein are true, complete, and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties.

By submitting this application I certify that my jurisdiction agrees to comply with all terms and conditions if the grant is awarded and accepted. I further certify that my jurisdiction will comply with all applicable state and federal laws, rules and regulations in the application, acceptance, administration and operation of this grant.

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