

Program Narrative

The Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) intends to utilize monetary awards from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Association Grant Year 2021 to address violent crime and enhance officer safety in the South Texas region, which is the HCSO's area of responsibility (AOR).

The United States as a whole has seen an increase in civil unrest and disturbances and there has been an increase in officers injured or killed in the line of duty. As such, the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office plans to better equip its deputies to reduce or completely prevent serious injuries or death by purchasing safety equipment. The HCSO partners with many municipal, state, and federal agencies providing training and tactical response and assistance to critical incidents, by having a readily available force in the field at any given time.

The HCSO will spend the \$25,950.20 to purchase 95 Ballistic Helmets, \$8,168.16 to purchase 2 ballistic shields, \$815.30 to purchase 10 Decibel meters, and \$1,698.50 to purchase 10 window tint meters. As well as purchase and deploy 100 Shield Support Hooks attachments for \$6,255.84. The hook attachments are utilized by officers in active shooter situations, or in operations where the use of a shield is required. The hooks take the weight off the officer's arms and distribute to their vest allowing the officers to use the shields with less discomfort and more mobility.

The HCSO will utilize all above mentioned items to better equip the Patrol Division which is the backbone of any police department. The decibel meters and window tint meter will be used to enforce offenses of the Texas Penal Code and Transportation Code. Due to a nationwide increase of civil unrest the ballistic helmets and shields will be another layer of personal protective equipment to prevent serious injury or death. Hidalgo County has had 32 threats to public schools in the first two months of the school year starting on Aug. 2024. Because of the heightened risk of active shooter situation the funding for complementary equipment for like shield support hooks for officers are a top priority.

Hidalgo County Judge
Richard F. Cortez