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**Agency Name:** Hidalgo County  
**Grant/App:** 2931311 **Start Date:** 9/1/2025 **End Date:** 8/31/2026

**Project Title:** Domestic Violence Specialty Prosecutor  
**Status:** Application Pending Submission

**Profile Information**

**Applicant Agency Name:** Hidalgo County  
**Project Title:** Domestic Violence Specialty Prosecutor  
**Division or Unit to Administer the Project:** Hidalgo County DA's Office  
**Address Line 1:** 100 E. Cano  
**Address Line 2:**  
**City/State/Zip:** Edinburg Texas 78539-3563  
**Start Date:** 9/1/2025  
**End Date:** 8/31/2026

**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:**

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**Phone:** 956-318-2600 Other Phone:  
**Fax:** 956-318-2699  
**Title:** The Honorable  
**Salutation:** Judge  
**Position:** Hidalgo County Judge

**Financial Official**

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**Salutation:** Ms.  
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**Project Director**

**Name:** Toribio Palacios  
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**Fax:** 956-318-2078  
**Title:** The Honorable  
**Salutation:** Mr.  
**Position:** Criminal District Attorney

**Grant Writer**

**Name:** Toribio Palacios

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**City:** Edinburg, Texas 78539

**Phone:** 956-292-7604 Other Phone: 956-318-2300

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**Title:** The Honorable

**Salutation:** Mr.

**Position:** Criminal District Attorney

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**Status:** Application Pending Submission

**Grant Vendor Information**

**Organization Type:** County

**Organization Option:** applying to provide services to all others

**Applicant Agency's State Payee Identification Number (e.g., Federal Employer's Identification (FEI) Number or Vendor ID):** 17460007176041

**Unique Entity Identifier (UEI):** LHACK1UL6NR3

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### Narrative Information

#### Introduction

The purpose of this funding is to solicit applications for projects that promote a coordinated, multi-disciplinary approach to improve the justice system's response to violent crimes against women, including domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

#### 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.

##### 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'.

#### Eligibility Requirements

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:

### **Grant Eligibility Regarding Compelling Victim Testimony:**

In accordance with 34 USC § 10454, in order for a prosecutor's office to be eligible to receive grant funds under this subchapter, the head of the office shall certify to the State receiving the grant funding that the office will, during the 3-year period beginning on the date on which the grant is awarded, engage in planning, developing and implementing—

- (1) training developed by experts in the field regarding victim-centered approaches in domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking cases;
- (2) policies that support a victim-centered approach, informed by such training; and
- (3) a protocol outlining alternative practices and procedures for material witness petitions and bench warrants, consistent with best practices, that shall be exhausted before employing material witness petitions and bench warrants to obtain victim-witness testimony in the investigation, prosecution, and trial of a crime related to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking of the victim in order to prevent further victimization and trauma to the victim.

### **Constitutional Compliance**

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

### **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**

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 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.

### **Immigration Legal Services**

PSO prioritizes funding of projects that provide a full spectrum of counseling, crisis services, and other direct victim services. PSO will not fund projects that focus primarily on immigration legal services and do not provide a significant level of other types of victim services.

### **Legal Representation in Divorce and Custody Cases**

PSO limits eligibility for legal representation in divorce and custody cases to circumstances where the survivor has been directly victimized by intimate partner violence (IPV) within the last six (6) months. This may include physical violence, sexual violence, stalking, and psychological aggression (including coercive tactics) by a current or former intimate partner against the survivor or survivor's kin sharing the residence. Additionally, legal services in divorce and custody cases funded under this award are limited to emergency order assistance, safety planning, client representation in divorce or guardianship proceedings, and other family law matters directly resulting from the victimization. Through acceptance of this award, grantee agrees that reimbursement for divorce and custody-related legal services will be limited to circumstances listed above.

### **Community Efforts**

Applicant agrees to promote community efforts to aid crime victims. Applicants should promote, within the community, coordinated public and private efforts to aid crime victims. Coordination efforts qualify an organization to receive these funds, but are not activities that can be supported with these funds.

**No Charge**

Applicant agrees to provide grant-funded services at no charge to victims of crime. Applicants are also prohibited from billing Crime Victims Compensation, private insurance, Medicaid, or Medicare for services provided using VAWA funds.

**Discrimination**

Applicant agrees not to discriminate against victims because they disagree with the State's prosecution of the criminal case.

**Equal Employment Opportunity Plan (EEO Plan)**

If awarded, applicant agrees to comply with the Equal Employment Opportunity Program (EEOP) requirements per 28 C.F.R. § 42 Subpart E. Agencies may use the EEO Utilization Report Builder to assist with preparing Verification Forms and, if required, Utilization Reports.

**Compliance with State and Federal Laws, Programs and Procedures**

**Local Units of Government:** 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, 2026 or the end of the grant period, whichever is later.

**Non-profit Organizations:** Each non-profit 501(c)(3) organization must certify that it does not have, and will continue not to have any policy, procedure, or agreement (written or unwritten) that in any way encourages, induces, entices, or aids any violations of immigration laws. Additionally, the organization certifies that it does not have in effect, purport to have in effect, and is not subject to or bound by any rule, policy, or practice (written or unwritten) that would: (1) encourage the concealment, harboring, or shielding from detection of fugitives from justice or aliens who illegally came to, entered, or remained 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, the organization certifies that it will not adopt, enforce, or endorse a policy which prohibits or materially limits the enforcement of immigration laws, and will not, as demonstrated by pattern or practice, prohibit or materially limit the enforcement of immigration laws.

Each non-profit organization must download, complete and then upload into eGrants the CEO/NGO Certifications and Assurances Form certifying compliance with federal and state immigration enforcement requirements.

### **Legal Assistance for Victims (LAV) Certification**

The applicant certifies that it meets the following federal statutory requirements in regards to the provision of legal advocacy:

- (1) any person providing legal assistance through a program funded under this section—
    - (A)(i) is a licensed attorney or is working under the direct supervision of a licensed attorney;
    - (ii) in immigration proceedings, is a Board of Immigration Appeals accredited representative;
    - (iii) in Veterans' Administration claims, is an accredited representative; or
    - (iv) is any person who functions as an attorney or lay advocate in Tribal court; and
  - (B)(i) has demonstrated expertise in providing legal assistance to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking in the targeted population; or
  - (ii)(I) is partnered with an entity or person that has demonstrated expertise described in clause (i); and
  - (II) has completed, or will complete, training in connection with domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault and related legal issues, including training on evidence-based risk factors for domestic and dating violence homicide;
- (2) any training program conducted in satisfaction of the requirement of paragraph (1) has been or will be developed with input from and in collaboration with a tribal, State, territorial, local, or culturally specific domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking victim service provider or coalition, as well as appropriate tribal, State, territorial, and local law enforcement officials;
- (3) any person or organization providing legal assistance through a program funded under subsection (c) has informed and will continue to inform State, local, or tribal domestic violence, dating violence, or sexual assault programs and coalitions, as well as appropriate State and local law enforcement officials of their work; and
- (4) the grantee's organizational policies do not require mediation or counseling involving offenders and victims physically together, in cases where sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or child sexual abuse is an issue.

Does the applicant meet the criteria outlined above?

- Yes
- No

### **Prosecutor Certification**

In order for a prosecutor's office to be eligible to receive grant funds under this subchapter, the head of the office shall certify, to the State, Indian Tribal government, or territorial government receiving the grant funding, that the office will, during the 3-year period beginning on the date on which the grant is awarded, engage in planning, developing and implementing—

- (1) training developed by experts in the field regarding victim-centered approaches in domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking cases;
- (2) policies that support a victim-centered approach, informed by such training; and
- (3) a protocol outlining alternative practices and procedures for material witness petitions and bench warrants, consistent with best practices, that shall be exhausted before employing material witness petitions and bench warrants to obtain victim-witness testimony in the investigation, prosecution, and trial of a crime related to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking of the victim in order to prevent further victimization and trauma to the victim.

Does the applicant certify to the requirements outlined above?

- Yes
- No
- N/A-This grant will not be administered by a Prosecutor's Office

### **Civil Rights Liaison**

A civil rights liaison who will serve as the grantee's civil rights point of contact and who will be responsible for ensuring that the grantee meets all applicable civil rights requirements must be designated. The designee will act as the grantee's liaison in civil rights matters with PSO and with the federal Office of Justice Programs.

Enter the Name of the Civil Rights Liaison:

Enter the Address for the Civil Rights Liaison:

Enter the Phone Number for the Civil Rights Liaison [(999) 999-9999 x9999]:

### **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 :**

The Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney's Office (HCCDA) has developed a victim centered approach to address the prosecution and victim services for domestic violence cases submitted to our office. Domestic violence cases are among the most difficult to prosecute and require specialty trained prosecutors. Special areas for the HCDA include; 1) exposure of children to domestic violence 2) reduction of the number of affidavits of non-prosecution filed by victims 3) increased participation by the victim in the criminal justice process 4) lack of physical evidence during the investigation of a crime by law enforcement, 5) the change in the viewpoints of the community about domestic violence victims and 6) decreased victim blaming while holding perpetrators accountable. The assigned specialty prosecutor assesses the program through input from police, victims, and other members of the DVU. The prosecutor also determines how many of the domestic violence referrals lead to indictments by the Grand Jury for prosecution in Hidalgo County District Courts. The prosecutor serves all cities, municipalities and unincorporated areas in Hidalgo County, Texas. The services target victims of domestic violence while focusing on keeping said victims safe and holding perpetrators accountable.

### **Problem Statement :**

In domestic violence cases, the victim and defendant share a common relationship which poses a serious barrier to successful prosecution. Victims often recant or refuse to testify about the crime due to fear or a state of denial. This is one of the reasons why these cases continue to be extremely difficult to successfully prosecute. Many jurors may be less likely to believe or be sympathetic to a victim of domestic violence who recants or returns to the abuser. Due to the difficulties in prosecution and the unique circumstances that exist in the lives of domestic violence victims, law enforcement and prosecutors need to be specially trained to ensure the safety of both the victim and the community. One of the areas of focus of the Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney's Office (HCCDA) is the safety of children that are exposed to domestic violence at home. This HCCDA has implemented a safety planning program that follows guidelines found in the Evidence-Based Practices for Children Exposed to Violence of the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. These guidelines use a set of key principles to address children's exposure to domestic violence such as safety focused victim services, culturally appropriate victim services, and referrals to community-based agencies for children. The HCCDA understands that in cases of domestic violence ensuring the safety of the victim and their children is paramount. The Safety Planning program is tailored to ensure that every domestic violence victim that comes to our office to submit an Affidavit of Non-Prosecution (ANP) must meet in person with a Victim Advocate. The advocates inform victims about resources available to them and discuss a Safety Plan with them in a language they can read and understand. If the victim states that he/she wishes to continue with the ANP process, he/she is advised that the case will still be reviewed by the Domestic Violence Specialty Prosecutor (DVSP) and that the outcome of the case is not the victim's responsibility. Furthermore, victims are provided assistance in applying for a protective order if needed. The advocates will educate them on the criminal justice process and explain that the HCCDA is prosecuting a violation of the law and that the defendant will be held accountable. The primary goal of the HCCDA is to ensure victim safety. The DVSP Assistant District Attorney works with all the DVU staff to ensure this concern is always addressed.

### **Supporting Data :**

The Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney's Office provided services to 94,500 victims of crime with a total of 256,753 services provided from April of 2015 to December of 2023. For fiscal year 2023, a total of 12,392 victims of crime were provided services of which, 7,340 were victims of family violence. This constitutes 59% of the services rendered by the HCDA's Victims Unit staff were for victim of family violence. In addition, the Domestic Violence Unit reviewed 1,847 protective order applications in FY 2022 and filed 284 protective orders and in FY 2023 1,607 protective order applications were reviewed and 188 were filed. According to the Texas Crime Report of 2022 of the Texas Department of Public Safety there were a total of 8,007 family violence cases reported in Hidalgo County an increase of 1.6 % from the 2021 where 7,874 cases reported. Also reported in Hidalgo County were 752 Sexual Assaults which constitutes an increase of 7 % from 2021 where there were 702 SA cases reported. In addition, there were 29 Murders, 346 Robberies, and 1,819 Assaults. In 2022 The Texas Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR), stated that law enforcement officers in Texas responded to 254,339 incidents of family violence, a 10 % increase from 2021 where 231,207 incidents were reported. The 2022 Honoring Texas Victims Report of the Texas Council of Family Violence reported the second highest

number of intimate partner homicides in last decade: a total of 216 Texans were killed by an intimate partner. There were 179 women and 37 males. In Hidalgo County, 4 homicides were attributed to family violence. According to the Texas Department of Family & Protective Services, in FY 2022 there were 56,944 Children who were confirmed victims of abuse and neglect in the state of Texas and 182 Child Fatalities statewide caused by child abuse and neglect. In Hidalgo County, 7,827 intakes were assigned for investigation and 1,586 confirmed victims of child abuse. Three children were killed in Hidalgo County as a result of child abuse.

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

The Domestic Violence Specialty Prosecutor (DVSP) reviews, investigates, and prosecutes cases of family violence, stalking, dating violence, trafficking and sexual assault. Victim Advocates, which are paid through another funding source, provide victims information on available resources, provide referrals, provide a Safety plan, translation services, and assist them through the judicial process. The Domestic Violence Unit staff interacts with other community-based organizations, including the local domestic violence shelter, and the Hidalgo County Family Violence Task Force. The DVU staff also coordinates community responses to domestic violence and work directly with victims throughout the criminal justice process to help ensure victims' rights are afforded and the victims' voice is heard in court proceedings. The Specialty Investigator, who is also paid through another funding source, works with local law enforcement agencies to provide guidance, training and develop victim centered responses to domestic violence incidents. The advocates are also responsible for referring victims to community-based agencies. The investigator works closely with the HCCDA Victims Unit to ensure that victims receive a Safety Plan, protective order assistance and other victim services. Together this will ensure that the prosecution process and the rights of victims are effectively met.

### **Capacity & Capabilities:**

The Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney Office (HCCDA) represents the State of Texas as the prosecutorial agency in all criminal cases in Hidalgo County. This grant is administered by HCCDA. All reports are provided on a quarterly, bi-annually, and annually basis as required. Justification for the grant is provided on a yearly basis. In addition, HCCDA oversees the Domestic Violence Unit and ensures that the grant monies are adequately expended and budgeted properly. HCCDA also works closely with the County Auditor's Office to ensure the proper use of grant funds. Victim services are tracked by the use of the Victim Services (VS) tracking software to ensure accurate data collection. The Domestic Violence Specialty Prosecutor must maintain a current law license with the State of Texas and have a minimum of 3 years of prosecutorial experience in domestic violence cases. The DVSP Assistant District Attorney attends continuous specialized education on domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, trafficking and crimes against women.

### **Performance Management :**

The Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney's Office (HCCDA) has developed a victim centered approach to address the prosecution and victim services for domestic violence cases submitted to our office. Domestic violence cases are among the most difficult to prosecute and require specialty trained prosecutors. Special areas for the HCCDA include; 1) exposure of children to domestic violence 2) reduction of the number of affidavits of non-prosecution filed by victims 3) increased participation by the victim in the criminal justice process 4) lack of physical evidence during the investigation of a crime by law enforcement 5) change in the viewpoints of the community about domestic violence victims and 6) decreased victim blaming while holding perpetrators accountable. The assigned specialty prosecutor will assess the program through input from police, victims, and other members of the DVU. The prosecutor also determines how many of the domestic violence referrals lead to indictments by the Grand Jury for prosecution in Hidalgo County District Courts. The prosecutor serves all cities, municipalities and unincorporated areas in Hidalgo County, Texas. The services will target victims of domestic violence while focusing on keeping said victims safe and holding perpetrators accountable. The objectives are to provide victim advocacy through victim education on victims' rights, victim impact statements, the prosecution process, restitution, post sentence services, safety planning, and community organizational services and provide assistance to victims in obtaining protective orders. This will allow them to leave abusive relationships and live a life free of violence. The DVSP will perform targeted prosecution and case reviews for domestic violence cases. He/she will also provide training to law enforcement officers to improve the physical evidence collection which will aid the prosecution of domestic violence cases. This program's success will be measured by a service evaluation that will be filled out by victims that have been serviced by HCCDA. The service evaluation will measure the effectiveness of the services offered. This will allow HCCDA to understand if the information being provided to the victim is effective at addressing the needs of the victim. In addition, HCCDA will use the VS Tracking data system to have accurate data collection and track the number of victims to which services are being provided. This will allow HCCDA to determine what type of service is being requested most frequently so that the HCCDA can adjust accordingly to fulfill those

needs. All trainings will also require a training evaluation to measure the success and learning objectives for attendees.

**Target Group :**

The target group will be Victims that reside in Hidalgo County with a population of 870,781 as of 2020. Hidalgo County has a 92.5% Hispanic population of which 23.9 % of the population live in poverty. The HCCDA will serve crime victims of all age groups, all genders, multiple languages, and undocumented individuals.

**Evidence-Based Practices:**

The Hidalgo County District Attorney's Office implemented the Victims Unit to comply with Chapter 56 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure (TCCP) that states the Attorney representing the state has the duty to ensure to the extent practicable that a victim, guardian of a victim, or close relative of a deceased victim is afforded the rights granted in said chapter. The Hidalgo County District Attorney's Office uses the "CRIME VICTIM ASSISTANCE STANDARDS" that were developed and distributed by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Victim Services Division Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse, in accordance with the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Article 56A.604, to law enforcement officers and attorneys representing the state to aid those officers and prosecutors in performing their duties imposed by the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Chapters 56A - Rights of Crime Victims, 56B - Crime Victims' Compensation, and 58 - Confidentiality of Identifying Information and Medical Records of Certain Crime Victims.

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**Project Title:** Domestic Violence Specialty Prosecutor  
**Status:** Application Pending Submission

**Project Activities Information**

**Introduction**

This section contains questions about your project. It is very important for applicants to review their funding announcement for guidance on how to fill out this section. Unless otherwise specified, answers should be about the EXPECTED activities to occur during the project period.

**Violence Against Women Justice and Training Program**

In the space below, briefly explain how your project will address one or more of the state priority areas listed below:

- a) Law Enforcement
  - Victim-Centered/Trauma-Informed Training
  - Regional Sexual Assault Response Teams: Law Enforcement participation
  - Specialized Investigators/Units
  - Coordination between Law Enforcement and Victim Service Providers
- b) Prosecution
  - Victim-Centered/Trauma-Informed Training
  - Regional Sexual Assault Response Teams: Prosecution participation
  - Specialized Prosecutors/Units
- c) Victim Services
  - Trauma-Informed, Professional Mental Health Therapy and Counseling
  - Address Rural Needs
  - Transportation and Emergency Housing
  - Implementation of Telehealth/Tele-Advocacy Technology
  - Language access plans
  - Victim-Centered/Trauma-Informed Training
- d) Courts
  - Legal Advocacy (protective order assistance, legal rights & options, court accompaniment, etc.)
  - Access to Court Hearings

**Selected Project Activities:**

ACTIVITY	PERCENTAGE:	DESCRIPTION
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**CJD Purpose Areas**

PERCENT DEDICATED	PURPOSE AREA	PURPOSE AREA DESCRIPTION
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You are logged in as **User Name:** HidalgoCoDA

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**Agency Name:** Hidalgo County  
**Grant/App:** 2931311 **Start Date:** 9/1/2025 **End Date:** 8/31/2026

**Project Title:** Domestic Violence Specialty Prosecutor  
**Status:** Application Pending Submission

**Measures Information**

Objective Output Measures

OUTPUT MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
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Objective Outcome Measures

OUTCOME MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
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Custom Output Measures

CUSTOM OUTPUT MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
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Custom Outcome Measures

CUSTOM OUTCOME MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
------------------------	--------------

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**Agency Name:** Hidalgo County  
**Grant/App:** 2931311 **Start Date:** 9/1/2025 **End Date:** 8/31/2026

**Project Title:** Domestic Violence Specialty Prosecutor  
**Status:** Application Pending Submission

**Budget Details Information**  
**Budget Information by Budget Line Item:**

CATEGORY	SUB CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	GPI	TOTAL	UNIT/%
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You are logged in as **User Name:** HidalgoCoDA

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Agency Name: Hidalgo County  
Grant/App: 2931311 Start Date: 9/1/2025 End Date: 8/31/2026

Project Title: Domestic Violence Specialty Prosecutor  
Status: Application Pending Submission

**Source of Match Information**

**Detail Source of Match/GPI:**

DESCRIPTION	MATCH TYPE	AMOUNT
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**Summary Source of Match/GPI:**

Total Report	Cash Match	In Kind	GPI Federal Share	GPI State Share
\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

You are logged in as **User Name:** HidalgoCoDA

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**Agency Name:** Hidalgo County  
**Grant/App:** 2931311 **Start Date:** 9/1/2025 **End Date:** 8/31/2026

**Project Title:** Domestic Violence Specialty Prosecutor  
**Status:** Application Pending Submission

**Budget Summary Information**

**Budget Summary Information by Budget Category:**

CATEGORY	OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	GPI	TOTAL
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**Budget Grand Total Information:**

OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	GPI	TOTAL
\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

You are logged in as **User Name:** HidalgoCoDA

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**Agency Name:** Hidalgo County  
**Grant/App:** 2931311 **Start Date:** 9/1/2025 **End Date:** 8/31/2026

**Project Title:** Domestic Violence Specialty Prosecutor  
**Status:** Application Pending Submission

### Resolution from Governing Body

Applications from nonprofit corporations, local units of governments, and other political subdivisions must include a resolution that contains the following:

1. Authorization by your governing body for the submission of the application to the Public Safety Office (PSO) that clearly identifies the name of the project for which funding is requested;
2. A commitment to provide all applicable matching funds;
3. A designation of the name and/or title of an authorized official who is given the authority to apply for, accept, reject, alter, or terminate a grant (Note: If a name is provided, you must update the PSO should the official change during the grant period.); and
4. A written assurance that, in the event of loss or misuse of grant funds, the governing body will return all funds to PSO.

Upon approval from your agency's governing body, upload the approved resolution to eGrants by clicking on the **Upload Files** sub-tab located in the **Summary** tab.

### Contract Compliance

Will PSO grant funds be used to support any contracts for professional services?

Select the appropriate response:

- Yes  
 No

For applicant agencies that selected **Yes** above, describe how you will monitor the activities of the sub-contractor(s) for compliance with the contract provisions (including equipment purchases), deliverables, and all applicable statutes, rules, regulations, and guidelines governing this project.

Enter a description for monitoring contract compliance:

### Lobbying

For applicant agencies requesting grant funds in excess of \$100,000, have any federally appropriated funds been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any federal contract, the making of any federal grant, the making of any federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any federal contract, grant loan, or cooperative agreement?

Select the appropriate response:

- Yes  
 No  
 N/A

For applicant agencies that selected either **No** or **N/A** above, have any non-federal funds been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress in connection with this federal contract, loan, or cooperative agreement?

Select the appropriate response:

- Yes
- No
- N/A

### **Fiscal Year**

Provide the begin and end date for the applicant agency's fiscal year (e.g., 09/01/20xx to 08/31/20xx).

Enter the Begin Date [mm/dd/yyyy]:

Enter the End Date [mm/dd/yyyy]:

### **Sources of Financial Support**

Each applicant must provide the amount of grant funds expended during the most recently completed fiscal year for the following sources:

Enter the amount (in Whole Dollars \$) of Federal Grant Funds expended:

Enter the amount (in Whole Dollars \$) of State Grant Funds expended:

### **Single Audit**

Applicants who expend less than \$1,000,000 in federal grant funding or less than \$1,000,000 in state grant funding are exempt from the Single Audit Act and cannot charge audit costs to a PSO grant. However, PSO may require a limited scope audit as defined in 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart F - Audit Requirements.

Has the applicant agency expended federal grant funding of \$1,000,000 or more, or state grant funding of \$1,000,000 or more during the most recently completed fiscal year?

Select the appropriate response:

- Yes
- No

Applicant agencies that selected **Yes** above, provide the date of your organization's last annual single audit, performed by an independent auditor in accordance with the State of Texas Single Audit Circular; or CFR Part 200, Subpart F - Audit Requirements.

Enter the date of your last annual single audit:

### **Debarment**

Each applicant agency will certify that it and its principals (as defined in 2 CFR Part 180.995):

- Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, sentenced to a denial of Federal benefits by a State or Federal Court, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any federal department or agency;
- Have not within a three-year period preceding this application been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (federal, state, or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of federal or state antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property; or
- Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (federal, state, or local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in the above bullet; and have not within a three-year period preceding this application had one or more public transactions (federal, state, or local) terminated for cause or default.

Select the appropriate response:

- I Certify
- Unable to Certify

If you selected **Unable to Certify** above, please provide an explanation as to why the applicant agency cannot certify the statements.

### **FFATA Certification**

**Certification of Recipient Highly Compensated Officers**

The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) requires Prime Recipients (CJD) to report the names and total compensation of each of the five most highly compensated officers (a.k.a. positions) of each sub recipient organization for the most recently completed fiscal year preceding the year in which the grant is awarded if the subrecipient answers **YES** to the **FIRST** statement but **NO** to the **SECOND** statement listed below.

In the sub recipient's preceding completed fiscal year, did the sub recipient receive: (1) 80 percent or more of its annual gross revenue from Federal contracts (and subcontracts), loans, grants (and subgrants) and cooperative agreements; AND (2) \$25,000,000 or more in annual gross revenue from Federal contracts (and subcontracts), loans, grants (and subgrants) and cooperative agreements?

- Yes
- No

Does the public have access to information about the compensation of the senior executives through periodic reports filed under Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m(a), 78o(d)) or Section 6104 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986?

- Yes
- No

If you answered **YES** to the **FIRST** statement and **NO** to the **SECOND** statement, please provide the name and total compensation amount of each of the five most highly compensated officers (a.k.a. positions) within your agency for the current calendar year. If you answered NO to the first statement you are NOT required to provide the name and compensation amounts. NOTE: "Total compensation" means the complete pay package of each of the sub recipient's compensated officers, including all forms of money, benefits, services, and in-kind payments (see SEC Regulations: 17 CCR 229.402).

- Position 1 - Name:
- Position 1 - Total Compensation (\$):
- Position 2 - Name:
- Position 2 - Total Compensation (\$):
- Position 3 - Name:
- Position 3 - Total Compensation (\$):
- Position 4 - Name:
- Position 4 - Total Compensation (\$):
- Position 5 - Name:
- Position 5 - Total Compensation (\$):

General Information and Instructions

Agency Type

Implementing Agency Type - Government

Which designation best describes your agency (select only one):

- Corrections
- Courts
- Juvenile justice
- Law enforcement
- Prosecutor
- Other – describe below

If Other is selected describe below:

Purpose of Award

Check all that apply:

- Continue an OOG-funded victim project funded in a previous year
- Expand or enhance an existing project not funded by OOG in the previous year
- Start up a new victim services project
- Start up a new Native American victim services project
- Expand or enhance an existing Native American project

Type of Crime Funding Distribution

Identify the percent of funding dedicated to each type of victimization. The percentages provided below should not include matching funds. Cumulative total for all types of victimization must equal 100%.

Type of Crime	Percent of Funds Dedicated to Crime <i>Enter whole percentages only</i>	Funds Dedicated to Crime <i>Current Award x Percent Entered</i>
Domestic and Family Violence	0	\$0.00
Adult Sexual Assault	0	\$0.00
Adults Molested As Children	0	\$0.00
Elder Abuse	0	\$0.00
Adult Human Trafficking	0	\$0.00
Other Non-Violent Crimes	0	\$0.00

Description:

**SUM of %'s**

*Sum of % MUST = 100%* <sup>0</sup>

**SUM of Funds**

*Sum of Funds MUST = OOG Current Budget* \$0.00

Use of Funds

Does this project provide **DIRECT SERVICES** to victims:

Yes

No

Types of Victimization

Check the types of victimization that best describe the victims the grant-funded project will serve. "Other" refers to a type that is not associated with any of the types provided in the list. Check all that apply:

**Type of Victimization**

Adult sexual assault

Adults sexually abused/assaulted as children

Domestic and/or family violence

Human trafficking: sex

Stalking/harassment

Teen dating victimization

Other

If Other is TRUE provide explanation:

Budget and Staffing

Answer the questions below based on your current fiscal year. Report the total budget available to the victim services program by source of funding. Do not report the entire agency budget, unless the entire budget is devoted to victim services program.

**Annual funding amounts allocated to all victimization programs and/or services for the current fiscal year:**

Identify by source the amount of funds allocated to the victimization program/services budget for your agency. DO NOT

COUNT FUNDS IN MORE THAN ONE CATEGORY. OTHER FEDERAL includes all federal funding except the award amount for this grant.

<b>OOG Current Budget:</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
Other State Funds:	\$0.00
Other Local Funds:	\$0.00
Other Federal Funds:	\$0.00
Other Non-Federal Funds:	\$0.00
<b>Total Victimization Program Budget:</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

**Total number of paid staff for all grantee victimization program and/or services:**

COUNT each staff member once. Both full and part time staff should be counted as one staff member. DO NOT prorate based on FTE.

Total number of staff: 0

**Number of staff hours funded through THIS grant award (plus match) for grantee's victimization programs and/or services:**

Total COUNT of hours to work by all staff supporting the work of this award, including match.

Total number of hours: 0

**Number of volunteer staff supporting the work of this award (plus match) for grantee's victimization programs and/or services:**

COUNT each volunteer staff once. DO NOT prorate based on FTE.

Total number of volunteer staff: 0

**Number of volunteer hours supporting the work of this award (plus match) for grantee's victimization programs:**

Total COUNT of hours to work by all volunteers supporting the work of the award, including match.

Total hours to work by all volunteers: 0

## Statement of Grant Award (SOGA)

The Statement of Grant Award is the official notice of award from the Office of the Governor (OOG). This Grant Agreement and all terms, conditions, provisions and obligations set forth herein shall be binding upon and shall inure to the benefit of the Parties and their respective successors and assigns and all other State of Texas agencies and any other agencies, departments, divisions, governmental entities, public corporations, and other entities which shall be successors to each of the Parties or which shall succeed to or become obligated to perform or become bound by any of the covenants, agreements or obligations hereunder of each of the Parties hereto.

The approved project narrative and budget for this award are reflected in eGrants on the 'Narrative' and 'Budget/Details' tabs. By accepting the Grant Award in eGrants, the Grantee agrees to strictly comply with the requirements and obligations of this Grant Agreement including any and all applicable federal and state statutes, regulations, policies, guidelines and requirements. In instances where conflicting requirements apply to a Grantee, the more restrictive requirement applies.

The Grant Agreement includes the Statement of Grant Award; the OOG Grantee Conditions and Responsibilities; the Grant Application in eGrants; and the other identified documents in the Grant Application and Grant Award, including but not limited to: 2 CFR Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards; Chapter 783 of the Texas Government Code, Title 34, Part 1, Chapter 20, Subchapter E, Division 4 of the Texas Administrative Code, and the Texas Grant Management Standards (TxGMS) developed by the Comptroller of Public Accounts; the state Funding Announcement or Solicitation under which the grant application was made, and for federal funding, the Funding Announcement or Solicitation under which the OOG was awarded funds; and any applicable documents referenced in the documents listed above. For grants awarded from the U.S. Department of Justice, the current applicable version of the Department of Justice Grants Financial Guide and any applicable provisions in Title 28 of the CFR apply. For grants awarded from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), all Information Bulletins and Policies published by the FEMA Grants Program Directorate apply. The OOG reserves the right to add additional responsibilities and requirements, with or without advance notice to the Grantee.

By clicking on the 'Accept' button within the 'Accept Award' tab, the Grantee accepts the responsibility for the grant project, agrees and certifies compliance with the requirements outlined in the Grant Agreement, including all provisions incorporated herein, and agrees with the following conditions of grant funding. The grantee's funds will not be released until the grantee has satisfied the requirements of the following Condition(s) of Funding and Other Fund-Specific Requirement(s), if any, cited below:

<b>Grant Number:</b>	2931311	<b>Award Amount:</b>	\$0.00
<b>Date Awarded:</b>	PREVIEW - AWARD NOT ACTIVE	<b>Grantee Cash Match:</b>	\$0.00
<b>Grant Period:</b>	09/01/2025 - 08/31/2026	<b>Grantee In Kind Match:</b>	\$0.00
<b>Liquidation Date:</b>	11/29/2026	<b>Grantee GPI:</b>	\$0.00
<b>Program Fund:</b>	WF-Violence Against Women Formula Grants	<b>Total Project Cost:</b>	\$0.00
<b>Grantee Name:</b>	Hidalgo County		
<b>Project Title:</b>	Domestic Violence Specialty Prosecutor		
<b>Grant Manager:</b>	Brandi Barba		
<b>Unique Entity Identifier (UEI):</b>	LHACK1UL6NR3		

<b>CFDA:</b>	16.588 - Violence Against Women Formula Grants
<b>Federal Awarding Agency:</b>	U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women
<b>Federal Award Date:</b>	
<b>Federal/State Award ID Number:</b>	15JOVW-25-GG-xxxxx-MUMU
<b>Total Federal Award/State Funds Appropriated:</b>	\$13,935,716.00
<b>Pass Thru Entity Name:</b>	Texas Office of the Governor – Criminal Justice Division (CJD)
<b>Is the Award R&amp;D:</b>	No

**Federal/State  
Award Description:**

The STOP Program continues to encourage the development and implementation of effective, victim centered law enforcement, prosecution, and court strategies to address violent crimes against women and the development and enhancement of victim services in cases involving violent crimes against women. It envisions a partnership among law enforcement, prosecution, courts, and victim services organizations to enhance victim safety and hold offenders accountable for their crimes against women.