

Print This Page

Agency Name: Hidalgo County
Grant/App: 2931312 Start Date: 9/1/2026 End Date: 8/31/2027

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: 9/1/2026
End Date: 8/31/2027

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:

Authorized Official

Name: Richard F. Cortez
Email: countyjudge@co.hidalgo.tx.us
Address 1: 100 East Cano, 2nd Floor
Address 1:
City: Edinburg, Texas 78539
Phone: 956-318-2600 Other Phone:
Fax: 956-318-2699
Title: The Honorable
Salutation: Judge
Position: Hidalgo County Judge

Financial Official

Name: Leticia Chavez
Email: lettyg.chavez@auditor.co.hidalgo.tx.us
Address 1: 2808 S. Business Highway 281
Address 1:
City: Edinburg, Texas 78539
Phone: 956-318-2511 Other Phone:
Fax: 956-318-2577
Title: Ms.
Salutation: Ms.
Position: County Auditor

Project Director

Name: Toribio Palacios
Email: terry.palacios@da.co.hidalgo.tx.us
Address 1: 100 East Cano Street, 2nd Floor
Address 1:
City: Edinburg, Texas 78539
Phone: 956-292-7604 Other Phone: 956-318-2300
Fax: 956-318-2078
Title: The Honorable
Salutation: Mr.
Position: Criminal District Attorney

Grant Writer

Name: Toribio Palacios

Email: terry.palacios@da.co.hidalgo.tx.us

Address 1: 100 East Cano Street, 2nd Floor

Address 1:

City: Edinburg, Texas 78539

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

Fax: 956-318-2078

Title: The Honorable

Salutation: Mr.

Position: Criminal District Attorney

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

[Print This Page](#)

Agency Name: Hidalgo County

Grant/App: 2931312 **Start Date:** 9/1/2026 **End Date:** 8/31/2027

Project Title: Domestic Violence Specialty Prosecutor

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): 17460007176062

Unique Entity Identifier (UEI): LHACK1UL6NR3

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

Print This Page

Agency Name: Hidalgo County

Grant/App: 2931312 **Start Date:** 9/1/2026 **End Date:** 8/31/2027

Project Title: Domestic Violence Specialty Prosecutor

Status: Application Pending Submission

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.

Culturally Specific and Underserved Populations

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 as defined by 34 USC § 12291 (a)(46) or culturally specific group; rather, the organization's primary focus must be on providing culturally competent services as defined by 34 USC § 12291(a)(9) designed to meet the specific needs of the target population in order to justify a YES response in the section below.)

Yes

No

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:

Resolution from Governing Body

Applications from nonprofit corporations, local units of governments, and other political subdivisions must submit a fully executed resolution with the application to be considered eligible for funding. The resolution must contain the following elements (see [Sample Resolution](#)):

- 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;
- A commitment to provide all applicable matching funds;
- 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;
- A designation of the name and/or title of a financial officer who is given the authority to submit financial and/or performance reports or alter a grant; and
- A written assurance that, in the event of loss or misuse of grant funds, the governing body will return all funds to PSO.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Compliance with State and Federal Laws, Programs and Procedures

Local units of government, including cities, counties and other general purpose political subdivisions, as appropriate, and institutions of higher education that operate a law enforcement agency, must comply with all aspects of the programs and procedures utilized by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security ("DHS") to: (1) notify DHS of all information requested by DHS related to illegal aliens in Agency's custody; and (2) detain such illegal aliens in accordance with requests by DHS. Additionally, counties and municipalities may NOT have in effect, purport to have in effect, or make themselves subject to or bound by, any law, rule, policy, or practice (written or unwritten) that would: (1) require or authorize the public disclosure of federal law enforcement information in order to conceal, harbor, or shield from detection fugitives from justice or aliens illegally in the United States, 8 U.S.C. § 1324(a)(1)(A)(iii); 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); (3) encourage or induce an alien to come to, enter, or reside in the United States in violation of law, 8 U.S.C. § 1324(a)(1)(A)(iv); (4) result in the illegal transport or movement of aliens within the United States, 8 U.S.C. § 1324(a)(1)(A)(ii). 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, 2027 or the end of the grant period, whichever is later.

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 :

This program aims to improve the prosecution of domestic violence cases by providing specialized support and expertise. The Domestic Violence Specialty Prosecutor (DVSP) will work closely with colleagues within our office and collaborate with local community organizations to better support victims. By focusing on the unique challenges of domestic violence cases, the DVSP will ensure that victims receive the assistance they need while working toward securing favorable legal outcomes for them. This initiative seeks to strengthen both the prosecution process and the overall support system for victims of domestic violence.

Problem Statement :

Nature and Scope of the Underlying Problem Domestic violence presents significant challenges for law enforcement and the judicial system, particularly when victims and defendants share a close personal relationship. This dynamic creates serious barriers to successful prosecution. Victims may recant, minimize, or refuse to testify due to fear of retaliation, emotional attachment, or a state of denial about the severity of the situation. This reluctance to cooperate complicates the legal process and often results in cases being difficult to prosecute. Jurors may also struggle to sympathize with victims who later return to their abusers or withdraw their statements, further hindering justice. In addition to these challenges, domestic violence cases frequently involve complex, high-risk situations that demand a specialized approach. The unique circumstances of domestic violence — including coercion, manipulation, and ongoing threats — require law enforcement and prosecutors to be specifically trained to ensure the safety of both victims and the broader community. Without proper training, there is a risk of re-victimizing survivors or allowing dangerous offenders to remain in the community. One of the most critical aspects of these cases is the safety of children who may be exposed to violence in the home. Children who witness domestic violence are at increased risk of physical, emotional, and psychological harm. Their exposure to violence can have long-term effects, including behavioral problems, poor academic performance, and an increased likelihood of becoming victims or perpetrators of violence in adulthood. Addressing this issue is essential to breaking the cycle of abuse and promoting long-term community well-being. Relevant Aspects of the Problem to the Project's Approach and Activities The Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney's Office (HCCDA) is committed to addressing these challenges through specialized, evidence-based practices. One of the core priorities of the HCCDA is ensuring the safety of children exposed to domestic violence. The office has implemented a safety planning program that follows the Evidence-Based Practices for Children Exposed to Violence, guidelines developed by the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. These guidelines focus on critical principles such as safety-focused victim services, culturally appropriate support, and referrals to community-based organizations for children affected by domestic violence. The HCCDA understands that the safety of victims and their children must be prioritized in every domestic violence case. To address this, the office has developed a comprehensive Safety Planning program that ensures every victim who submits an Affidavit of Non-Prosecution (ANP) is thoroughly informed about their options and resources. Victims are required to meet with a trained Victim Advocate in person, where they are provided with clear information on safety planning, available resources, and legal options in a language they can understand. If the victim chooses to proceed with the ANP process, they are informed that the case will still be reviewed by the Domestic Violence Specialty Prosecutor (DVSP) and that the decision to prosecute rests with the District Attorney's Office, not the victim. This helps mitigate the pressure victims may feel to withdraw their cooperation. Additionally, victims are offered support in applying for protective orders if needed and are educated about the criminal justice process. The HCCDA emphasizes that the office is prosecuting a violation of the law and that the defendant will be held accountable, regardless of the victim's decision to withdraw. The safety of victims, particularly children, is the primary goal of the HCCDA's Domestic Violence Unit (DVU). The DVSP, in collaboration with the DVU staff and Victim Advocates, works to ensure that each case is handled with the utmost care, prioritizing victim safety, legal accountability, and community protection.

Supporting Data :

The data relevant to family violence, sexual assault, child abuse, and neglect in Hidalgo County highlights a concerning trend of rising violence that directly affects the community. According to the Texas Crime Report of 2024 of the Family Violence NIBRS Report there were a total of 8,647 family violence cases reported in Hidalgo County an increase of 7.4 % from the 2023 where 8,007 cases reported. This statistic is a clear indicator of the ongoing and growing challenge of family violence in the area. The Domestic Violence Unit plays a vital role in

addressing family violence, particularly through the review and filing of protective orders. In fiscal year 2024, 1,734 protective order applications were reviewed and a total of 429 protective orders were filed on behalf of victims. This demonstrates the Unit's ongoing ability to respond effectively to the complex needs of domestic violence survivors. Also reported in Hidalgo County in 2023 were 398 Sexual Assaults. In addition, there were 27 Murders, 304 Robberies, 6 Human Trafficking Cases and 1,860 Aggravated Assaults all of which contribute to a heightened sense of insecurity within the community. Statewide data also reveals troubling trends. In 2023 The Texas Uniform Crime Report (UCR), stated that law enforcement officers in Texas responded to 247,896 incidents of family violence. Moreover, the 2023 Honoring Texas Victims Report of the Texas Council of Family Violence reported a total of 205 Texans were killed by an intimate partner. There were 179 women and 26 males. In Hidalgo County, 6 homicides were attributed to family violence. Turning to child abuse, according to the Texas Department of Family & Protective Services, in FY 2024 in Hidalgo County, 4,142 Child Abuse & Neglect Investigations were conducted involving 12,405 children and 7,139 were alleged victims of child abuse. Tragically, three children in Hidalgo County died as a result of abuse during the same period. These data points demonstrate the critical and escalating need for comprehensive intervention and support services for victims of family violence and child abuse in Hidalgo County. Addressing these issues at the local level is vital to ensuring the safety and well-being of vulnerable populations in our community.

Project Approach & Activities:

The HCCDA office is committed to addressing critical needs identified by the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council's (LRGVDC) Regional Criminal Justice Strategic Plan, specifically related to violent crimes, juvenile crimes, and the mental health of victims. To address these needs, the Domestic Violence Specialty Prosecutor (DVSP) will employ a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary approach designed to support victims, ensure effective prosecution, and strengthen community responses to domestic violence and related crimes. 1. Victim-Centered Legal Support and Advocacy: The DVSP will provide direct legal services to victims, focusing on the prosecution of family violence, stalking, dating violence, trafficking, and sexual assault. The DVSP's responsibilities will include reviewing, investigating, and prosecuting these cases, ensuring that victims are informed and supported throughout the legal process. A key component of this role will be assisting victims in filing protective orders and providing guidance on family law matters such as divorce, child custody, child support, emergency protective orders, and immigration relief for undocumented victims of crime. 2. Collaboration with Victim Advocates: Victim Advocates, funded through an alternate source, will work closely with the DVSP to provide victims with a range of support services. These include providing information on available community resources, safety planning, and referrals to specialized services. Advocates will also offer translation services and support victims through the judicial process, ensuring that their voices are heard and their rights are respected. 3. Community Coordination and Integration: The DVSP will actively coordinate with community-based organizations such as the local domestic violence shelter and the Hidalgo County Family Violence Task Force. This collaboration will ensure a holistic and integrated response to domestic violence, with cross-agency efforts focused on victim safety, legal support, and long-term recovery. The DVU staff will facilitate communication between stakeholders to ensure that victims receive comprehensive support throughout the criminal justice process. 4. Specialized Investigation and Law Enforcement Collaboration: The Specialty Investigator, funded through a separate source, will work in close partnership with local law enforcement agencies to enhance responses to domestic violence incidents. The investigator will provide training, guidance, and technical support to officers, helping to develop victim-centered, trauma-informed responses. This role is key in ensuring that evidence is properly gathered, victim safety is prioritized, and cases are built for successful prosecution. 5. Comprehensive Victim Services: In partnership with the HCCDA Victim's Unit, the Domestic Violence Unit (DVU) staff will ensure that victims are provided with a complete range of victim services, including safety planning, assistance with protective orders, and referrals to community-based services. This coordinated approach guarantees that victims are supported at every stage of the criminal justice process, from initial contact through trial and beyond. By integrating legal services, victim advocacy, law enforcement training, and community-based coordination, this project will ensure that victims of domestic violence not only receive the necessary resources and protections but also that their rights are fully upheld throughout the criminal justice process. Through these combined efforts, the DVSP and its partners will address the needs outlined in the LRGVDC's Strategic Plan, making a meaningful impact on the safety, well-being, and mental health of victims in our community.

Capacity & Capabilities:

The Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney's Office (HCCDA) serves as the prosecutorial agency for all criminal cases within Hidalgo County, Texas. As the administrator of this grant, HCCDA is responsible for overseeing all grant activities and ensuring compliance with reporting requirements. Reports are submitted quarterly, bi-annually, and annually, as stipulated by the terms of the grant, and justification for the grant's expenditures is provided on an annual basis. Additionally, HCCDA ensures that grant funds are appropriately

managed and allocated in coordination with the County Auditor's Office to maintain financial accountability and transparency. HCCDA plays a key role in the administration of the Domestic Violence Unit, which is tasked with handling cases involving domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking, stalking, and other crimes against women. The Domestic Violence Specialty Prosecutor (DVSP) and the DVSP Assistant District Attorney (ADA) possess the necessary qualifications to effectively carry out the mission of this unit. The DVSP holds a current law license with the State of Texas and has a minimum of three years of prosecutorial experience specifically in domestic violence cases. To ensure that our legal team remains at the forefront of best practices and legal standards, the DVSP Assistant District Attorney participates in ongoing, specialized training in domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, trafficking, and crimes against women. This continuous education enables our team to remain updated on emerging trends, legal precedents, and victim advocacy strategies. In addition to the internal expertise of the HCCDA, we track victim services through the Victim Services (VS) tracking software, which ensures accurate and efficient data collection on services provided to victims. This system allows for real-time monitoring of service delivery and ensures that victims' needs are addressed appropriately. HCCDA also collaborates closely with community partners, including victim service organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the County Auditor's Office, to maximize the effectiveness of the Domestic Violence Unit and ensure the proper use of grant resources. With our robust organizational framework, experienced staff, and commitment to collaboration, HCCDA is well-positioned to successfully implement and manage the activities and approaches outlined in this grant application.

Performance Management :

The goal of this project is to reduce trauma and improve outcomes for victims of violent crimes, particularly in the prosecution of domestic violence cases. To achieve this, we aim to enhance victim-centered services while strengthening prosecution efforts in Hidalgo County. Objectives and Strategies Our objectives are to: 1. Provide comprehensive victim advocacy by educating victims about their rights, the prosecution process, victim impact statements, restitution, safety planning, and community services. 2. Increase victim participation in the criminal justice process by offering supportive services that encourage active engagement in prosecution. 3. Support victims in securing protective orders to help them leave abusive relationships safely. 4. Enhance prosecution outcomes by improving evidence collection through law enforcement training, which will aid in securing convictions. The strategies for achieving these objectives include: • Specialized victim advocacy services including direct support, education, and referrals. • Targeted prosecution through the efforts of a dedicated specialty prosecutor who will handle domestic violence cases, perform case reviews, and track case progress. • Training for law enforcement to improve physical evidence collection and investigative protocols. Data Collection and Tracking To measure the success of the project, the HCCDA will employ the VSTracking system, which will allow us to: • Track victim data such as the number of victims served, the types of services requested, and the outcomes of those services. • Monitor case progress, from initial victim contact through indictment and prosecution, ensuring that all necessary services are provided to victims in a timely manner. • Evaluate service effectiveness through feedback surveys completed by victims after receiving services. These evaluations will assess the relevance, quality, and impact of services provided, enabling HCCDA to adjust and improve its approach as needed. Additionally, the specialty prosecutor will assess the program through: • Case outcomes, including the number of domestic violence cases leading to indictment and prosecution. • Feedback from law enforcement, victims, and other members of the Domestic Violence Unit (DVU) on the effectiveness of the victim services provided. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) The program's success will be measured by the following indicators: 1. Reduced exposure of children to domestic violence. 2. Decreased number of non-prosecution affidavits filed by victims. 3. Increased victim participation in the criminal justice process (e.g., victim impact statements, courtroom attendance). 4. Improved evidence collection by law enforcement, leading to stronger prosecution. 5. Shift in community perceptions of domestic violence and victims (e.g., decreased victim-blaming). 6. Increased accountability for perpetrators as a result of more effective prosecution and conviction rates. These metrics will be monitored continuously throughout the grant period to ensure that the program is achieving its goals and making a measurable impact on the community.

Target Group :

The target group for this program will consist of crime victims residing in Hidalgo County, Texas, a region with a population of 898,471 as of 2023, according to the United States Census Bureau. The majority of the population (91.9%) is Hispanic, and approximately 27.4% of residents live below the poverty line. We aim to serve a diverse range of individuals, including victims of all ages, genders, and linguistic backgrounds. Special emphasis will be placed on reaching underserved and vulnerable populations, including undocumented individuals, individuals with limited English proficiency, and those experiencing financial hardship. The Hidalgo County Crime District Attorney's Office (HCCDA) will provide services to these individuals, offering support and

resources to help them navigate the aftermath of crime. The program will be inclusive of victims from various cultural, economic, and social backgrounds, ensuring equitable access to assistance for all who need it.

Evidence-Based Practices:

The Hidalgo County District Attorney's Office established the Victims Unit to ensure compliance with Chapter 56 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure (TCCP), which mandates that the state's attorney must make reasonable efforts to ensure that crime victims, their guardians, or close relatives of deceased victims are informed of and granted the rights specified under this chapter. This legal obligation has guided the development of the Victims Unit, ensuring that victims' rights are upheld throughout the criminal justice process. The practices and procedures implemented by the Victims Unit are grounded in the Crime Victim Assistance Standards developed by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Victim Services Division and distributed by the Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse. These standards were designed to assist law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and other criminal justice professionals in fulfilling their responsibilities under the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, specifically Articles 56A (Rights of Crime Victims), 56B (Crime Victims' Compensation), and 58 (Confidentiality of Identifying Information and Medical Records of Certain Crime Victims). Incorporating these standards into the Victims Unit's operations is in line with best practices outlined by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and ensures that the services provided to victims are consistent with state law. These practices have been proven to improve victim support services, help ensure that victims are aware of their rights, and facilitate access to resources such as crime victims' compensation and counseling. By adhering to the Crime Victim Assistance Standards and the relevant sections of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, the Hidalgo County District Attorney's Office follows a well-established and evidence-based framework that promotes the effective and compassionate handling of crime victims' needs. This approach ensures that victims receive the support they are entitled to and that their rights are protected throughout the criminal justice process.

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

Print This Page

Agency Name: Hidalgo County

Grant/App: 2931312 Start Date: 9/1/2026 End Date: 8/31/2027

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
----------	-------------	-------------

CJD Purpose Areas

PERCENT DEDICATED	PURPOSE AREA	PURPOSE AREA DESCRIPTION
-------------------	--------------	--------------------------

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

[Print This Page](#)

Agency Name: Hidalgo County
Grant/App: 2931312 **Start Date:** 9/1/2026 **End Date:** 8/31/2027

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

Measures Information

Objective Output Measures

OUTPUT MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
----------------	--------------

Objective Outcome Measures

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

Custom Output Measures

CUSTOM OUTPUT MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
-----------------------	--------------

Custom Outcome Measures

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

[Print This Page](#)

Agency Name: Hidalgo County

Grant/App: 2931312 **Start Date:** 9/1/2026 **End Date:** 8/31/2027

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/%
----------	-----------------	-------------	-----	---------------	------------------	-----	-------	--------

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

[Print This Page](#)

Agency Name: Hidalgo County
Grant/App: 2931312 Start Date: 9/1/2026 End Date: 8/31/2027

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

Source of Match Information

Detail Source of Match/GPI:

DESCRIPTION	MATCH TYPE	AMOUNT
-------------	------------	--------

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

[Print This Page](#)

Agency Name: Hidalgo County

Grant/App: 2931312 **Start Date:** 9/1/2026 **End Date:** 8/31/2027

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
----------	-----	------------	---------------	-----	-------

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

Print This Page

Agency Name: Hidalgo County

Grant/App: 2931312 Start Date: 9/1/2026 End Date: 8/31/2027

Project Title: Domestic Violence Specialty Prosecutor

Status: Application Pending Submission

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

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.

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% ⁰

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.

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

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