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**Agency Name:** Hidalgo County

**Grant/App:** 3596509 **Start Date:** 10/1/2026 **End Date:** 9/30/2027

**Project Title:** Domestic Violence Unit

**Status:** Application Pending Submission

**Profile Information**

**Applicant Agency Name:** Hidalgo County

**Project Title:** Domestic Violence Unit

**Division or Unit to Administer the Project:** Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney's Office

**Address Line 1:** 100 E Cano

**Address Line 2:**

**City/State/Zip:** Edinburg Texas 78539-3563

**Start Date:** 10/1/2026

**End Date:** 9/30/2027

**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**

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**Email:** countyjudge@co.hidalgo.tx.us

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**Address 1:**

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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**

**Name:** Leticia Chavez

**Email:** lettyg.chavez@auditor.co.hidalgo.tx.us

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**Address 1:**

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**Salutation:** Ms.

**Position:** County Auditor

**Project Director**

**Name:** Toribio Palacios

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**City:** Edinburg, Texas 78539

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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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**Title:** The Honorable

**Salutation:** Mr.

**Position:** Criminal District Attorney

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**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

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### **Narrative Information**

#### **Introduction**

The purpose of this funding is to support projects that promote public safety, reduce crime, and improve the criminal justice system.

#### **Certifications**

In addition to the requirements found in existing statute, regulation, and the funding announcement, this program requires applicant organizations to certify compliance with the following:

### **Constitutional Compliance**

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

### **Information Systems**

Applicant assures that any new criminal justice information systems will comply with data sharing standards for the Global Justice XML Data Model and the National Information Exchange Model.

### **Bulletproof Vests**

Applicant assures that if it plans to purchase body armor with grant funds, that it has adopted a mandatory wear policy and that all vests purchased have been tested and found to comply with the latest applicable National Institute of Justice (NIJ) ballistic or stab standards. Additionally, vests purchased must be American-made.

### **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.

### **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.

### **DNA Testing of Evidentiary Materials**

When funds are used for DNA testing of evidentiary materials, any resulting eligible DNA profiles must be uploaded to the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) by a government DNA lab with access to CODIS.

### **Interoperable Communications**

Funds to support emergency communications activities must ensure compliance with the FY 2018 SAFECOM Guidance on Emergency Communications Grants; adherence to the technical standards set forth in the FCC Waiver Order, or any succeeding FCC orders, rules, or regulations pertaining to broadband operations in the 700 MHz public safety band; and are fully coordinated with the full-time [Statewide Interoperability Coordinator \(SWIC\)](#) for Texas.

### **Twelve-Step Programs**

Grant funds may not be used to support or directly fund programs such as the Twelve Step Program which courts have ruled are inherently religious. PSO grant funds cannot be used to support these programs, conduct meetings, or purchase related materials.

### **Program Income**

Applicant agrees to comply with all federal and state rules and regulations for program income and agrees to report all program income that is generated as a result of the project's activities. Applicant agrees to report program income through a formal grant adjustment and to secure PSO approval prior to use of the program income. Applicant agrees to use program income for allowable costs and agrees to expend program income immediately after PSO's approval of a grant adjustment and prior to requesting reimbursement of funds.

Deduction Method - Program income shall be deducted from total allowable costs to determine the net allowable costs. Program income shall be used for current costs unless PSO authorizes otherwise. Program income which the grantee did not anticipate at the time of the award shall be used to reduce the PSO award and grantee match rather than to increase the funds committed to the project.

Asset Seizures and Forfeitures - Program income from asset seizures and forfeitures is considered earned when the property has been adjudicated to the benefit of the plaintiff (e.g., law enforcement entity).

### **National Instant Background Check System (NICS)**

Entities receiving funds under this solicitation that are to generate or upgrade court dispositions or other records that are relevant to National Instant Background Check System (NICS) determinations must have a system in place to ensure that all such NICS-relevant dispositions or records that are generated or upgraded are made available in timely fashion to state repositories/databases that are accessed by NICS.

### **Body-Worn Cameras (BWCs)**

Applicant assures that if it plans to purchase body-worn cameras with grant funds, that it has adopted adequate policies and procedures related to BWC equipment usage, data storage and access, privacy considerations and training. The certification form related to BWC policies and procedures can be found [here](#).

### **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, 8 U.S.C. § 1324(a)(1)(A)(iii); (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.

### **Compliance with State and Federal Laws, Programs and Procedures – Nonprofit 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, 8 U.S.C. § 1324(a)(1)(A)(iii); (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, 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.

### **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 (HCCDA) Office seeks to address a critical gap in resources for

combating domestic violence by funding a Domestic Violence Specialty Investigator (DVSI). This position will support the HCCDA's Domestic Violence Unit (DVU) and Victim Services Unit in their efforts to provide essential services to victims and strengthen the prosecution of domestic violence cases in Hidalgo County. The DVSI will work closely with the Domestic Violence Specialty Prosecutor (DVSP) to ensure effective case management and prosecution, collaborating with local police departments, victim advocates, and survivors of domestic violence. This role will involve reviewing cases in the Intake Division to ensure proper charges and enhancements are applied, as well as supporting victims through the legal process. Additionally, the DVSI will assist in identifying and engaging victims who are willing to participate in prosecution, ensuring their safety and support. The Domestic Violence Unit serves a diverse population across all 22 cities, 35 census-designated areas, and unincorporated regions of Hidalgo County, covering over 1,600 square miles. The project will focus on providing comprehensive services to all victims of domestic violence, regardless of gender, age, race, or income level, and ensuring perpetrators are held accountable for their actions. The goal is to enhance both victim safety and the efficiency of domestic violence prosecution through the coordination of law enforcement and victim support services.

### **Problem Statement :**

This program will address the significant challenges involved in prosecuting domestic violence cases, which are often hindered by complex dynamics between the victim and the defendant. In these cases, the victim and the perpetrator typically share a close personal relationship, which can create psychological and emotional barriers to successful prosecution. Victims may recant or refuse to testify due to fear of retaliation, financial dependence, or a state of denial or emotional attachment to the abuser. These challenges contribute to the high rate of case dismissals or acquittals in domestic violence prosecutions. Furthermore, jurors may be less inclined to sympathize with or believe a victim who appears to be inconsistent in their testimony, particularly when the victim recants or returns to the abuser. This can result in an inherent bias against the victim, further complicating efforts to secure justice. To address these issues, the proposed project will take a multifaceted approach. The Investigator and the Domestic Violence Specialty Prosecutor (DVSP) — who is funded through a separate source — will collaborate closely with other members of our office and key community partners to enhance the investigation and prosecution of domestic violence cases. This will include providing specialized support to victims, facilitating more effective communication, and ensuring that the legal team is well-equipped to handle the unique complexities of these cases. By leveraging a coordinated approach that involves both legal professionals and community resources, we aim to break down the barriers that victims face and increase the likelihood of successful prosecutions.

### **Supporting Data :**

Hidalgo County continues to face significant challenges related to family violence, child abuse, and domestic homicides, underscoring the urgent need for targeted intervention and support services. According to the Texas Department of Public Safety's 2023 Crime Report, Hidalgo County reported 8,828 family violence incidents, reflecting a 10.2% increase from the previous year. Additionally, there were 544 reported cases of sexual assault in the county for 2023. In the same year, the county recorded 27 murders, 304 robberies, and 1,860 assaults, further illustrating the prevalence of violent crime. At the statewide level, Texas Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) data shows a 4.5% increase in family violence cases year-over-year, with the Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV) reporting that 205 individuals were killed by intimate partners in 2023. Locally, Hidalgo County accounted for 4 of these family violence-related homicides, indicating the severity of intimate partner violence in the region. In terms of child abuse and neglect, Texas Department of Family & Protective Services (DFPS) reported 58,120 confirmed victims statewide in FY 2023, along with 164 child fatalities due to abuse and neglect. In Hidalgo County, there were 4,142 child abuse and neglect investigations were conducted, involving 12,405 children, with 7,139 alleged victims of child abuse. Tragically, three children in Hidalgo County lost their lives due to abuse in 2023. These statistics highlight the growing incidence of family violence and child abuse within the target community and emphasize the urgent need for programs designed to support victims, prevent further violence, and strengthen the local response to these issues.

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

The Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney's (HCCDA) Office is committed to addressing the critical needs outlined in the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council's (LRGVDC) Regional Criminal Justice Strategic Plan, which highlights concerns related to Violent Crimes, Juvenile Crimes, and the Mental Health of victims. To meet these challenges, the HCCDA has developed a comprehensive approach to combat domestic violence and its broader impact on the community, focusing on victims, perpetrators, and the criminal justice system. 1. Domestic Violence Investigator and Specialty Prosecutor Collaboration A key component of the HCCDA's

strategy is the role of the Domestic Violence Investigator, who will work in tandem with the Domestic Violence Specialty Prosecutor (funded separately). This collaborative team will review, investigate, and support the prosecution of domestic violence-related crimes, including family violence, stalking, dating violence, trafficking, and sexual assault. The Investigator will act as a liaison between victims, law enforcement, and the prosecutor's office, ensuring that all parties are informed, supported, and that the criminal justice process is victim-centered. 2. Community and Law Enforcement Engagement The Domestic Violence Investigator will actively collaborate with local law enforcement agencies across Hidalgo County, providing guidance, training, and support in the investigation of domestic violence cases. Specialized training will be delivered to officers on best practices for responding to domestic violence incidents, ensuring officers are equipped with the knowledge and skills to handle these sensitive situations effectively. In particular, training will focus on: • Safety planning for victims • Understanding community-based resources available to victims • Proper evidence collection and documentation, especially regarding visible injuries and other physical evidence This proactive engagement aims to improve law enforcement's response to domestic violence, enhance victim safety, and ensure that critical evidence is properly collected and preserved to support successful prosecutions. 3. Victim-Centered Approach The Investigator and Domestic Violence Unit staff will prioritize a victim-centered approach throughout the criminal justice process. This approach ensures that victims' rights are upheld, their voices are heard, and they receive the necessary support at every stage of the investigation and prosecution. Victims will be referred to appropriate community resources, including shelters and mental health services, and the Investigator will work to ensure that victims feel empowered and supported throughout their interactions with law enforcement and the justice system. 4. Coordination with Community-Based Agencies Collaboration with community-based agencies is essential to creating a coordinated response to domestic violence. The Domestic Violence Investigator will work closely with the Hidalgo County Family Violence Task Force, local domestic violence shelters, and other community stakeholders to ensure that a holistic support network is available to victims. These partnerships will provide critical resources for victims, including shelter, counseling, legal assistance, and more. 5. Program Goals and Impact The primary goals of the Hidalgo County Domestic Violence Unit Program are to: • Protect victims from further violence and ensure their safety. • Reduce the exposure of children and other family members to domestic violence and its harmful effects. • Hold perpetrators accountable for their actions, and deter future violence through prosecution and legal consequences. • Create a general deterrence against domestic violence in the community by increasing public awareness and reinforcing the consequences of such crimes. • Ensure justice is served by supporting victims throughout the criminal justice process and ensuring their rights are protected. By implementing these methodologies, the HCCDA Domestic Violence Unit Program aims to create a safer environment for victims, improve law enforcement's handling of domestic violence cases, and work towards a long-term reduction in domestic violence within Hidalgo County.

### **Capacity & Capabilities:**

**Organization Background and Staff Capabilities:** The Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney's Office (HCCDA) serves as the prosecutorial agency for the State of Texas in all criminal cases within Hidalgo County. The HCCDA is committed to ensuring justice for victims and providing dedicated support throughout the prosecution process. This grant is administered by the HCCDA, which is responsible for monitoring compliance, providing quarterly, bi-annual, and annual reports, and justifying the expenditure of funds on a yearly basis. HCCDA also manages the Domestic Violence Unit (DVU), which plays a critical role in providing victim services and ensuring the appropriate use of grant funds. The HCCDA works closely with the County Auditor's Office to ensure that all financial operations are transparent and compliant with regulations. The office also utilizes Victim Services (VS) tracking software to accurately monitor and report on victim services provided, ensuring comprehensive data collection and accountability. **Staff Qualifications and Roles:** The DVU's work is supported by a highly qualified team, including a certified Sexual Assault/Family Violence Investigator (SAFVIC), who will lead efforts to train law enforcement officers on best practices for responding to domestic violence incidents, with a particular focus on ensuring victim safety and addressing the unique needs of children exposed to family violence. This investigator will provide specialized training to officers on proper procedures for handling domestic violence and sexual assault cases, enhancing their ability to protect victims and preserve evidence. In addition to direct victim support, the DVU staff plays a key role in public education and awareness. During Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the DVU organizes the "Purple Day" campaign, a public initiative designed to raise awareness about domestic violence, reduce victim-blaming, and challenge societal misconceptions about survivors. The DVU also partners with the Hidalgo County Family Violence Task Force to expand prevention education efforts throughout the county, ensuring that both victims and the broader community have access to critical resources and information. **Collaborative Partnerships:** HCCDA actively engages in collaborative partnerships with key local agencies, including the Hidalgo County Family Violence Task Force, to increase the reach and effectiveness of its prevention education efforts. These partnerships enable HCCDA to leverage additional resources and expertise to enhance the safety and well-being of domestic violence victims in Hidalgo County. **Organizational Goals:** The HCCDA Victim Services Unit is dedicated to

achieving the following goals: 1. Protecting Victims' Rights: Ensuring that victims' rights are upheld throughout the prosecution process, in compliance with Texas law. 2. Reducing Trauma: Minimizing the emotional and psychological impact of crime on victims by providing continuous support and access to resources. 3. Prioritizing Victim Safety: Working to ensure the safety of victims, including implementing protective measures and facilitating secure communication about case developments. 4. Enhancing Victim Voice: Providing victims with a platform to be heard during the prosecution process, ensuring their perspectives are taken into consideration at every stage of the legal process. 5. Compliance with Legal Mandates: Adhering to the requirements outlined in the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Chapter 56, which establishes the rights of crime victims and mandates specific duties for prosecutors. By leveraging its expertise, resources, and strategic partnerships, HCCDA is well-positioned to deliver effective victim services and achieve the objectives outlined in this proposal.

## **Performance Management :**

**Project Goals and Objectives** The primary goal of this project is to reduce trauma and the challenges faced by victims of violent crimes, particularly domestic violence, during the prosecution process. The Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney's Office (HCCDA) aims to implement a victim-centered approach that enhances both prosecution and victim services for domestic violence cases. This approach will ensure that victims receive the necessary support while perpetrators are held accountable for their actions.

**Project Strategies** To achieve these objectives, HCCDA has developed a comprehensive strategy that includes the following key elements:

1. **Victim-Centered Approach:** Ensuring that domestic violence victims are treated with dignity, respect, and empathy throughout the prosecution process, and that their safety and well-being are prioritized.
2. **Integrated Services:** Collaborating with local law enforcement, advocacy groups, and victim service providers to offer a range of services, including safety planning, counseling, and legal support.
3. **Prosecution Support:** Focusing on holding offenders accountable through thorough investigations and strong prosecution, while keeping victims informed and involved in the process.

**Data Collection, Tracking, and Evaluation** To measure the success of this project, the HCCDA will utilize the VSTracking System—a comprehensive case management tool that allows for real-time tracking of victim cases. This system is designed to capture and manage detailed information related to each victim's case, including:

- **Victim Demographics and Case Progress:** Information on each case, including referral details, service utilization, and case outcomes.
- **Services Provided:** The VSTracking System will allow HCCDA to monitor which services are most frequently requested by victims, helping to identify trends and areas for improvement.
- **Timeliness of Services:** Tracking how quickly victims are connected to services and whether they are receiving the support they need in a timely manner.

Additionally, the service evaluation surveys will be administered to victims who have received services from the HCCDA. These surveys will assess the effectiveness and impact of the services provided, allowing the organization to gather feedback on whether the support offered addresses victims' needs and whether it reduces their trauma during the prosecution process.

**Program Assessment** The program's effectiveness will also be assessed through feedback from key stakeholders, including:

- **Domestic Violence Specialty Prosecutor (DVSP):** The DVSP will track the number of domestic violence referrals that result in Grand Jury indictments for prosecution. This will help determine the effectiveness of the referral and case-building process.
- **Investigator's Reports:** The designated investigator will work closely with local law enforcement and victim advocates to ensure that victims' safety is prioritized throughout the investigation. The investigator will also provide detailed reports on the number of cases investigated, the types of services provided to victims, and the outcomes of those investigations (e.g., arrests, prosecution, and conviction rates).
- **Law Enforcement and Community Feedback:** Local law enforcement, victims, and other members of the Domestic Violence Unit will provide ongoing input on the program's implementation and outcomes.

**Continuous Improvement and Adjustments** Regular data analysis and feedback collection will allow HCCDA to adapt and refine the services offered based on emerging trends, victim needs, and program performance. For example, if the data reveals a particular service that is requested more frequently (e.g., counseling or legal assistance), HCCDA can allocate resources to meet that need more effectively.

**Conclusion** By combining real-time tracking through the VSTracking system, victim feedback through service evaluations, and regular assessments by key program personnel, HCCDA will ensure that this project remains focused on achieving its goals. The data collected will be essential for making data-driven decisions, improving service delivery, and ultimately reducing trauma for victims during the prosecution process.

## **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. 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.

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### 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.

#### Selected Project Activities:

ACTIVITY	PERCENTAGE:	DESCRIPTION
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#### CJD Purpose Areas

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

Custom Outcome Measures

CUSTOM OUTCOME MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
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**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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**Project Title:** Domestic Violence Unit

**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: 3596509 Start Date: 10/1/2026 End Date: 9/30/2027

Project Title: Domestic Violence Unit  
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:** 3596509 **Start Date:** 10/1/2026 **End Date:** 9/30/2027

**Project Title:** Domestic Violence Unit

**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.