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Agency Name: Hidalgo County
Grant/App: 2924309 **Start Date:** 10/1/2026 **End Date:** 9/30/2027

Project Title: Victim Assistance Program
Status: Application Pending Submission

Profile Information

Applicant Agency Name: Hidalgo County
Project Title: Victim Assistance Program
Division or Unit to Administer the Project: Hidalgo County District Attorney's Office
Address Line 1: 100 EAST 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

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

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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 program is to provide services and assistance directly to victims of crime to speed their recovery and aid them through the criminal justice process. Services may include the following:

- responding to the emotional and physical needs of crime victims;
- assisting victims in stabilizing their lives after a victimization;
- assisting victims to understand and participate in the criminal justice system; and
- providing victims with safety and security.

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

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:

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.

Constitutional Compliance

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

Forensic Medical Examination Payments

Health care facilities shall conduct a forensic medical examination of a victim of an alleged sexual assault if the victim arrived at the facility within 120 hours after the assault occurred and the victim consents to the examination. The victim is not required to participate in the investigation or prosecution of an offense as a condition of receiving a forensic medical examination, nor pay for the forensic examination or the evidence collection kit. Crime Victim Compensation funds may be used to pay for the medical portion of the exam unless the victim of sexual assault is required to seek reimbursement for the examination from their insurance carrier. If a health care facility does not provide diagnosis or treatment services for sexual assault victims, the facility is required to refer the victim to a facility that provides those services.

Confidentiality and Privacy

Applicant agrees to maintain the confidentiality of client-counselor information and research data, as required by state and federal law. Personally identifying information or individual information collected in connection with services requested, utilized, or denied may not be disclosed; or, reveal individual client information without informed, written, reasonably time-limited consent of the person about whom information is sought. If release of information is compelled by statutory or court mandate, reasonable attempts to provide notice to victims affected by the disclosure of information will be made and steps necessary to protect the privacy and safety of the persons affected by the release of information will be taken.

Activities that Compromise Victim Safety and Recovery

Applicant agrees to not engage in activities that jeopardize victim safety, deter or prevent physical or emotional healing for victims, or allow offenders to escape responsibility for their actions.

Polygraph Testing Prohibition

A peace officer or attorney representing the state may not require an adult or child victim of an alleged sex offense to submit to a polygraph examination or other truth telling device as a condition for proceeding with the investigation of such an offense. In addition, the refusal of a victim to submit to a polygraph or other truth telling examination will not prevent the investigation, charging, or prosecution of an alleged sex offense or on the basis of the results of a polygraph examination.

Protection Orders

Victims applying for a protective order or their attorney may not bear the costs associated with the filing of an order of protections.

Offender Firearm Prohibition

The applicant certifies that its judicial administrative policies and practices include notification to domestic violence offenders of the requirements delineated in section 18 USC § 992(g)(8) and (g)(9).

Criminal Charges

In connection with the prosecution of any misdemeanor or felony domestic violence offense, the victim may

not bear the costs associated with the filing of criminal charges against a domestic violence offender, issuance or service of a warrant, or witness subpoena.

Cybersecurity Training Requirement

Local units of governments must comply with the Cybersecurity Training requirements described in Section 772.012 and Section 2054.5191 of the Texas Government Code. Local governments determined to not be in compliance with the cybersecurity requirements required by Section 2054.5191 of the Texas Government Code are ineligible for OOG grant funds until the second anniversary of the date the local government is determined ineligible. Government entities must annually certify their compliance with the training requirements using the [Cybersecurity Training Certification for State and Local Government](#). A copy of the Training Certification must be uploaded to your eGrants application. For more information or to access available training programs, visit the Texas Department of Information Resources [Statewide Cybersecurity Awareness Training](#) page.

Criminal History Reporting

Entities receiving funds from PSO must be located in a county that has an average of 90% or above on both adult and juvenile dispositions entered into the computerized criminal history database maintained by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) as directed in the *Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Chapter 66*. The disposition completeness percentage is defined as the percentage of arrest charges a county reports to DPS for which a disposition has been subsequently reported and entered into the computerized criminal history system.

Counties applying for grant awards from the Office of the Governor must commit that the county will report at least 90% of convictions within five business days to the Criminal Justice Information System at the Department of Public Safety.

Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR)

Eligible applicants operating a law enforcement agency must be current on reporting complete UCR data and the Texas specific reporting mandated by 411.042 TGC, to the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) for inclusion in the annual Crime in Texas (CIT) publication. To be considered eligible for funding, applicants must have submitted a full twelve months of accurate data to DPS for the most recent calendar year by the deadline(s) established by DPS. Due to the importance of timely reporting, applicants are required to submit complete and accurate UCR data, as well as the Texas-mandated reporting, on a no less than monthly basis and respond promptly to requests from DPS related to the data submitted.

Entities That Collect Sexual Assault/Sex Offense Evidence or Investigate/Prosecute Sexual Assault or Other Sex Offenses

In accordance with Texas Government Code, Section 420.034, any facility or entity that collects evidence for sexual assault or other sex offenses or investigates or prosecutes a sexual assault or other sex offense for which evidence has been collected, must participate in the statewide electronic tracking system developed and implemented by the Texas Department of Public Safety. Visit DPS's [Sexual Assault Evidence Tracking Program](#) website for more information or to set up an account to begin participating. Additionally, per Section 420.042 "A law enforcement agency that receives evidence of a sexual assault or other sex offense...shall submit that evidence to a public accredited crime laboratory for analysis no later than the 30th day after the date on which that evidence was received." A law enforcement agency in possession of a significant number of Sexual Assault Evidence Kits (SAEK) where the 30-day window has passed may be considered noncompliant.

Immigration Legal Services

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

Legal Representation in Divorce and Custody Cases

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

Discrimination

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

Records

Applicant agrees to maintain daily time and attendance records specifying the time devoted to allowable victim services.

Volunteers

If awarded VOCA funds, applicant agrees to use volunteers to support either the project or other agency-wide services/activities, unless PSO determines that a compelling reason exists to waive this requirement.

Crime Victims' Compensation

Applicant agrees to assist crime victims in applying for crime victims' compensation benefits.

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.

Civil Rights Information

Applicant agrees to maintain statutorily required civil rights statistics on victims served by race, national origin, sex, age, and disability of victims served, within the timeframe established by PSO. This requirement is waived when providing services, such as telephone counseling, where soliciting the information may be inappropriate or offensive to the crime victim.

Victims of Federal Crime

Applicant agrees to provide equal services to victims of federal crime. (Note: Victim of federal crime is a victim of an offense that violates a federal criminal statute or regulation; federal crimes also include crimes that occur in an area where the federal government has jurisdiction, such as Indian reservations, some national parks, some federal buildings, and military installations.)

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 VOCA funds.

Effective Services

Applicants applying for funds to provide victim services must demonstrate a record of providing effective services to crime victims. (See "Eligible Organizations" in the Funding Announcement.)

College Campus Confidential Direct Services Providers

All personnel compensated through OOG or match funds are Confidential Direct Service Providers that maintain victim's confidentiality for all case information (written or oral) and share information only at the victim's request and with the victim's informed consent, except when release of information is required by law. Confidential Direct Service Providers compensated with grant funds shall not be required to disclose client or case information to any entity, including a campus Title IX officer or coordinator, except when release of information is required by law. A victim may not be coerced or required to file a report or disclose information regarding their victimization with any entity as a condition of receiving services from a Confidential Direct Service Provider.

Failure to comply with this certification may result in PSO, at its sole discretion, withholding reimbursement on personnel line items contained in the program budget until satisfactory evidence of compliance is provided.

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.

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

Employment of Advocates for Sexual Assault

Will this project use grant funds to support the employment of Advocates for Survivors of Sexual Assault as defined by Chapter 420, section 420.051 of the Texas Government Code?

- Yes
- No

If yes, will those advocates provide in-room hospital accompaniment during sexual assault forensic exams as defined by Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Article 56A.351?

- Yes
- No
- N/A

If yes, have those advocates completed a sexual assault training program certified by the Attorney General as defined by Texas Government Code 420.011?

- Yes
- No
- N/A

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 project aims to meet the requirements of the HCCDA Office by designating a Victim Assistance Coordinator and Victim Advocates, as mandated by Article 56.04 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure. The primary role of these individuals is to ensure that victims' rights are upheld throughout the criminal justice process. The Victim Assistance Coordinator, Advocates, and District Attorney's Civil Division will work together to assist victims with navigating legal processes, such as filing protective orders and providing guidance on family law matters, including divorce, child custody, child support, emergency protective orders, and immigration relief for undocumented crime victims. Victim Advocates, will ensure victims' rights are respected during the prosecution of criminal cases. Court Advocates will be assigned to specific courts and will be readily available in the courthouse to support victims throughout the trial process. In addition to offering emotional support, Court Advocates will keep victims informed of important court dates, including any cancellations or changes. They will also assist with procedural tasks such as filing requests for continuances, explaining plea agreements, and helping victims prepare for interviews with prosecutors and their testimony. Advocates will also assist victims in preparing impact statements and gathering documentation for restitution requests. After sentencing, Court Advocates will help victims register with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) and the Texas Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) system to track the status of offenders. Furthermore, Victim Advocates will assess victims' ongoing needs and connect them with necessary services, such as medical care, mental health counseling, crisis intervention, and assistance with applying for crime victim compensation. These services are designed to support victims in their recovery and ensure they receive the resources they need to move forward.

Problem Statement :

Nature and Scope of the Problem: Hidalgo County continues to face significant challenges related to crime, resulting in a growing number of victims who experience physical, emotional, and financial harm. The Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Article 56.04 mandates that the Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney's Office (HCCDA) designate a Victim Assistance Coordinator or Victim Advocates to provide essential services to these victims. However, the escalating rate of criminal activity in the county has led to an increasing number of

individuals requiring assistance, overwhelming available resources and support systems. Many crime victims in Hidalgo County are left vulnerable, struggling to understand the complexities of the Criminal Justice System and lacking the necessary resources to rebuild their lives after victimization. Fear of retaliation and distrust of the legal system further prevent many victims from seeking help. Additionally, there is a critical gap in system-based programs that offer ongoing support throughout the criminal justice process, especially post-sentencing services. The lack of coordinated victim services and the scarcity of accessible, comprehensive support options exacerbate the challenges these individuals face. Without consistent and tailored assistance, many victims do not receive the guidance they need to navigate the justice system or to heal from their trauma. **Project's Approach and Activities:** This project aims to address these gaps by enhancing the capacity of the HCCDA and its Victim Advocates to provide ongoing, holistic support to victims of crime. The project will focus on increasing access to services and improving the quality of support provided, ensuring victims receive assistance at every stage of the criminal justice process, from pre-trial to post-sentencing. Victim Advocates will continue to offer essential services, including emotional support, guidance on legal procedures, and assistance navigating the criminal justice system. The Attorney's office will provide direct legal guidance, ensuring victims understand their rights and options. Advocates will also work closely with local agencies to connect victims with additional resources, such as counseling, financial assistance, and housing support. By strengthening the collaboration between the Criminal District Attorney's Office, and community partners, this project seeks to provide victims with the comprehensive, coordinated care they need to recover and regain control of their lives.

Supporting Data :

The Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney's Office has provided services to 105,982 victims of crime, offering a total of 369,926 services from April 2015 to December 2024. In FY 2024, we assisted 11,482 victims, 56% of whom were victims of family violence. The Domestic Violence Unit reviewed 1,734 protective order applications and filed 429 orders on behalf of victims, demonstrating the high demand for legal protection and services in this area. In addition to these efforts, Hidalgo County reported 398 sexual assaults, 27 murders, 304 robberies, 6 human trafficking cases and 1,860 aggravated assaults in 2023. Family violence is a critical issue, as reflected in a 7.4% increase in family violence cases from 2023 to 2024, with 8,647 cases reported. In FY 2024, 4,142 child abuse and neglect investigations were conducted, involving 12,405 children, with 7,139 alleged victims of child abuse. Three children died as a result of abuse in Hidalgo County in 2023. These numbers highlight a significant and growing problem, with increasing rates of both family violence and child abuse. The urgency of addressing these issues through continued and expanded services is clear. The data underscores the need for sustained efforts to support victims, prevent further harm, and provide comprehensive resources for those affected by domestic violence.

Project Approach & Activities:

The Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney's Office (HCCDA) is committed to addressing critical needs identified in the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council's (LRGVDC) Regional Criminal Justice Strategic Plan. Specifically, the project will focus on combating violent crime, reducing juvenile crime, and addressing the mental health needs of crime victims. In alignment with these priorities, our project will deploy a multifaceted approach that combines direct services, legal assistance, victim advocacy, and interagency collaboration. **Victim Services and Advocacy:** 1. Direct Legal and Advocacy Support The Victims and Domestic Violence Unit will provide critical legal and support services to victims of crime. The Attorney in the Civil Division will assist victims by filing protective orders and offering counsel on family law matters, including divorce, child custody, child support, emergency protective orders, and immigration relief for undocumented victims of crime. 2. Court Advocates Court Advocates assigned to the 13 felony district courts will serve as dedicated support for victims throughout the prosecution process. These advocates, positioned directly in the courthouse, will be available to assist victims at key moments, ensuring they understand their rights and have access to resources. Their role will include: • Providing victims with an overview of the criminal justice process and their rights. • Helping victims participate in the justice process, should they choose, by offering them the option to have advocates receive communications on their behalf. • Ensuring victims are informed of scheduled court dates, changes, or cancellations and assisting them with procedural matters such as requesting trial continuances or reviewing plea agreements. • Supporting victims in court by accompanying them to proceedings, preparing them for interviews with prosecutors, assisting with testimony, and helping with the preparation of victim impact statements and court-ordered restitution. 3. Post-Sentencing Support Following sentencing, Court Advocates will continue their support by: • Assisting victims in registering with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and the Texas Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) system, which will provide ongoing updates on the status of offenders. • Evaluating the victim's needs for further support and referring them to appropriate on-site or off-site services such as medical care, mental health

services, crisis intervention, and crime victim's compensation. Collaboration and Coordination: The HCCDA emphasizes collaboration with key stakeholders in the criminal justice system, including law enforcement, prosecutors, and the judiciary. This coordinated effort ensures that victims receive the most comprehensive support possible at every stage of the legal process. The Victims Unit will work closely with law enforcement agencies to facilitate the smooth exchange of information and ensure that victims are consistently informed of their rights and the status of their cases. By coordinating with prosecuting attorneys, the Court Advocates will also ensure that victims are aware of plea agreements, trial updates, and other relevant legal proceedings. Standards and Compliance: HCCDA adheres to the Crime Victim Assistance Standards set forth by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice – Victim Services Division. These guidelines, developed by the Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse in accordance with Article 56.05(c) of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedures, ensure that all activities are carried out in compliance with victim rights legislation and confidentiality requirements. These standards are critical in providing ethical, sensitive, and effective services to victims of crime. By adhering to these standards and employing a victim-centered approach, the HCCDA will provide comprehensive services to crime victims, empowering them through advocacy, legal assistance, and coordination of vital support services. Conclusion: This project's approach is designed to meet the evolving needs of crime victims, particularly in the areas of legal assistance, victim advocacy, and mental health support, while also ensuring that the rights of victims are upheld throughout the criminal justice process. Through these methodologies, HCCDA will make a significant impact on the safety, well-being, and recovery of crime victims in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

Capacity & Capabilities:

The Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney's (HCCDA) Office is committed to providing comprehensive services to victims of crime, with a strong emphasis on supporting victims of domestic violence. Since the establishment of the Victims Unit and Domestic Violence Unit in April 2015, the HCCDA has significantly expanded both the scope and reach of its services, addressing a broad range of victimization needs across Hidalgo County. From its inception through December 2024, the HCCDA has assisted over 105,982 crime victims, providing a total of 369,926 distinct services. This demonstrates the Office's capacity to deliver critical victim support on a large scale. In fiscal year 2024 alone, 11,482 victims received services, with 6,532 of those being victims of family violence—representing 56% of the services provided by the Victims Unit. The Domestic Violence Unit plays a vital role in addressing family violence, particularly through the review and filing of protective orders. In FY 2024, the unit reviewed 1,734 protective order applications and filed 429 orders. This demonstrates the Unit's ongoing ability to respond effectively to the complex needs of domestic violence survivors. The proposed project will build on this progress by continuing to enhance the quality and quantity of services for crime victims across Hidalgo County. The Victims and Domestic Violence Units will continue their collaborative work with local law enforcement agencies, ensuring that victims of sexual assault, homicide, robbery, human trafficking, DUI/DWI, child abuse, assault, and those who witness violent crime, receive timely and effective support. Additionally, this grant will enable further professional development opportunities for law enforcement officers, criminal justice professionals, and victim advocates, enhancing their understanding of trauma-informed care and the unique challenges faced by crime victims. By providing specialized training, the HCCDA ensures that the professionals supporting victims are better equipped to handle sensitive cases and provide a higher level of service. The HCCDA's continued success in serving victims of crime stems from its highly qualified staff, including dedicated advocates, attorneys, and victim specialists, all of whom are deeply committed to this mission. The collaborative partnerships between the HCCDA's Office, local law enforcement, and community organizations ensure a coordinated response that meets the needs of victims and helps facilitate their recovery and access to justice. This project will further strengthen these efforts and ensure that we can continue to provide crucial services to victims in Hidalgo County.

Performance Management :

The overall goal of this project is to reduce the trauma and challenges faced by victims of violent crimes during the prosecution process. To measure the success of this initiative, HCCDA will implement a comprehensive approach that combines data tracking, service evaluation, and regular progress assessments. The primary tool for tracking the progress and effectiveness of this project will be the VSTracking system. This system enables real-time case management and data collection, allowing us to monitor each victim's progress through the services offered. By using this system, we can track key indicators such as: • The number of victims served • The specific services requested and provided • Victim engagement throughout the prosecution process This system will also enable us to analyze trends, identify service gaps, and assess whether we are meeting our objectives. Regular reports generated from the system will allow project staff to assess whether we are on track to meet our goals, including the number of victims served, the types of services provided, and the timeliness of service delivery. In addition to the VSTracking system, the effectiveness of the services will be assessed through victim service evaluations. These evaluations will be filled out by individuals who have received services from HCCDA. The evaluation will focus on key areas such as: • The quality and effectiveness

of the services provided • Whether the victim's needs were adequately addressed • The overall satisfaction with the support received during the prosecution process This feedback will be critical in understanding the impact of the services, identifying areas for improvement, and ensuring that the services remain relevant and responsive to victim needs. To ensure the project is achieving its goals, HCCDA will conduct regular reviews of the data collected from both the VSTracking system and victim evaluations. These reviews will take place quarterly and will involve project staff, including case managers and program directors, to assess: • Progress toward project goals and objectives • Areas where the project may need to be adjusted or enhanced • Emerging trends or new victim needs that may require additional focus or resources By continuously monitoring and reviewing data, HCCDA will be able to make informed decisions to optimize service delivery and better support victims of violent crime throughout 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. 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.

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Agency Name: Hidalgo County

Grant/App: 2924309 **Start Date:** 10/1/2026 **End Date:** 9/30/2027

Project Title: Victim Assistance Program

Status: Application Pending Submission

Project Activities Information

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

Custom Output Measures

CUSTOM OUTPUT MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
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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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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

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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

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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.

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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

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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>
Child Physical Abuse	0	\$0.00
Child Sexual Abuse	0	\$0.00
Domestic and Family Violence	0	\$0.00
Child Sexual Assault	0	\$0.00
Adult Sexual Assault	0	\$0.00
DUI/DWI Crashes	0	\$0.00
Assault	0	\$0.00

Adults Molested As Children	0	\$0.00
Elder Abuse	0	\$0.00
Robbery	0	\$0.00
Survivors of Homicide	0	\$0.00
Adult Human Trafficking	0	\$0.00
Child Human Trafficking	0	\$0.00
Other Violent Crimes	0	\$0.00
Description:		
Other Non-Violent Crimes	0	\$0.00
Description:		
SUM of %'s	SUM of Funds	
<i>Sum of % MUST = 100%⁰</i>	<i>Sum of Funds MUST = OOG Current Budget</i>	\$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 physical assault (includes aggravated and simple assault)

Adult sexual assault

Adults sexually abused/assaulted as children

Arson

Bullying (verbal, cyber, or physical)

Burglary

Child physical abuse or neglect

Child pornography

- Child sexual abuse/assault
- Domestic and/or family violence
- DUI/DWI incidents
- Elder abuse or neglect
- Hate crime: racial/religious/gender/sexual orientation/other

If Hate Crime is TRUE provide explanation:

- Human trafficking: labor
- Human trafficking: sex
- Identity theft/fraud/financial crime
- Kidnapping (noncustodial)
- Kidnapping (custodial)
- Mass violence (domestic/international)
- Other vehicular victimization (e.g., hit and run)
- Robbery
- Stalking/harassment
- Survivors of homicide victims
- Teen dating victimization
- Terrorism (domestic/international)
- 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

Explain how your organization uses volunteers to support its victimization programs or if your organization does not use volunteers explain any circumstances that prohibit the use of volunteers.