



HIDALGO COUNTY AUDITOR'S OFFICE

2808 SOUTH BUSINESS HIGHWAY 281
EDINBURG, TEXAS 78539-6243

PHONE: (956) 318-2511 FAX: (956) 318-2577
www.hidalgocounty.us/294/Auditors-Office

SIGN HERE

January 27, 2026

The Honorable Richard F. Cortez, Hidalgo County Judge
The Honorable David Fuentes, Commissioner, Precinct No. 1
The Honorable Eduardo "Eddie" Cantu, Commissioner, Precinct No. 2
The Honorable Everardo "Ever" Villarreal, Commissioner, Precinct No. 3
The Honorable Ellie Torres, Commissioner, Precinct No. 4

RE: Certification of Revenue

Dear Judge and Commissioners:

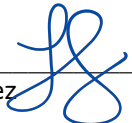
Pursuant to Local Government Code § 111.0706 SPECIAL BUDGET FOR GRANT OR AID MONEY:

The county auditor shall certify to the commissioner's court the receipt of all public or private grant or aid money that is available for disbursement in a fiscal year but not included in the budget for that fiscal year. On certification, the court shall adopt a special budget for the limited purpose of spending the grant or aid money for its intended purpose.

I, Letty Chavez, County Auditor of Hidalgo County, certify to the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court the receipt of an award from the Homeland Security Task Force(HSTF). These funds may now be made available by creating a new special budget or amending a current budget for its intended purposes.

AMOUNT	PURPOSE
\$22,155.25	M5-25-0078 High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA)

CERTIFIED BY:

Letty Chavez 

1/27/2026
Date

SIGN HERE

HIDALGO COUNTY DISTRICT JUDGES

AI-102173

HIDTA - Task Force 8. A.

CC REGULAR AGENDA REGULAR MTG

Meeting Date: 01/27/2026

Submitted For: Maria Del Rosario Gonzalez, HIDTA

Submitted By: Maria Del Rosario Gonzalez

Department: HIDTA

CAPTION

HIDTA Homeland Security Task Forces (HSTF) (1291):

1. Approval of the FY 2026 Overtime Agreement (MIS Number: P25-SAT-TXS-0051) between the Homeland Security Task Forces (HSTF) and the Hidalgo County DA HIDTA Task Force in the amount of \$22,155.25.
2. Authorization to pay overtime reimbursable under the agreement terms and conditions.
3. Approval of certification of revenues as certified by the County Auditor for the FY 2026 HSTF agreement in the amount of \$22,155.25 and appropriation of same.

BACKGROUND

Funding is for the period of 1/27/2026 to 9/30/2026 for FY 2026

Fiscal Impact

CALENDAR YEAR: 2026

ACCT. #: 1291-21-270-000-0000-501310

FUNDS AVAILABLE Y/N?: Y

MATCHING FUNDS Y/N?: N

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

Certification of Revenues to be completed and attached by Auditors' Office.

Attachments

HSTF

CRA

Reimbursement

appropriation

Form Review

Inbox

Budget & Management

Final Approval

Form Started By: Maria Del Rosario Gonzalez

Final Approval Date: 01/21/2026

Reviewed By

Melannie Rivera

Monica Salinas

Date

01/20/2026 08:56 AM

01/21/2026 04:42 PM

Started On: 01/16/2026 04:47 PM

REVIEWED

By Maria A. Munoz at 11:41 am, Jan 27, 2026



FY 2026 Homeland Security Task Force Strategic Initiatives/Local Overtime Cost Reimbursement Agreement

This Agreement is between the below-named State/Local Law Enforcement Organization and Sponsoring Federal Agency directly supporting the Homeland Security Task Force (HSTF) Program. Pursuant to the Congressional appropriations, the Homeland Security Task Force (HSTF) receives authority to pay overtime for police officers assigned to the formal HSTF, who are incurring necessary expenses for detection, investigation, and prosecution of crimes against the United States.

It is hereby agreed between the Homeland Security Task Force, and

State/Local Agency: Hidalgo County DA HIDTA Task Force

Street Address: 825 E. Sioux Rd.

City, State, Zip code, Telephone: Alamo, TX 78516

Financial Contact (POC): Ashley Escalante, Grant Accountant II

Financial Contact Telephone/email: (956)318-2511 Ext. 4658/ashley.escalante@auditor.co.hidalgo.tx.u:

Tax EIN/UEI: 746000717/LHACK1UL6NR

- Commencing upon execution of this Agreement, the HSTF will, subject to the availability of required funding, reimburse Hidalgo County DA HIDTA Task Force for overtime payments made to officers assigned to/or and working HSTF Investigations or Strategic Initiatives.
- Reimbursement requests must be submitted to HSTF via invoice.Houston@dea.gov within thirty (30) days of the close of the month in which the overtime was worked. [For example, if overtime is incurred in December, the Reimbursement Request for the December overtime should be submitted no later than January 30th. The reimbursement request must be approved by the appropriate Supervisor (or designee) at HSTF prior to reimbursement.
- Overtime reimbursement payments from the sponsoring agency will be made via electronic funds transfer (EFT) directly to Hidalgo County DA HIDTA Task Force. To facilitate EFT, Hidalgo County DA HIDTA Task Force shall establish an account online in the System for Award Management (SAM) at www.SAM.gov. A verification of banking information is required on an annual basis to keep payment information current. For additional information regarding procedures related to reimbursements, contact your agency's Regional Coordinator or Program Analyst.
- Overtime reimbursements will be calculated at the usual rate for which the individual officer's time would be compensated in the absence of this agreement. However, overtime payments, including all other, non-HSTF Federal sources (such as Safe Streets, HIDTA, IRS, FEMA, etc.) may not, on an annual/fiscal year basis exceed 25% of the current approved Federal salary rate in effect at the time the overtime is performed. The Federal fiscal year runs from October 1st through September 30th. The pay cap amount changes annually and State/Local entities should reference the current fiscal year amount on their

HSTF Case and Participant Form. The State/Local Organization is responsible for ensuring the annual payment is not exceeded.

5. The Hidalgo County DA HIDTA Task Force must complete annually the HSTF Case and Participant Request Form, listing the law enforcement officers assigned full-time/part-time to the HSTF and as such are entitled to overtime reimbursement. Based on the needs of the HSTF, this number may change periodically, upward or downward, as approved in advance.
6. The request for reimbursement shall include an invoice number, invoice date, the officer's name, overtime compensation rate, number of reimbursable hours for overtime claimed, and the dates of those hours for each officer for whom reimbursement is sought. This information must be submitted to the invoice.Houston@dea.gov for reimbursement to be paid.
7. Requests for reimbursement shall be submitted monthly, and all requests shall be received no later than December 31st of the next fiscal year for which the reimbursement applies. For example, reimbursements for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, shall be received monthly and not later than December 31, 2026. The HSTF is not obligated to reimburse any requests received untimely and not in accordance herewith.
8. If an Agreement does not have a bill submitted within ninety (90) days of the Agreement funding date, or within sixty (60) days of when the last bill was submitted, funds will be de-obligated. Furthermore, if a State/Local Law Enforcement Organization determines there will be no additional work performed under a particular Agreement, a funding change notification email should be sent to the Regional Coordinator/Program Analyst, identifying the amount to be de-obligated as soon as possible.
9. Only sworn law enforcement officers are eligible for reimbursement in this program. Officers who are not deputized shall possess no Law Enforcement authority other than that conferred by virtue of their position as a commissioned officer of their parent Agency.
10. HSTF will only reimburse an actual dollar (\$) amount paid to the officer for overtime worked, any additional benefit or administrative fees (including compensation time) will NOT be reimbursed.
11. The State/Local Organization will comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and requirements applicable to HSTF Agreements pursuant to the regulations of the Department of Justice (see, 28C.F.R. Part 42, Subparts C and G; 28C.R.R.50.3 (1993)) relating to discrimination of the grounds of race, color, sex, age, national origin, or handicap.
12. The Agreement is effective upon signatures of all parties and will remain in effect for the duration of Hidalgo County DA HIDTA Task Force's participation on the HSTF, contingent upon approval of necessary funding, and unless terminated in accordance with the provisions herein. This Agreement may be modified at any time by written consent of the parties or based on changing business operations and practices of the HSTF. It may be terminated at any time upon mutual consent of the parties, or unilaterally upon written notice from the terminating party to the other party at least 30 days prior to the termination date.

Signatories:

Signature of State/Local Agency

Toribio "Terry" Palacios

Print Name

Hidalgo County District Attorney

Title

Hidalgo County DA HIDTA Task Force

State/Local Agency

Date

Signature of Sponsoring Federal Agency

Amparo Marisol Farias

Print Name

Group Supervisor

Title

Homeland Security Task Force

Sponsoring Federal Agency

Date

Signature of Sponsoring Agency Regional Coordinator

Print Name

Date



FY 2026 Homeland Security Task Force Strategic Initiatives/Local Overtime Case and Officer Participant Form

State/Local Organization: Hidalgo County DA HIDTA Task Force

Financial Contact (POC): Ashley Esclante, Grant Accountant II

Financial Contact Email Address: ashley.esclante@auditor.co.hida **Telephone #** (956)318-2511 Ext. 4658

Sponsoring Federal Agency: Homeland Security Task Force

Total Dollar Amount Requested: \$ 30,000.00
(auto-populates from Total below)

The Law Enforcement Officers listed below will assist with the below identified HSTF Investigation(s) or Strategic Initiative(s). Any modification of the list of Law Enforcement Officers must be made in writing, made a part of the Cost Reimbursable Agreement (CRA), and forwarded to the HSTF Regional Coordinator/Program Analyst.

✓ The annual pay cap per officer receiving overtime payments from ALL federal entities for Fiscal Year 2026 is \$22,155.25 and cannot be exceeded for any reason.

No individual agency may exceed \$30,000 per HSTF investigation, per fiscal year. In addition, the cumulative total of overtime funding spent on a single HSTF investigation may not exceed \$60,000 per fiscal year. To exceed these funding limits, a Cap Waiver Request Form must be submitted to the Regional Coordinator/Program Analyst. Cap waivers must be submitted and approved in advance. Approval is subject to availability of funds.

HSTF Case Number	Total Requested per Case	Date Requested	Federal Agency Approver	Federal Agency Approver Date
✓ M5-25-0078	\$ 30,000.00	01/27/2026		
Total:	\$ 30,000.00			

TASK FORCE OFFICER PARTICIPANTS					
#	First and Last Name	Title/Rank	DOB	SSN (FBI only) Do not add hyphens	SFA Budget use only
1	Graciano Gamino	Agent	01/06/1979		
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					
20					
21					
22					
23					
24					
25					
26					
27					
28					
29					
30					
31					
32					

TASK FORCE OFFICER PARTICIPANTS

#	First and Last Name	Title/Rank	DOB	SSN (FBI only) Do not add hyphens	SFA Budget use only
33					
34					
35					
36					
37					
38					
39					
40					
41					
42					
43					
44					
45					
46					
47					
48					
49					
50					
51					
52					
53					
54					
55					
56					
57					
58					
59					
60					
61					
62					
63					
64					



FY 2026 Homeland Security Task Force Strategic Initiative/Local Overtime Reimbursement Request

State/Local Organization Name: Hidalgo County DA HIDTA Task Force

Administrative or Financial Staff Contact: Ashley Escalante, Grant Accountant II

Phone / E-Mail: (956)318-2511 Ext. 4658/ ashley.escalante@auditor.co.hidalgo.tx.us

Sponsoring Federal Agency: Homeland Security Task Force

Sponsoring Federal Agency Case #: P25-SAT-TXS0051 HSTF Case # or Strategic Initiative # M5-25-0078

Billing Period for which Reimbursement is Requested (Monthly)	From:	To:	
Total Number of Officers Claiming Overtime*:	1	Amount Requested Overtime*:	0.00
Total Number of Overtime Hours Claimed for All Officers*:	0.00	Authorized Expenses*:	0.00
		TOTAL*:	0.00

*Note – Total OT Hours, Amount Requested for Overtime & Authorized Expenses, and the TOTAL will calculate when Page 2 is completed.

This invoice is not considered complete until all necessary signatures are obtained, and the invoice is received by the _____.

In accordance with the executed State/Local Agreement, reimbursement is hereby requested for overtime and/or pre-authorized expenses for Law Enforcement officers from the above-named organization. I hereby certify that cumulative overtime from all Federal sources, inclusive of this request; for each officer covered by this request does not exceed \$22,155.25. I further certify that the funds requested are for overtime and/or pre-approved travel incurred by the officer(s) identified in the Agreement for work on the cited HSTF Investigation or Strategic Initiative, and that the State/Local officer(s) have been paid. **Benefits (such as retirement, FICA, or other expenses) are NOT to be included in overtime payment.**
NOTE: DIRECT PAYMENTS TO OFFICERS ARE NOT ALLOWED.

FBI personnel only check here: *Signatures will be approved virtually via IPP Systems for FBI sponsored cases.

Certified: _____
Authorized State or Local Official Title Date

Certified: _____
Sponsoring Federal Agency Group/Squad Supervisor Signature* Print Name Date
*By signing, the case supervisor confirms the hours reported were in support of referenced case.

Approved: _____
Sponsoring Federal Agency Regional Coordinator Signature Print Name Date
* By signing, the RC confirms proper funds are allocated & all officers are on Case and Officer Participants Form (COP).

Approved/Entered into MIS: _____
Sponsoring Federal Agency Print Name Date

Entered into UFMS: _____
SFA Budget Team Print Name Date

DATE: 01/27/2026

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Toribio "Terry" Palacios, Criminal District Attorney

DEPARTMENT NAME: District Attorney's Office / HSTF TFO OVERTIME FY2026

PROJECT STRING ACCOUNT NUMBER: Expenditure - 2700002200-GRANT-SALARY-OT PAY AI-102173

SUBJECT: Budget Amendments (Increases) in Accordance with V.A.C.S., Articles 689a-11, 1666a and 1666b



Honorable Commissioner's Court of Hidalgo County:

I would like to request the following amendments (increases) to my departmental budget in accordance with V.A.C.S., Pursuant to Article 689a-11, 1666a, 1666b:

INCREASE OBJECT NUMBER(S)	PROJECT STRING NAME		INCREASE (DECREASE)
1291-21-270-000-0000-501310	HSTF TFO-OVERTIME PAY	\$	22,155.25
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS		\$	22,155.25
2700002200-FED GRANT-HSTF FY2026	HSTF TFO-FEDERAL REVENUES	\$	22,155.25
TOTAL REVENUES		\$	22,155.25

Reason: To appropriate budget for the overtime hours for investigator assigned to HSTF for 2026.

Funding period is January 27, 2026 to September 30, 2026.

Note: Expenses relating to fringe benefits for the overtime hours are to be charge to the Chp 59 Budget (Account#1251-12-00-0000-50XXX0)

APPROVED BY _____ DATE ____/____/____
COMMISSIONER'S COURT

DEPARTMENT HEAD SIGNATURE

ATTEST BY COUNTY CLERK

REVIEWED
By Maria A. Munoz at 5:27 pm, Jan 26, 2026

REVIEWED
By Maria A. Munoz at 11:42 am, Jan 27, 2026



Ashley Escalante <ashley.escalante@auditor.co.hidalgo.tx.us>

HSTF New Grant

Rosie Gonzalez <rgonzalez@hidtaskforce.us>
To: Ashley Escalante <ashley.escalante@auditor.co.hidalgo.tx.us>
Cc: Minerva Diaz <minerva.diaz@auditor.co.hidalgo.tx.us>

Wed, Jan 21, 2026 at 8:19 AM

Good morning Ashley,

I am placing the attached on next week's agenda.

This is a new grant, Homeland Security Task Force. This grant will replace OCDETF. ✓

OCDETF will no longer be in effect.

Please provide me with account/project string information so I may add the account information on the appropriation.

Let me know if you need anything else.

Thank you,

REVIEWED

By Maria A. Munoz at 5:29 pm, Jan 26, 2026

Rosie Gonzalez

Division Manager II

Hidalgo County

H.I.D.T.A. Task Force

P.O. Box 5719

McAllen, TX

Office (956) 381-0444

Fax (956) 381-8722



This record contains Sensitive Security Information that is controlled under 49 CFR parts 15 and 1520. No part of this record may be disclosed to persons without a "need to know", as defined in 49 CFR parts 15 and 1520, except with the written permission of the Administrator of the Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney HIDTA Task Force. Unauthorized release may result in civil penalty or other action. For U.S. government agencies, public disclosure is governed by 5 U.S.C. 552 and 49 CFR parts 15 and 1520.

3 attachments



HSTF Case and Officer Participants (COP) FORM FY26 Final (002).pdf

964K



HSTF SILO Cost Reimbursement Agreement (CRA) FY26 Final (001).pdf

979K



HSTF SILO Reimbursement Request Form FY26 v2.1 12162025 (002).pdf

2258K