

**GRANT CONTRACT BETWEEN  
THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
AND  
HIDALGO COUNTY CRIMINAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

**OAG Contract No. 1662352**

This contract is executed between the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) and Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney's Office (GRANTEE) for certain grant funds. The Office of the Attorney General and Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney's Office may be referred to in this contract individually as "Party" or collectively as "Parties."

**SECTION 1. PURPOSE OF THE CONTRACT**

The purpose of the Victim Coordinator and Liaison Grant (VCLG) program is to fund the mandated positions described in the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Article 56.04, specifically Victim Assistance Coordinators (VAC) in prosecutor offices and Crime Victim Liaisons (CVL) in law enforcement agencies. It is intended that the grants will be awarded through a competitive selection and allocation process taking into consideration, among other criteria, the number of victims that may be served by a program. The purpose of this grant contract is to provide reasonable contractual controls to ensure that the public purposes of the grant are achieved. In addition to the duties imposed in the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Article 56.04 (and more specifically described in Article 56.02), VACs and CVLs are also expected to promote and educate the community and other professionals about victim rights and services in an effort to identify crime victims and provide or refer them to needed services. In general, and subject to the limitations of each specific grant contract with each VCLG Grantee, VCLG grant contracts awarded must be used for victim-related services or assistance.

**SECTION 2. TERM OF THE CONTRACT**

This contract shall begin on September 1, 2015 and shall terminate August 31, 2016, unless it is terminated earlier in accordance with another provision of this contract.

**SECTION 3. GRANTEE'S CONTRACTUAL SERVICES**

**3.1 GRANTEE's Compliance with Grant Application Kit.** GRANTEE will comply with the terms and conditions as set forth and required in the OVAG/VCLG FY 2015-2016 Grant Application Kit ("Application Kit") if not supplemented, amended or adjusted by the OAG, as acknowledged by GRANTEE.

**3.2 Establishment of Final Project Budget, Targets, Outputs, Outcomes, and Special Conditions.** The OAG, at its sole discretion, establishes the initial Budget for this grant project, as reflected on the attached Exhibit A. If any adjustments were made by the OAG to GRANTEE's budget, those adjustments will be reflected on the attached Exhibit A. The final Narrative, as submitted by GRANTEE, is attached as Exhibit B. If any Special Conditions were imposed by the OAG, those provisions will be reflected on the attached Exhibit C.

The OAG, at its sole discretion, will establish the final project targets, outputs, and outcomes. In addition, the OAG, at its sole discretion, may adjust GRANTEE's budget, targets, outputs, outcomes, and/or any other items as deemed appropriate by the OAG, at any time, during the term of this contract.

## **SECTION 4. GRANTEE'S OBLIGATIONS AND REQUIRED REPORTS**

### **4.1 General Matters**

**4.1.1 Required Reports; Form of Reports; Filings with the OAG.** GRANTEE shall forward to the OAG the applicable reports on forms as specified by the OAG. GRANTEE shall ensure that it files each document or form required by the OAG in an accurate and timely manner. Unless filing dates are given herein, all other reports and other documents that GRANTEE is required to forward to the OAG shall be promptly forwarded. From time to time, the OAG may require additional information from GRANTEE.

**4.1.2 Cooperation; Additional Information.** GRANTEE shall cooperate fully with the OAG. In addition to the information contained in the required reports, other information may be required as requested by the OAG.

**4.1.3 Notification of Changes in Organization, Changes in Authorized Official or Grant Contact.** GRANTEE shall submit within ten (10) business days notice to the OAG of any change of the following: GRANTEE's name; contact information; key personnel, officer, director or partner; organizational structure; legal standing; or authority to do business in Texas. GRANTEE shall promptly notify the OAG, preferably in advance, of a change in address or main telephone number of GRANTEE. A change in GRANTEE's name requires an amendment to the contract. To change an Authorized Official, GRANTEE must submit a written request on GRANTEE's letterhead, with an original signature of someone with authority. To change Grant Contact, GRANTEE must submit a written request on GRANTEE's letterhead signed by the Authorized Official.

**4.1.4 Standards for Financial and Programmatic Management.** GRANTEE and its governing body shall bear full and sole responsibility for the integrity of the fiscal and programmatic management of the organization including financial and programmatic policies and procedures.

Such fiscal and programmatic management shall include: accountability for all funds and materials received from the OAG; compliance with OAG rules, policies and procedures, and applicable

federal and state laws and regulations; and correction of fiscal and program deficiencies identified through self-evaluation and/or the OAG's monitoring processes. Ignorance of any contract provisions or other requirements referenced in this contract shall not constitute a defense or basis for waiving or failing to comply with such provisions or requirements.

GRANTEE shall develop, implement, and maintain appropriate financial management and control systems, which include: budgets that adequately reflect all functions and resources necessary to carry out authorized activities and the adequate determination of costs; accurate and complete payroll, accounting, and financial reporting records; cost source documentation; effective internal and budgetary controls; allocation of costs; and timely and appropriate audits and resolution of any findings and applicable annual financial statements, including statements of financial position, activities, and cash flows, prepared on an accrual basis in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) or other recognized accounting principle.

**4.1.5. Security and Confidentiality of Records.** GRANTEE shall establish a method to secure the confidentiality of records required to be kept confidential by applicable federal or state law, rules or regulations. This provision shall not be construed as limiting the OAG's access to such records and other information.

## **4.2 Programmatic Reports**

**4.2.1 Quarterly Statistical (Performance) Reports.** GRANTEE shall forward to the OAG quarterly statistical reports no later than the 30th day of each month following the end of the quarter. The four quarters end on the last day of the month of November, February, May and August. Accordingly, quarterly statistical reports, for each quarter, are due on or before December 30, 2015, March 30, 2016, June 30, 2016, and continuing until the last quarterly statistical report which is due on or before September 30, 2016.

**Contents of Quarterly Statistical Reports.** The quarterly statistical reports shall contain, at a minimum, information on the following statistical measures:

- a. Targets as established by the OAG;
- b. Outputs and Outcomes as established by the OAG; and
- c. Program Impact Narratives.

**4.2.2 Written Explanation of Variance.** GRANTEE is required to provide a written explanation to the OAG for any variances on the quarterly statistical report for any year-to-date performance by GRANTEE that varies from projected performance. In addition to the written explanation, GRANTEE shall promptly answer any questions of the OAG, whether in writing or otherwise, in connection with the quarterly and annual reports presented to the OAG.

**4.2.3 Other Program Reports.** GRANTEE shall cooperate fully in any social studies, fiscal or programmatic monitoring, auditing, evaluating, and other reviews pertaining to services rendered by GRANTEE which may be conducted by the OAG or its designees.

GRANTEE shall submit service delivery reports required by the contract or self-evaluations of performance and other reports requested by the OAG in appropriate format and on a timely basis and make available at reasonable times and for reasonable periods client records and other programmatic or financial records, books, reports, and supporting documents for reviewing and copying by the OAG or its designees.

### **4.3 Financial Matters**

**4.3.1 Grant Budget.** With regard to the use of funds pursuant to this contract, GRANTEE will immediately review the budget as established in this contract.

**4.3.2 Monthly Request for Reimbursement and Financial Status Report.** Grant funds are paid on a cost reimbursement basis. GRANTEE will submit, each month, a monthly request for reimbursement for the actual and allowable allocable costs incurred by GRANTEE for project costs to provide services under this contract. The payments made to GRANTEE shall not exceed its actual and allowable allocable costs to provide the services under this contract.

The request for reimbursement will be submitted to the OAG in the form and manner as approved by the OAG and will specify the detailed and total expenses for the month, in the following cost categories: (i) personnel and fringe benefits, reported separately, (ii) professional and consulting services, (iii) travel, (iv) equipment, (v) supplies, and (vi) other direct operating expenses. The request for reimbursement must be accompanied by supporting documentation as required by the OAG. The OAG may from time to time require different or additional supporting documentation.

A request for reimbursement and financial status report are required each month, whether GRANTEE has paid expenses, or is seeking reimbursement.

**4.3.3 Fiscal Year End Required Reports.** On or before October 15, 2015, GRANTEE will submit fiscal year end required reports.

- a. Record of Reimbursement.** GRANTEE will submit a reconciled record of its expenses for the prior fiscal year in the following cost categories: (i) personnel and fringe benefits, reported separately, (ii) professional and consulting services, (iii) travel, (iv) equipment, (v) supplies, and (vi) other direct operating expenses.
- b. Equipment Inventory Report.** GRANTEE will submit an Equipment Inventory Report which provides a record of the current inventory of items purchased, disposed of, replaced or transferred for any equipment that was purchased with grant funds.

**4.3.4 Annual Independent Financial Audit Report.** Unless otherwise noted on Exhibit C (Special Conditions), GRANTEE shall timely submit to the OAG a copy of its annual independent financial audit. The timely submission to the OAG is on or before nine (9) months after the end of GRANTEE's accounting year. Unless, otherwise noted on Exhibit C (Special Conditions),

GRANTEE will contract with an independent CPA firm to perform an annual financial audit engagement. If applicable, GRANTEE's independent CPA firm will determine the type of annual financial audit, which may include a compliance attestation in accordance with the requirements of 2 CFR 200 titled Uniform Administrative Requirement (audits of State, Local Government, and Non-Profit Organizations) or any subsequent governing document and/or Texas Single Audit Circular (Single Audit or non-Single Audit financial audit). If applicable, GRANTEE will provide the OAG with any and all annual independent financial audits or audited financial statements, related management letters, and management responses of GRANTEE.

**4.3.5 Timing of Submission of Request for Reimbursement to the OAG; Close-Out Invoice.**

GRANTEE is responsible for submitting bills in an accurate and timely manner. Grantee shall make every reasonable effort to submit monthly billings to the OAG, which cover the previous month's expenses, so that they are received by the OAG on or before the twentieth (20<sup>th</sup>) day of each month, or if the 20<sup>th</sup> falls on a weekend or holiday, the next business day. The OAG will make all reasonable efforts to promptly process and make payments on properly completed billings. GRANTEE may submit a final invoice not later than the earlier of (1) forty-five (45) calendar days after termination of this contract; or (2) forty-five (45) calendar days after the end of each state fiscal year.

**4.3.6 Reimbursement of Actual and Allowable Costs.** The OAG shall only reimburse costs incurred and paid by GRANTEE during the term of this contract. The OAG shall only reimburse GRANTEE for employee costs that are directly related to performing the responsibilities of this contract. The OAG is not obligated to reimburse expenses that were incurred prior to the commencement or after the termination of this contract.

**4.3.7 Refunds and Deductions.** If the OAG determines that GRANTEE has been overpaid grant funds under this contract, such as payments made inadvertently or payments made but later determined to not be actual and allowable allocable costs, GRANTEE shall refund that amount of the OAG reimbursement identified by the OAG as an overpayment. The OAG may offset and deduct the amount of the overpayment from any amount owed to GRANTEE, as a reimbursement, but not yet paid by the OAG to GRANTEE. The OAG may choose to require a payment directly from GRANTEE rather than offset and deduct a specified amount. GRANTEE shall refund any overpayment to the OAG within thirty (30) calendar days of the receipt of the notice of the overpayment from the OAG unless an alternate payment plan is specified by the OAG.

**4.3.8 Purchase of Equipment; Maintenance and Repair; Title upon Termination.** GRANTEE shall not give any security interest, lien or otherwise encumber any item of equipment purchased with contract funds. GRANTEE shall permanently identify all equipment purchased under this contract by appropriate tags or labels affixed to the equipment. GRANTEE shall maintain a current inventory of all equipment, which shall be available to the OAG at all times upon request, however, as between the OAG and GRANTEE title for equipment will remain with GRANTEE.

GRANTEE will maintain, repair, and protect all equipment purchased in whole or in part with grant funds under this contract so as to ensure the full availability and usefulness of such equipment. In the event GRANTEE is indemnified, reimbursed, or otherwise compensated for any loss of,

destruction of, or damage to the equipment purchased under this contract, it shall use the proceeds to repair or replace said equipment.

**4.3.9 Direct Deposit.** GRANTEE may make a written request to the OAG to be placed on Direct Deposit status by completing and submitting to the OAG the State Comptroller's Direct Deposit Authorization Form. After the direct deposit request is approved by the OAG and the setup is completed on the Texas Identification Number System by the State Comptroller's Office, payment will be remitted by direct deposit and the OAG will discontinue providing GRANTEE with copies of reimbursement vouchers.

## **SECTION 5. OBLIGATIONS OF OAG**

**5.1 Monitoring.** The OAG is responsible for closely monitoring GRANTEE to ensure the effective and efficient use of grant funds to accomplish the purposes of this contract.

**5.2 Maximum Liability of OAG.** The maximum liability of the OAG is contained in the attached Exhibit A. Any change to the maximum liability must be supported by a written amendment to this contract.

**5.3 Reimbursement of Grantee Expenses.** The OAG shall be obligated to reimburse GRANTEE for all actual and allowable allocable costs incurred by GRANTEE pursuant to this contract. The OAG is not obligated to pay unauthorized costs. Prior written approval from the OAG is required if GRANTEE anticipates altering the scope of the grant, adding funds to previously un-awarded budget categories, changing funds in any awarded budget category by more than 10% of the annual budget and/or adding new line items to any awarded budget category.

**5.4 Contract Not Entitlement or Right.** Reimbursement with contract funds is not an entitlement or right. Reimbursement depends, among other things, upon strict compliance with all terms, conditions and provisions of this contract. The OAG and GRANTEE agree that any act, action or representation by either party, their agents or employees that purports to increase the maximum liability of the OAG is void, unless a written amendment to this contract is first executed. GRANTEE agrees that nothing in this contract will be interpreted to create an obligation or liability of the OAG in excess of the funds delineated in this contract.

**5.5 Funding Limitation.** GRANTEE agrees that funding for this contract is subject to the actual receipt by the OAG of grant funds (state and/or federal) appropriated to the OAG. GRANTEE agrees that the grant funds, if any, received from the OAG are limited by the term of each state biennium and by specific appropriation authority to and the spending authority of the OAG for the purpose of this contract. **GRANTEE agrees that notwithstanding any other provision of this contract, if the OAG is not appropriated the funds or if the OAG does not receive the appropriated funds for this grant program, or if the funds appropriated to the OAG for this grant program, are required to be reallocated to fund other state programs or purposes, the OAG is not liable to pay the GRANTEE any remaining balance on this contract.**

## SECTION 6. TERMINATION

**6.1 Termination for Convenience.** Either Party may, at its sole discretion, terminate this contract, without recourse, liability or penalty, upon thirty (30) calendar days notice to the other party.

**6.2 Termination for Cause.** In the event that GRANTEE fails to perform or comply with an obligation of the terms, conditions and provisions of this contract, the OAG may, upon written notice of the breach to GRANTEE, immediately terminate all or any part of this contract.

**6.3 Termination Not Exclusive Remedy; Survival of Terms and Conditions.** Termination is not an exclusive remedy, but will be in addition to any other rights and remedies provided in equity, by law, or under this contract.

Termination of this contract for any reason or expiration of this contract shall not release the Parties from any liability or obligation set forth in this contract that is expressly stated to survive any such termination or by its nature would be intended to be applicable following any such termination. The following terms and conditions, (in addition to any others that could reasonably be interpreted to survive but are not specifically identified), survive the termination or expiration of this contract: Sections 4, 5, 7, 11 and 12.

## SECTION 7. AUDIT RIGHTS; RECORDS RETENTION

**7.1 Duty to Maintain Records.** GRANTEE shall maintain adequate records that enable the OAG to verify all reporting measures and requests for reimbursements related to this contract. GRANTEE also shall maintain such records as are deemed necessary by the OAG, OAG's auditor, the State Auditor's Office or other auditors of the State of Texas, the federal government, or such other persons or entities designated by the OAG, to ensure proper accounting for all costs and performances related to this contract.

**7.2 Records Retention.** GRANTEE shall maintain and retain for a period of four (4) years after the submission of the final expenditure report, or until full and final resolution of all audit or litigation matters which arise after the expiration of the four (4) year period after the submission of the final expenditure report, whichever time period is longer, such records as are necessary to fully disclose the extent of services provided under this contract, including but not limited to any daily activity reports and time distribution and attendance records, and other records that may show the basis of the charges made or performances delivered.

**7.3 Audit Trails.** GRANTEE shall maintain appropriate audit trails to provide accountability for all reporting measures and requests for reimbursement. Audit trails maintained by GRANTEE will, at a minimum, identify the supporting documentation prepared by GRANTEE to permit an audit of its systems. GRANTEE's automated systems, if any, must provide the means whereby authorized personnel have the ability to audit and to verify contractually required performances and

to establish individual accountability for any action that can potentially cause access to, generation of, or modification of confidential information.

**7.4 Access and Audit.** At the request of the OAG, GRANTEE shall grant access to and make available all paper and electronic records, books, documents, accounting procedures, practices, and any other items relevant to the performance of this contract, compliance with applicable state or federal laws and regulations, and the operation and management of GRANTEE to the OAG or its designees for the purposes of inspecting, auditing, or copying such items. GRANTEE will direct any other entity, person, or contractor receiving funds directly under this contract or through a subcontract under this contract to likewise permit access to, inspection of, and reproduction of all books, records, and other relevant information of the entity, person, or contractor(s) that pertain to this contract. All records, books, documents, accounting procedures, practices, and any other items, in whatever form, relevant to the performance of this contract, shall be subject to examination or audit. Whenever practical as determined at the sole discretion of the OAG, the OAG shall provide GRANTEE with up to five (5) business days advance notice of any such examination or audit.

**7.5 State Auditor.** In addition to and without limitation on the other audit provisions of this contract, pursuant to Section 2262.003 of the Texas Government Code, the State Auditor's Office may conduct an audit or investigation of GRANTEE or any other entity or person receiving funds from the State directly under this contract or indirectly through a subcontract under this contract. The acceptance of funds by GRANTEE or any other entity or person directly under this contract or indirectly through a subcontract under this contract acts as acceptance of the authority of the State Auditor's Office, under the direction of the Legislative Audit Committee, to conduct an audit or investigation in connection with those funds. Under the direction of the Legislative Audit Committee, GRANTEE or another entity that is the subject of an audit or investigation by the State Auditor's Office must provide the State Auditor's Office with access to any information the State Auditor's Office considers relevant to the investigation or audit. GRANTEE further agrees to cooperate fully with the State Auditor's Office in the conduct of the audit or investigation, including providing all records requested. GRANTEE shall ensure that this paragraph concerning the authority to audit funds received indirectly by subcontractors through GRANTEE and the requirement to cooperate is included in any subcontract it awards. The State Auditor's Office shall at any time have access to and the right to examine, audit, excerpt, and transcribe any pertinent books, documents, working papers, and records of GRANTEE related to this contract.

**7.6 Location.** Any audit of records shall be conducted at GRANTEE's principal place of business and/or the location(s) of GRANTEE's operations during GRANTEE's normal business hours. GRANTEE shall provide to OAG or its designees, on GRANTEE's premises (or if the audit is being performed of a subcontractor, the subcontractor's premises if necessary) private space, office furnishings (including lockable cabinets), telephone and facsimile services, utilities and office-related equipment and duplicating services as OAG or its designees may reasonably require to perform the audits described in this contract.

**SECTION 8. SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION TO THE OAG**

The OAG will designate methods for submission of information to the OAG by GRANTEE. The OAG generally requires submission of information via email or hard copy format. Some reporting requirements must occur via the internet and/or a web-based data collection method.

**8.1 Programmatic Reports, Notices and Information (excluding Financial Reports).** All quarterly statistical reports, annual performance reports, correspondence, and any other reports, notices or information, except financial reports specified below, must be submitted via email to:

OAG-Grants@texasattorneygeneral.gov

If requested or approved by the OAG, other programmatic reports may be submitted to:

Program Manager – Contracts and Asset Management Division  
Office of the Attorney General  
Mail Code 005  
Post Office Box 12548  
Austin, Texas 78711-2548

**8.2 Financial Reports (excluding Programmatic Reports, Notices and Information).** All financial status reports, requests for reimbursement, audits, and inventory reports, must be submitted in hard copy format to:

Financial Manager – Contracts and Asset Management Division  
Office of the Attorney General  
Mail Code 005  
Post Office Box 12548  
Austin, Texas 78711-2548

The Annual Independent Financial Audit and related documents, as well as any other reports, if requested or approved by the OAG, may be submitted to:

OAG-Grants@texasattorneygeneral.gov

## SECTION 9. CORRECTIVE ACTION PLANS AND SANCTIONS

The Parties agree to make a good faith effort to identify, communicate and resolve problems found by either the OAG or GRANTEE.

**9.1 Corrective Action Plans.** If the OAG finds deficiencies in GRANTEE's performance under this contract, the OAG, at its sole discretion, may impose one or more of the following remedies as part of a corrective action plan: increase in monitoring visits; require that additional or more detailed financial and/or programmatic reports be submitted; require prior approval for expenditures; require additional technical or management assistance and/or make modifications in business practices; reduce the contract amount; and/or terminate this contract. The foregoing are not exclusive remedies, and the OAG may impose other requirements that the OAG determines will be in the best interest of the State.

**9.2 Financial Hold.** Failure to comply with submission deadlines for required reports, invoices, or other requested information may result in the OAG, at its sole discretion, placing GRANTEE on immediate financial hold without further notice to GRANTEE and without first requiring a corrective action plan. No reimbursements will be processed until the requested information is submitted. If GRANTEE is placed on financial hold, the OAG, at its sole discretion, may deny reimbursement requests associated with expenses incurred during the time GRANTEE was placed on financial hold.

**9.3 Sanctions.** In addition to financial hold, the OAG, at its sole discretion, may impose other sanctions without first requiring a corrective action plan. The OAG, at its sole discretion, may impose sanctions, including, but not limited to, withholding or suspending funding, offsetting previous reimbursements, requiring repayment, disallowing claims for reimbursement, reducing funding, terminating this contract and/or any other appropriate sanction.

**9.4 No Waiver.** Notwithstanding the imposition of corrective actions, financial hold and/or sanctions, GRANTEE remains responsible for complying with the contract terms and conditions. Corrective action plans, financial hold and/or sanctions do not excuse or operate as a waiver of prior failure to comply with this contract.

## SECTION 10. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

**10.1 Federal and State Laws, Rules and Regulations, Directives, Guidelines, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) and Other Relevant Authorities.** GRANTEE agrees to comply with all applicable federal and state laws, rules and regulations, directives, guidelines, 2 CFR 200, or any other authorities relevant to the performance of GRANTEE under this contract.

**10.2 Uniform Grant Management Act, UGMS and Applicable Standard Federal and State Certifications and Assurances.** GRANTEE agrees to comply with applicable laws, executive orders, regulations and policies as well as Texas Government Code, Chapter 783, and the Uniform

Grant Management Standards (UGMS). Further, GRANTEE agrees to comply with the applicable OAG Certifications and Assurances, as contained in the Application Kit, including, but not limited to, the equal employment opportunity program certification, disclosure and certification regarding lobbying, non-procurement debarment certification, drug-free workplace certification, annual single audit certification, compliance with annual independent financial audit filing requirement, compliance with UGMS and the applicable 2 CFR 200, return of grant funds in the event of loss or misuse, and conflict of interest.

**10.3 Generally Accepted Accounting Principles or Other Recognized Accounting Principles.**

GRANTEE shall adhere to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) promulgated by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, unless other recognized accounting principles are required by GRANTEE. GRANTEE shall also follow OAG fiscal management policies and procedures in processing and submitting requests for reimbursement and maintaining financial records related to this contract.

**10.4 Conflicts of Interest; Disclosure of Conflicts.**

GRANTEE has not given, or offered to give, nor does Grantee intend to give at any time hereafter, any economic opportunity, future employment, gift, loan, gratuity, special discount, trip, favor, or service to a public servant or employee of the OAG, at any time during the negotiation of this contract or in connection with this contract, except as allowed under relevant state or federal law. GRANTEE will establish safeguards to prohibit its employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of a personal or organizational conflict of interest or personal gain. GRANTEE will operate with complete independence and objectivity without an actual, potential or apparent conflict of interest with respect to its performance under this contract. GRANTEE must disclose, in writing, within fifteen (15) calendar days of discovery, any existing or potential conflicts of interest relative to its performance under this contract.

**10.5 Compliance with Regulatory and Licensing Bodies.**

GRANTEE agrees that it has obtained all licenses, certifications, permits and authorizations necessary to perform the responsibilities of this contract and currently is in good standing with all regulatory agencies that regulate any or all aspects of GRANTEE's business or operations. GRANTEE agrees to remain in good standing with the Texas Secretary of State, the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts and federal governmental bodies related to GRANTEE's right to conduct its business in Texas. GRANTEE agrees to comply with all applicable licenses, legal certifications, inspections, and any other applicable local ordinance or state or federal laws.

**SECTION 11. SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

**11.1 Independent Contractor Status; Indemnity and Hold Harmless Agreement.**

GRANTEE expressly agrees that it is an independent contractor and under no circumstances shall any owner, incorporator, officer, director, employee, or volunteer of GRANTEE be considered a state employee, agent, servant, joint venturer, joint enterpriser or partner of the OAG or the State of Texas. GRANTEE agrees to take such steps as may be necessary to ensure that each contractor of

GRANTEE will be deemed to be an independent contractor and will not be considered or permitted to be an agent, servant, joint venturer, joint enterpriser or partner of the OAG.

All persons furnished, used, retained, or hired by or on behalf of GRANTEE or any of GRANTEE's contractors shall be considered to be solely the employees or agents of GRANTEE or GRANTEE's contractors. GRANTEE or GRANTEE's contractors shall be responsible for ensuring that any and all appropriate payments are made, such as unemployment, workers compensation, social security, any benefit available to a state employee as a state employee, and other payroll taxes for such persons, including any related assessments or contributions required by law.

**GRANTEE or contractors are responsible for all types of claims whatsoever due to actions or performance under this contract, including, but not limited to, the use of automobiles or other transportation, taken by its owners, incorporators, officers, directors, employees, volunteers or any third parties. To the extent allowed by law, GRANTEE and/or contractors will indemnify and hold harmless the OAG and/or the State of Texas from and against any and all claims arising out of actions or performance of GRANTEE OR GRANTEE's contractors under this contract. To the extent allowed by law, GRANTEE agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the OAG and/or the State of Texas from any and all liability, actions, claims, demands, or suits, and all related costs, attorney fees, and expenses, that arise from or are occasioned by the negligence, misconduct, or wrongful act or omission of GRANTEE, its employees, representatives, agents, or subcontractors in their performance under this contract.**

**11.2 Publicity.** GRANTEE shall not use the OAG's name or refer to the OAG directly or indirectly in any media release, public service announcement or public service disclosure relating to this contract or any acquisition pursuant hereto, including in any promotional or marketing materials, without first obtaining written consent from the OAG. This section is not intended to and does not limit GRANTEE's ability to comply with its obligations and duties under the Texas Open Meetings Act and/or the Texas Public Information Act.

**11.3 Intellectual Property.** GRANTEE understands and agrees that where funds obtained under this contract may be used to produce original books, manuals, films, or other original material and intellectual property, GRANTEE may copyright such material subject to the royalty-free, non-exclusive, and irrevocable license which is hereby reserved by the OAG and granted by GRANTEE to the OAG or the state (or federal government, if federal funds are expended in this grant) government. The OAG is granted the unrestricted right to use, copy, modify, prepare derivative works, publish and distribute, at no additional cost to the OAG, in any manner the OAG deems appropriate at its sole discretion, any component of such intellectual property made the subject of this contract.

**11.4 Program Income.** Gross income directly generated from the grant funds through a project or activity performed under this contract are considered program income. Unless otherwise required under the terms of this contract, any program income shall be used by GRANTEE to further the program objectives of the project or activity funded by this grant, and the program income shall be spent on the same project or activity in which it was generated. GRANTEE shall identify and report

this income in accordance with the OAG's reporting instructions. GRANTEE shall expend program income during this contract term; program income not expended in this contract term shall be refunded to the OAG.

**11.5 No Supplanting.** GRANTEE shall not supplant or otherwise use funds from this contract to replace or substitute existing funding from other sources that also supports the activities that are the subject of this contract.

**11.6 No Solicitation or Receipt of Funds on Behalf of OAG.** It is expressly agreed that any solicitation for or receipt of funds of any type by GRANTEE is for the sole benefit of GRANTEE and is not a solicitation for or receipt of funds on behalf of the OAG or the Attorney General of the State of Texas.

**11.7 No Subcontracting or Assignment Without Prior Written Approval of OAG.** GRANTEE may not subcontract or assign any of its rights or duties under this contract without the prior written approval of the OAG. It is within the OAG's sole discretion to approve any subcontracting or assignment. In the event the OAG approves subcontracting or assignment by GRANTEE, GRANTEE will ensure that its contracts with others shall require compliance with the provisions of this contract to the extent compliance is needed to support GRANTEE's compliance with this contract. GRANTEE, in subcontracting for any performances specified herein, expressly understands and agrees that it is not relieved of its responsibilities for ensuring that all performance is in compliance with this contract and that the OAG shall not be liable in any manner to GRANTEE's subcontractor(s).

**11.8 No Grants to Certain Organizations.** GRANTEE confirms by executing this contract that it does not make contributions to campaigns for elective office or endorse candidates.

**11.9 Merging Entities.** If GRANTEE merges with an organization that is currently receiving VCLG grant funds for the same purpose, directly from the OAG, and the merger is completed during the current contract term, the standing organization may seek reimbursement for the remaining OAG funding of the dissolving organization in addition to the standing organizations current funding.

If GRANTEE merges or is absorbed by a non OAG funded organization, GRANTEE's contract will be terminated. The non-OAG funded organization cannot seek the funding of the dissolving organization for the current grant period.

**11.10 No Waiver of Sovereign Immunity.** The Parties agree that no provision of this contract is in any way intended to constitute a waiver by the OAG or the State of Texas of any immunities from suit or from liability that the OAG or the State of Texas may have by operation of law.

**11.11 Governing Law; Venue.** This contract is made and entered into in the State of Texas. This contract and all disputes arising out of or relating thereto shall be governed by the laws of the State of Texas, without regard to any otherwise applicable conflict of law rules or requirements.

Except where state law establishes mandatory venue, GRANTEE agrees that any action, suit, litigation or other proceeding (collectively "litigation") arising out of or in any way relating to this contract shall be commenced exclusively in the Travis County District Court or the United States District Court in the Western District, Austin Division, and to the extent allowed by law, hereby irrevocably and unconditionally consents to the exclusive jurisdiction of those courts for the purpose of prosecuting and/or defending such litigation. GRANTEE hereby waives and agrees not to assert by way of motion, as a defense, or otherwise, in any suit, action or proceeding, any claim that GRANTEE is not personally subject to the jurisdiction of the above-named courts; the suit, action or proceeding is brought in an inconvenient forum; and/or the venue is improper.

**11.12 U.S. Department of Homeland Security's E-Verify System.** GRANTEE will ensure that it utilizes the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's E-Verify system to determine the eligibility of any new employee hired after the effective date of this agreement who will be working on any matter covered by this agreement.

**11.13 Limitation on Civil Legal Services Providers.** If GRANTEE is a provider of civil legal services to victims of crime, and if the purpose of the grant funds is to provide legal services to victims of crime, GRANTEE shall comply with the following:

**11.13.1 Services to Indigent Clients.** GRANTEE shall provide victim-related civil legal services directly to indigent victims, indigent immediate family members of indigent victims, or indigent claimants. "Indigent" means an individual who earns not more than 187 ½% of the federal poverty guidelines published by the United States Department of Health and Human Services. Victims, immediate family members of victims and claimants are defined in Article 56.32 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure.

**11.13.2 Eligibility Screening.** GRANTEE shall conduct eligibility screening for each individual seeking victim-related civil legal services. GRANTEE agrees to use the intake screening form supplied by the OAG. A copy of all intake screening forms shall be maintained by GRANTEE in a central location and shall be made available to the OAG or any party the OAG determines should have access to these documents at any reasonable time.

**11.13.3 No Cases Resulting in Fees.** Grant funds to organizations to provide legal services to the victims of crime, immediate family members or claimants in civil matters shall not be used for any case or matter that, if undertaken on behalf of an indigent person by an attorney in private practice, might reasonably be expected to result in payment of a fee for legal services from an award to a client from public funds, or from the opposing party.

The above provisions may not be applicable in any case where GRANTEE determines in good faith that the indigent person seeking legal assistance has made reasonable efforts to obtain the services of an attorney in private practice for the particular matter (including contacting attorneys in private practice in the county of residence of the indigent person who normally accept cases of a similar nature), and has been unable to obtain such services because the potential fee is inadequate, is likely to be uncollectible, would substantially consume any recovery by the client, or because of any other

reason which the organization, acting in good faith, believes prevents the client from obtaining the services of a private attorney.

**11.13.4 Other Restrictions.** Grant funds shall not be used to directly fund class action suits, lawsuits against governmental entities, or lobbying for or against any candidate or issue. Grant funds shall not be used to sue or otherwise support a cause of action, claim, or defense against the State of Texas or the Office of the Attorney General, except as specifically provided below.

Grant funds may be used to support a lawsuit brought by an individual, solely on behalf of the individual or the individual's dependent or ward, to compel a governmental entity to provide benefits that the individual or the individual's dependent or ward is expressly eligible to receive, by statute or regulation, including social security benefits, temporary assistance to needy families, financial assistance under Chapter 31, Texas Human Resources Code, food stamps, special education for persons with disabilities, Medicare, Medicaid, subsidized or public housing, and other economic, shelter or medical benefits provided by a government entity directly to an indigent individual, but not to support a claim for actual or punitive damages.

Grant funds shall not be used to support any legal action seeking to establish, obtain or appeal Compensation for Crime Victims payments as administered by the Office of the Attorney General.

**11.13.5 Cooperation and Collaboration.** GRANTEE will cooperate and collaborate in their service areas with (a) all other organizations providing civil legal services to the indigent, (b) the local organized bar, (c) relevant social and human service organizations, (d) relevant governmental agencies, and (e) other organizations that specifically provide victim related services.

**11.13.6 Professional Conduct.** In accepting and pursuing matters for clients, GRANTEE shall adhere to the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct and the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure and any other code or rules of professional responsibility adopted by this state for attorneys. GRANTEE should exercise reasonable prudent judgment and consider all relevant factors, including the legal merits and the economic and practical value of the matter.

**11.13.7 Retainer Agreements and Private Referrals.** Except for matters involving limited advice and brief services (e.g. clinics, hotlines, and similar services), GRANTEE shall execute a written retainer agreement, or letter of engagement, containing appropriate provisions for withdrawal of representation, with each client who receives legal services from GRANTEE. For cases that are referred by GRANTEE to a private attorney, GRANTEE shall make available to the accepting attorney a standard form retainer agreement which may be modified based on the agreement between the attorney and client.

The OAG, at its sole discretion, may further limit, authorize or define the scope of permitted legal services offered by the GRANTEE.

## SECTION 12. CONSTRUCTION OF CONTRACT AND AMENDMENTS

**12.1 Construction of Contract.** The provisions of Section 1 are intended to be a general introduction to this contract. To the extent the terms and conditions of this contract do not address a particular circumstance or are otherwise unclear or ambiguous, such terms and conditions are to be construed consistent with the general objectives, expectations and purposes of this contract.

**12.2 Entire Agreement, including All Exhibits.** This contract, including all exhibits, reflects the entire agreement between the Parties with respect to the subject matter therein described, and there are no other representations (verbal or written), directives, guidance, assistance, understandings or agreements between the Parties related to such subject matter. By executing this contract, GRANTEE agrees to strictly comply with the requirements and obligations of this contract, including all exhibits.

**12.3 Amendment.** This contract shall not be modified or amended except in writing, signed by both parties. Any properly executed amendment of this contract shall be binding upon the Parties and presumed to be supported by adequate consideration.

**12.4 Partial Invalidity.** If any term or provision of this contract is found to be illegal or unenforceable, such construction shall not affect the legality or validity of any of its other provisions. The illegal or invalid provision shall be deemed severable and stricken from the contract as if it had never been incorporated herein, but all other provisions shall continue in full force and effect.

**12.5 Non-waiver.** The failure of any Party to insist upon strict performance of any of the terms or conditions herein, irrespective of the length of time of such failure, shall not be a waiver of that party's right to demand strict compliance in the future. No consent or waiver, express or implied, to or of any breach or default in the performance of any obligation under this contract shall constitute a consent or waiver to or of any breach or default in the performance of the same or any other obligation of this contract.

**12.6 Official Capacity.** The Parties stipulate and agree that the signatories hereto are signing, executing and performing this contract only in their official capacity.

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY  
GENERAL

HIDALGO COUNTY CRIMINAL  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Office of the Attorney General

Ramon Garcia  
Printed Name: Ramon Garcia  
Authorized Official

APPROVED BY  
COMMISSIONERS' COURT  
ON: 9/1/15

ATTEST:  
By: Arturo Guajardo Jr.  
Arturo Guajardo, Jr., County Clerk

**GRANT CONTRACT BETWEEN  
THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
AND  
HIDALGO COUNTY CRIMINAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

**OAG Contract No. 1662352**

**EXHIBIT A**

**Maximum Liability of the OAG.** The OAG and GRANTEE agree the total liability of the OAG to GRANTEE, directly or indirectly, arising out of this contract and for reimbursement of all expenses, shall not exceed the following:

**FORTY-TWO THOUSAND AND 00/100 (\$42,000.00) DOLLARS.**

**Budget.** Subject to the limitations within this contract, the OAG will reimburse GRANTEE for actual allowable and allocable costs paid according to the following amounts and budget categories:

<b>Budget Category</b>	<b>State Fiscal Year 2016</b>
Personnel	\$42,000
Fringe Benefits	\$0
Professional & Consultant Services	\$0
Travel	\$0
Equipment	\$0
Supplies	\$0
Other Direct Operating Expenses	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$42,000</b>

**GRANT CONTRACT BETWEEN  
THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
AND  
HIDALGO COUNTY CRIMINAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

**OAG Contract No. 1662352**

**EXHIBIT B**

**GRANT NARRATIVE**

**UNLESS OTHERWISE LIMITED, DEEMED INAPPROPRIATE BY SPECIAL CONDITIONS OR ALTERED BY APPROVED BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS/BUDGET MODIFICATIONS**, the following narrative provided by GRANTEE in its grant application applies to this contract:

1. The proposed project goals will help us provide victim services for victims of violent crimes including, but not limited to the following:

- Notification to Victims of Indictments- notifications will be mailed to victims named in felony cases which the Grand Jury has indicted. A letter explaining the indictment, victims' rights card, information on crime victim's compensation and the victim impact statement will be mailed to victims.
- Crime Victims Rights- victims will be informed in writing and will be explained their victims' rights in a language that they can read and interpret.
- Victim Impact Statement- victims will be mailed a victim impact statement with an explanation of how this information will be used. They will be provided a form in the language they can read and write. The victim will be notified by mail to contact the VAC if they require assistance in completing this form.
- Victims' Rights to Privacy- the victim will be allowed to request for privacy. The victim's safety will be considered and the VAC will work with other alternatives to maintain the safety of victims as far as reasonably practicable.
- Crime Victims Compensation- T.C.C.P. Art. 56.08 District and County Attorneys must provide a written notice to victims, after they are named as victims in an indictment of a case, of their right to apply for and receive assistance with application process for crime victim's compensation. The VAC will assist victims in applying for crime victim's compensation.
- Court Ordered Restitution- the VAC will work with prosecutors in explaining the restitution process to victims. The VAC will coordinate with the OAG's Crime Victims Compensation fund (CVC) to determine if CVC has paid any financial loss caused by the crime.
- Post Sentence Services- the VAC is the liaison between the victim and the penal system and will work closely with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to provide post sentence services. Such as: Offender/Victim Mediation, Registration for VINE, Parole Review Process, and Victim Survivors Viewing Executions.

- Court Accompaniment- the VAC will provide court accompaniment for victims ONLY upon their prosecutor or victim's request. The VAC will coordinate with other community based advocates when she is not available. The VAC will also explain the criminal justice process and possible sentencing.
- Safety Planning - the VAC will explain and provide a written safety plan to victims of family violence, sexual assault, and survivors of homicide victims.
- Criminal Justice Process- the VAC will explain the criminal justice process to victims and will maintain victims informed of the scheduled court hearings.
- Information and Referral- the VAC will provide victims with information and referrals to other community based support services. Such as: emergency shelter, counseling, support groups, medical, public benefits, legal assistance, immigration relief, and other victim assistance services available.

**GRANT CONTRACT BETWEEN  
THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
AND  
HIDALGO COUNTY CRIMINAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

**OAG Contract No. 1662352**

**EXHIBIT C**

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

Special Conditions are imposed by the OAG, at its sole discretion. In addition to the ones identified in this exhibit to this contract, the OAG may, at its sole discretion, impose additional special conditions, with or without notice, without amending this contract.

The OAG is placing GRANTEE on immediate financial hold, without further notice, until all Special Conditions, if any, listed in this Exhibit are met.

The following Special Conditions apply to this contract:

- Provide most recent Annual Independent Financial Audit or Single Audit within 30 days.
- Submit a complete initialed and signed "Statements Supporting Submission of the application to the OAG Crime Victim Services Division."
- Submit signed "Resolution of the Governing Body"

- a. **Record of Reimbursement.** GRANTEE will submit a reconciled record of its expenses for the prior fiscal year in the following cost categories: (i) personnel and fringe benefits, reported separately, (ii) professional and consulting services, (iii) travel, (iv) equipment, (v) supplies, and (vi) other direct operating expenses.
- b. **Equipment Inventory Report.** GRANTEE will submit an Equipment Inventory Report which provides a record of the current inventory of items purchased, disposed of, replaced or transferred for any equipment that was purchased with grant funds.

**Once again, please acknowledge acceptance of the change made to the contract via email response of “yes” or “no” and include your grant number(s) by close of business Friday, August 28, 2015. If you agree, the OAG will insert the revised page in place of the previous page (i.e., slip sheeted).**

If you have any questions please contact your Grant Manager.

Thank you,  
Grants Operations

## Ramiro Sendejo

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**From:** Rosalinda Cantu [rosalinda.cantu@da.co.hidalgo.tx.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 31, 2015 2:56 PM  
**To:** OAG-GRANTS  
**Cc:** ramiro sendejo  
**Subject:** Re: FY2016 Grant Award – RESPONSE REQUIRED

YES

OAG Contract No.1662352.

Sincerely,

Rosalinda Cantu

HR Coordinator/ Office Administrator  
Hidalgo County  
Office of the Criminal District Attorney  
100 N. Closser Blvd. 5th Floor  
Edinburg, Texas 78539  
(956) 292-7600 ext. 8085 (956) 318-2078 Fax  
[rosalinda.cantu@da.co.hidalgo.tx.us](mailto:rosalinda.cantu@da.co.hidalgo.tx.us)

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**From:** "OAG-GRANTS" <[oag-grants@texasattorneygeneral.gov](mailto:oag-grants@texasattorneygeneral.gov)>  
**To:** "OAG-GRANTS" <[oag-grants@texasattorneygeneral.gov](mailto:oag-grants@texasattorneygeneral.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 27, 2015 8:32:00 AM  
**Subject:** FY2016 Grant Award – RESPONSE REQUIRED

Dear Grantee,

Please acknowledge receipt of this email message and acceptance of a substantive change made to your grant contract (as listed below).

It should be noted that the change will be made to the contract after it is signed by the grantee but before the OAG executes the contract. Paragraph 4.3.3 will be changed to correct a due date error as indicated below.

**4.3.3 Fiscal Year End Required Reports.** On or before October 15, ~~2015~~ 2016, GRANTEE will submit fiscal year end required reports.