

Webb County Sheriff's Office

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) FY 2026 Grants to Improve the Criminal Justice Response to Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking Program (ICJR Program)

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into by and among Webb County, acting through the Webb County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) and Casa de Misericordia Domestic Violence Shelter (Casa de Misericordia) (collectively, the Partners).

WHEREAS, the Partners desire to collaborate on a grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), FY 2026 Grants to Improve the Criminal Justice Response to Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking Program (ICJR) and

WHEREAS, the Partners have participated in the planning and development of the Project and agree to the proposed project narrative, budget, activities and collaborative responsibilities submitted with the application; and

WHEREAS, the Partners recognize the need for coordinated, trauma-informed victim-centered investigative services and legal advocacy to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual commitments contained herein, the Partners agree as follows:

1. PURPOSE

*This Memorandum of Understanding outlines the roles, responsibilities, and commitments of the parties participating in this project. The parties listed above have participated in the development of the FY 2026 Grants to Improve the Criminal Justice Response to Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking Program (ICJR) application and agree to the project narrative and budget being submitted on **August 20, 2026**.*

2. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT PARTNERS

Webb County is a local unit of government located in South Texas, with its county seat in Laredo, Texas. Through the Webb County Sheriff's Office, the County works to protect the safety of residents and support coordinated responses for victims and survivors of violence.

Casa de Misericordia Domestic Violence Shelter is a community-based victim service provider that offers services and support to individuals and families affected by domestic violence and related forms of abuse. Its role in this collaboration includes victim advocacy, education, safety planning, resource navigation, and coordination with community partners.

3. HISTORY OF COLLABORATION

The Partners have a history of working together to address the needs of victims and survivors of domestic violence and other forms of interpersonal violence in Webb County. The Webb County Sheriff's Office and Casa de Misericordia have previously collaborated on grant-funded and community-based initiatives intended to improve safety, access to services, and coordinated responses for families. This MOU reflects the Partners' continued commitment to work cooperatively in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the FY 2026 ICJR Program.

4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- *Webb County, through the Webb County Sheriff's Office, will serve as the lead applicant and fiscal agent for the Project. The Webb County Judge, or other duly authorized official, will serve as the Authorized Official for grant-related matters, subject to County policies and required approvals.*
- *Webb County will administer grant funds and coordinate fiscal, procurement, reimbursement, monitoring, and reporting activities through the appropriate County departments, including the Sheriff's Office, Auditor's Office, Budget Office, Purchasing Department, and any other applicable County offices.*
- *The Webb County Sheriff's Office Investigator will oversee functions devoted exclusively to the arrest, investigation and prosecution of cases involving domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking throughout Webb County. The Investigator will also provide consultation and guidance in the development of OVW grant-funded materials and products, including informational booklets, posters, brochures, and other outreach resources.*
- *Casa de Misericordia will provide victim legal advocacy services through its Legal Advocate. The Legal Advocate will assist victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking by providing information about their legal rights and options, assisting with protective-order-related processes, accompanying victims to court when appropriate, and connecting victims with legal, social, and community-based resources.*
- *All Partners will collaborate on the timely completion of programmatic reports, financial documentation, performance measures, reimbursement support documentation, monitoring requests, and other grant-related requirements applicable to their respective roles.*
- *All Partners will maintain appropriate confidentiality and privacy protections and will ensure that their activities are conducted in a manner consistent with applicable federal, state, and local laws; OVW requirements; and each Partner's policies and procedures.*

5. CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PROJECT

The Partners will contribute staff time, expertise, coordination, meeting participation, and in-kind resources as appropriate to fulfill the roles described in this MOU. Any compensation to Casa de Misericordia or another Partner for approved Project activities will be provided only as identified in the approved OVW budget detail worksheet, subaward agreement, contract, or other written authorization executed in accordance with Webb County and OVW requirements.

6. TIMELINE

The responsibilities and commitments described in this MOU are contingent upon Webb County receiving an OVW award under the FY 2026 ICJR Program and upon completion of all required approvals. If funded, this MOU will take effect on the grant award start date and remain in effect for the full grant award performance period, unless amended or terminated in writing by the Partners in accordance with applicable requirements.

7. COMMITMENT TO PARTNERSHIP

The collaborative service area includes Webb County, including the City of Laredo, the cities of Rio Bravo and El Cenizo, rural communities such as Aguilares, Bruni, Mirando, and Oilton, and colonia communities located throughout the unincorporated areas of Webb County, as applicable to the approved Project.

The Partners agree to work collaboratively to promote safe, accessible, and coordinated services for children, youth, and adult victims and survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, child sexual abuse, sexual assault, and/or stalking.

The Partners agree to support training, education, and coordinated response efforts intended to strengthen the capacity of court-based and court-related personnel, law enforcement personnel, victim service providers, and other appropriate stakeholders to respond effectively to the needs of victims and survivors.

The Partners are committed to planning, developing, implementing, monitoring, and sustaining the Project to the extent practicable, including exploring opportunities to continue effective practices after grant funding ends.

8. GENERAL PROVISIONS

This MOU does not create a legal partnership, joint venture, employment relationship, or agency relationship among the Partners. Each Partner remains responsible for its own personnel, policies, records, and legal obligations.

This MOU may be amended only by a written agreement signed by authorized representatives of all Partners. Any amendment is subject to applicable grant requirements and required governmental approvals.

Nothing in this MOU authorizes an expenditure of funds or a commitment of resources beyond those properly approved in writing and made available under the grant award, County budget, contract, subaward, or other applicable authorization.

9. SIGNATURES

We, the undersigned, have read and agree with this MOU. Further, we have reviewed the project proposal and budget and approve it.

Webb County Judge

Date: _____

Webb County Sheriff's Office

Date: _____

Casa de Misericordia

Date: _____

ATTEST:

Margie Ramirez-Ibarra
Webb County Clerk