

Request for Applications – Border Prosecution Unit

The Homeland Security Grants Division (HSGD) of the Governor's Office is soliciting applications for projects that prosecute border crimes during state fiscal year 2017.

Purpose: The purpose of this solicitation is to provide prosecution resources for District Attorneys along the Texas-Mexico border.

Available Funding: State funds for these projects are authorized under the Texas General Appropriations Act, Article I, Rider 19.

Funding Levels:

Minimum: \$10,000

Maximum: None

Match Requirement: None

Standards: Applicants must comply with standards applicable to this fund source cited in the State Uniform Grant Management Standards, and all statutes, requirements, and guidelines applicable to this funding.

Prohibitions: Grant funds may not be used to support the following services, activities, and costs:

- 1) inherently religious activities such as prayer, worship, religious instruction, or proselytization;
- 2) lobbying;
- 3) any portion of the salary of, or any other compensation for, an elected or appointed government official;
- 4) non-law enforcement vehicles or equipment for government agencies that are for general agency use;
- 5) weapons, ammunition, tasers, explosives or military vehicles;
- 6) admission fees or tickets to any amusement park, recreational activity or sporting event;
- 7) promotional gifts;
- 8) food, meals, beverages, or other refreshments, except for eligible per diem associated with grant-related travel or where pre-approved for working events;
- 9) any expense or service that is readily available at no cost to the grant project;
- 10) any use of grant funds to replace (supplant) funds that have been budgeted for the same purpose through non-grant sources;
- 11) membership dues for individuals;
- 12) fundraising;
- 13) construction;
- 14) medical services;
- 15) legal services for adult offenders; and
- 16) any other prohibition imposed by federal, state, or local law.

Eligible Applicants:

- 1) Counties within the Texas border region as defined by Texas Government Code 772.0071(a)(2) having a prosecuting attorney with membership in the Border Prosecution Unit as provided by Texas Government Code 772.053.
- 2) Counties that are significantly affected by border crime.

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Eligible Activities:

- 1) Prosecuting criminals charged with border crimes as defined by Texas Government Code 772.0071(a)(1);
- 2) Training to members of the unit and law enforcement agencies in the border region on specific issues and techniques relating to the investigation and prosecution of border crime.

Eligibility Requirements:

- 1) Eligible applicants must be in compliance with the Texas Administrative Code (37 TAC Chapters 221-225) and all rules established by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) regarding the training of law enforcement in Texas; or, contract or reimburse for services with training providers who meet this requirement;
- 2) In order for an applicant to be eligible, the county (or counties) in which the applicant is located must have a 90% average on both adult and juvenile criminal history dispositions reported to the Texas Department of Public Safety for calendar years 2010 through 2014. This requirement must be met by August 1, 2016;
- 3) Eligible applicants operating a law enforcement agency must be current on reporting Part I violent crime data to the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) for inclusion in the annual Uniform Crime Report (UCR). 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;
- 4) Eligible applicants must have a DUNS (Data Universal Numbering System) number assigned to its agency (to request a DUNS number, go to <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/displayHomePage.do>);
- 5) Eligible applicants must be registered in the federal System for Award Management (SAM) database located at <https://www.sam.gov/> and maintain an active registration throughout the grant period.

Project Period: Projects selected for funding with must begin on or after September 1, 2016 and expire on or before August 31, 2017.

Application Process: Applicants must access HSGD's grant management website at <https://egrants.gov.texas.gov/> to register and apply for funding. Additional requirements are included within the online application form.

Preferences: Preference will be given to specialized prosecutors to reduce backlogs and improve workloads or to rapidly address and reduce specific violations of the law.

Closing Date for Receipt of Applications: All applications must be certified via HSGD's grant management website on or before May 1, 2016 by 5:00 PM CST.

Selection Process: Applications will be reviewed by HSGD staff members or a review group selected by the director. HSGD will make all final funding decisions based on eligibility, reasonableness, availability of funding, and cost-effectiveness.

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Contact Information: If additional information is needed, contact the eGrants help desk at eGrants@gov.texas.gov or (512) 463-1919.