



Office of the Governor, Public Safety Office Criminal Justice Division Funding Announcement: *County Essential Services Grant Program, FY2021*

Purpose

The purpose of this announcement is to provide financial assistance to counties for essential public services including law enforcement services, jail services, court services, or reimbursement of extraordinary costs incurred for the investigation or prosecution of a capital murder or crimes committed because of bias or prejudice as defined in Article 104.004 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Available Funding

State funds are authorized under the Texas General Appropriations Act, Article I, Trusteed Programs within the Office of the Governor, Strategy B.1.2. All awards are subject to the availability of funds and any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law.

Eligible Organizations

Invitation Only. Applications may only be submitted by Texas counties.

Application Process

Eligible applicants must first contact CJD for prior approval to begin the application process. Please contact Andrew.Friedrichs@gov.texas.gov or (512) 463-1919.

Applicants must access the PSO's eGrants grant management website at <https://eGrants.gov.texas.gov> to register and apply for funding. For more instructions and information, see *Developing a Good Project Narrative Guide*, available [here](#).

Project Period

Project period may not exceed 12 months.

Funding Levels

Minimum: None

Maximum: None

Match Requirement: None

Standards

Grantees must comply with standards applicable to this fund source cited in the State Uniform Grant Management Standards ([UGMS](#)), [Federal Uniform Grant Guidance](#), and all statutes, requirements, and guidelines applicable to this funding.

Eligible Activities and Costs

Projects are considered on a case-by-case basis with preference given to counties seeking reimbursement for costs incurred for the investigation and/or prosecution of capital murder or crimes committed because of bias or prejudice as defined in Article 104.004 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure.

Eligible costs may include:

1. Expert witness fees and travel;
2. Trial exhibit costs;
3. Additional courtroom security;
4. Juror expenses;
5. Investigative services;
6. Court reporter fees (original transcripts only);
7. Costs associated with change of venue including detention services;
8. Prosecution costs;
9. Other costs associated with trial and prosecution of crimes under Sec. 19.03 of the Penal Code or Article 42.014 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Eligibility Requirements

1. Entities receiving funds from CJD 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 60. 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.

Beginning January 1, 2020, counties applying for grant awards from the Office of the Governor must commit that the county will report at least 90 percent of convictions within seven business days to the Criminal Justice Information System at the Department of Public Safety. By January 1, 2021, such reporting must take place within five business days.

2. 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.
3. The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) has established a goal set by the Texas Legislature for all local law enforcement agencies to implement and report crime statistics data by using the requirements of the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) no later than September 1, 2019. Additionally, the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) will collect required crime statistics solely through the NIBRS starting January 1, 2021. Due to these upcoming state and federal deadlines, grantees are advised that eligibility for future grant funding may be tied to compliance with NIBRS. Financial grant assistance for transitioning to NIBRS may be available for your jurisdiction from the Criminal Justice Division (CJD).

4. 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; or (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). 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 OOG and is active until August 31, 2021 or the end of the grant period, whichever is later.

5. Eligible applicants must have a DUNS (Data Universal Numbering System) number assigned to its agency (to request a DUNS number, go to <https://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>).
6. Eligible applicants must be registered in the federal System for Award Management (SAM) database located at <https://sam.gov/>.

Failure to comply with program eligibility requirements may cause funds to be withheld and/or suspension or termination of grant funds.

Prohibitions

Grant funds may not be used to support the unallowable costs listed in the [Guide to Grants](#) or any of the following unallowable costs:

1. Transcript copy fees;
2. Indigent defense costs;
3. Construction, renovation, or remodeling;
4. Law enforcement equipment that is standard department issue; and
5. Any other prohibition imposed by federal, state or local law or regulation.

Selection Process

Application Screening: CJD will screen all applications to ensure that they meet the requirements included in the funding announcement.

Final Decisions: Projects are considered on a case-by-case basis. The PSO executive director will consider staff recommendations along with other factors and make all final funding decisions. Other factors may include cost effectiveness, overall funds availability, state government priorities and

strategies, legislative directives, need, geographic distribution, balance of focuses and approaches, or other relevant factors.

PSO may not fund all applications or may only award part of the amount requested. In the event that funding requests exceed available funds, PSO may revise projects to address a more limited focus.

Contact Information

For more information, contact the eGrants help desk at eGrants@gov.texas.gov or (512) 463-1919.