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Agency Name: Fort Bend County

Grant/App: 1344715 **Start Date:** 9/1/2012 **End Date:** 8/31/2013

Project Title: Violence Against Women Prosecutor

Status: Pending AO Acceptance of Award

Budget Details Information

Budget Information by Budget Line Item:

CATEGORY	SUB CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	CJD	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	GPI	TOTAL	UNIT/%
Travel and Training	In-State Registration Fees, Training, and/or Travel	For Texas training and travel for State Bar approved and/or TDCAA events for the attorneys handling family violence cases. Per diem is different for individual cities. The full schedule has been uploaded with the applicable mileage and per diem rates. All lodging must be approved by the District Attorney and is typically the same location (hotel) as the actual seminar	\$7,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,000.00	0
Personnel	Prosecutor	This grant supports the Family Violence Division of the Fort Bend County DA's Office. It funds an experienced and specially trained prosecutor who handles felony domestic violence cases. This prosecutor supervises and teaches the other attorneys in the division that prosecute family violence crimes and protective order applications. Fringe benefits are included.	\$72,625.01	\$44,974.99	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$117,600.00	100

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Narrative Information

Primary Mission and Purpose

The purpose of this funding is to assist in developing and strengthening effective law enforcement, prosecution and court strategies to combat family violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking crimes against women and to develop and strengthen victim services in such cases.

Funding Levels

The anticipated funding levels for these programs are as follows:

- Minimum Award - \$5,000
- Maximum Award - None
- Grantees must provide matching funds of at least thirty-five percent (35%) of total project expenditures. This requirement may be met through either cash or in-kind contributions or a combination of both.

For more information regarding grantee match, please click on the **Budget** tab, and then click on the **Source of Match** tab in eGrants.

Note: If you voluntarily include matching funds that exceed the minimum match requirement, you will be held to that amount throughout the grant period.

Program Requirements

Preferences – Preference will be given to applicants that promote comprehensive victim restoration while incorporating an emphasis on cultural competency in underserved populations. Applicants are also encouraged to streamline administrative and reporting processes by consolidating grant requests whenever possible in lieu of submitting multiple applications.

Program Emphasis – Applicant agrees to implement comprehensive strategies that are sensitive to the concerns and safety of the victims and hold offenders accountable for their crimes. Applicants must indicate the percentage of their project that benefits Victim Services, Law Enforcement, Prosecution, Courts or other areas. Program emphasis decisions should be made based on the beneficiary of the funded activities. For example, a victim services coalition who provides training to police throughout the state would fall under the "law enforcement" category because the training is to benefit law enforcement.

Indicate the percentage (%) of your project that benefits:

Victim Services – any nonprofit, nongovernmental organization that assists victims.

0

Law Enforcement – any public agency charged with policing functions.

0

Prosecution – any public agency charged with direct responsibility for prosecuting criminal offenders.

100

Court – any civil or criminal court system.

0

Other – any initiative that indirectly affects victims (ex., developing protocols and procedures).

0

Culturally Competent Victim Restoration - Provide information in this section regarding how your organization is culturally competent when providing services to victims. Here are some guidelines to follow: Victim service providers must have the ability to blend cultural knowledge and sensitivity with victim restoration skills for a more effective and culturally appropriate recovery process. Cultural competency occurs when: (1) cultural knowledge, awareness and sensitivity are integrated into action and policy; (2) the service is relevant to the needs of the community and provided by trained staff, board members, and management; and (3) an advocate or organization recognizes each client is different with different needs, feelings, ideas and barriers. Our intake for protective orders is done through bilingual office members. Whenever possible, we provide relevant resource materials in english and spanish and also have resource materials to group we partnet with that deal with cultural specific issues that pertain to domestic violence. Examples of these groups are Asians Against Domestic Abuse and DAYA.

Forensic Medical Examination Payments – Health care facilities shall conduct a forensic medical examination of a victim of an alleged sexual assault if the victim arrived at the facility within 96 hours after the assault occurred and the victim consents to the examination. The victim is not required to participate in the investigation or prosecution of an offense as a condition of receiving a forensic medical examination, nor pay for the forensic examination or the evidence collection kit. The evidence collection portion of the exam is to be paid by law enforcement per state law. Crime Victim Compensation funds may be used to pay for the medical portion of the exam unless the victim of sexual assault is required to seek reimbursement for the examination from their insurance carrier. If a health care facility does not provide diagnosis or treatment services for sexual assault victims, the facility is required to refer the victim to a facility that provides those services.

Polygraph Testing Prohibition – A peace officer or attorney representing the state may not require an adult or child victim of an alleged sex offense to submit to a polygraph examination or other truth telling device as a condition for proceeding with the investigation of such an offense. In addition, the refusal of a victim to submit to a polygraph or other truth telling examination will not prevent the investigation, charging, or prosecution of an alleged sex offense or on the basis of the results of a polygraph examination.

Protection Orders – Victims applying for a protective order or their attorney may not bear the costs associated with the filing of an order of protections.

Judicial Notification – Offenders involved in a protection order are not allowed to possess a firearm unless the offender is a peace officer who is actively engaged in employment as a sworn, full-time paid employee of a state agency or political subdivision.

Criminal Charges - In connection with the prosecution of any misdemeanor or felony domestic violence offense, the victim may not bear the costs associated with the filing of criminal charges against a domestic violence offender, issuance or service of a warrant, or witness subpoena.

Nondisclosure of Confidential or Private Information – Personally identifying information or individual information collected in connection with services requested, utilized, or denied may not be disclosed; or, reveal individual client information without informed, written, reasonably time-limited consent of the person about whom information is sought. If release of information is compelled by statutory or court mandate, reasonable attempts to provide notice to victims affected by the disclosure of information will be made and steps necessary to protect the privacy and safety of the persons affected by the release of information will be taken.

Statewide Priorities

Applicants must address one or more of the following statewide priorities:

Improve the criminal justice system response to victims of violence against women.

Provide a brief explanation:

This grant allows for stronger prosecution of criminal domestic violence charges and protective order applications. Specifically, the grant adds a seasoned prosecutor to handle the most serious domestic violence cases while supervising the prosecutors handling the other family violence cases occurring in Fort Bend County, Texas. The grant also supports the family violence division by providing for training - typically domestic violence specific - to help our family violence prosecutors be better advocates in court.

Improve court services regarding domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

Provide a brief explanation:

Strengthen victim restoration.

Provide a brief explanation:

Increase collaboration and communication across all levels of government and among all victim services.

Provide a brief explanation:

Civil Rights Liaison

A civil rights liaison who will serve as the grantee's civil rights point of contact and who will be responsible for ensuring that the grantee meets all applicable civil rights requirements must be designated. The designee will act as the grantee's liaison in civil rights matters with CJD and with the federal Office of Justice Programs.

Enter the Name of the Civil Rights Liaison:

Kent Edwards

Enter the Address for the Civil Rights Liaison:

4520 Reading Road Rosenberg, Texas 77471

Enter the Phone Number for the Civil Rights Liaison [(999) 999-9999 x9999]:

281.341.8631

Certification

Each applicant agency will certify to the specific criteria detailed above under **Program Requirements** to be eligible for funding under the Violent Crimes Against Women Criminal Justice and Training Projects – Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, and Stalking Solicitation.

I certify to all of the above eligibility requirements.

Problem Statement:

Please provide a detailed account in the Problem Statement section of the existing issues your project will target.

Enter your problem statement:

This grant targets the issue of domestic violence in Fort Bend County, Texas. More specifically, this grants supports an existing specialized prosecution unit, namely the Family Violence Division of the Fort Bend County District Attorney's Office. Fort Bend County is one of the fastest growing counties in the United States. The population is over 600,000 and is still growing. As the population of Fort Bend County has increased over the years, the number of domestic violence cases referred has generally grown. The increase in case growth over the years can be tracked through PPRI reports from prior cycles of this continuation grant. The number of cases and courts have generally grown causing the number of court settings to increase. In addition, the need to provide training and support for law enforcement, victim advocates, and other (less senior) members of the Family Violence Division has increased.

Supporting Data:

Provide as much supporting data, to include baseline statistics and the sources of your data, which are pertinent to where the grant project is located and/or targeted. Do not use statewide data for a local problem or national data for a statewide problem.

Enter your supporting data:

As a continuation project, the unit's caseload has shown a continued, unabated, increase in both the number of cases referred for prosecution and cases actually litigated. The statistics included in PPRI's last quarterly report showed number of cases referred and filed both at or near the pace for the current grant cycle's goals.

Community Plan:

For projects that have a local or regional impact target area, provide information regarding the community plan need(s) that your project will address.

Enter your community planning needs:

Domestic Violence

Goal Statement:

Provide a brief description of the overall goals and objectives for this project.

Enter a description for the overall goals and objectives:

To successfully prosecute domestic violence offenders and procure protective orders against domestic violence offenders in Fort Bend County, Texas. By successfully prosecuting criminal cases and protective orders we increase victim safety by keeping the abuser away by 1. either a no contact condition of probation or protective order, 2. no contact with a victim via jail or prison time, or by providing counseling to abusers as a condition of either probation or a protective order.

Cooperative Working Agreement (CWA):

When a grantee intends to carry out a grant project through cooperating or participating with one or more outside organizations, the grantee must obtain authorized approval signatures on the cooperative working agreement (CWA) from each participating organization. Grantees must maintain on file a signed copy of all cooperative working agreements, and they must submit to CJD a list of each participating organization and a description of the purpose of each **CWA**. Cooperative working agreements do not involve an exchange of funds.

For this project, provide the name of the participating organization(s) and a brief description of the purpose(s) for the **CWA(s)**. You should only provide information here that this project's successful operation is contingent on for the named service or participation from the outside organization.

Note: A **Sample CWA** is available [here](#) for your convenience.

Enter your cooperating working agreement(s):

Fort Bend County Women's Center The Fort Bend County Women's Center is a longstanding partner that provides services directly to victims of domestic violence. These services include shelter, food, clothing and counseling. The also provide court accompaniment on many of our protective order cases. We provide training to their volunteers and collaborate in groups that provide training to law enforcement and other outside organizations that combat domestic violence.

Continuation Projects:

For continuation projects only, if your current or previous year's project is NOT on schedule in accomplishing the stated objectives, briefly describe the major obstacles preventing your organization from successfully reaching the project objectives as stated within your previous grant application. (Data may be calculated on a pro-rated basis depending on how long the current or previous year's project has been operating.)

Enter your current grant's progress:

Currently, the project is on target to be near it's goals regarding prosecution of criminal cases. This is remarkable considering that most of 2011 was consumed (at the felony level) with the prosecution of a murder and a capital murder case (both were family violence cases). Those two cases consumed at least five months of the year for the Family Violence Division's felony prosecutors. In addition, we lost weeks of valuable court time as the entire court system moved to Fort Bend County's new Criminal Justice Center.

Project Summary:

Briefly summarize the entire application, including the project's problem statement, supporting data, goal, target group, activities, and objectives. Be sure that the summary is easy to understand by a person not familiar with your project and that you are confident and comfortable with the information if it were to be released under a public information request.

Enter your summary statement for this project:

The project will provide support to the Family Violence Division of the Fort Bend County D.A.'s Office. The growing number of domestic violence cases being referred to this office (as shown in prior progress reports for this continuation grant) and Fort Bend County's status as one of the fastest growing countys in the United States. Additionally, the Family Violence Division also trains local law enforcement and volunteers at the Fort Bend County Women's Center. The grant allows for more training to be done for law enforcement, other prosecutors in the unit, and for volunteers at the Fort Bend County Women's Center. The program's overall target is to decrease violence against

women by holding domestic violence abusers accountable in the court system. We believe that having a well trained group of seasoned prosecutors employing an evidence based prosecution method is the best way to ensure just outcomes that enhance victim safety.

You are logged in as **User Name:** Cbridges

Bridges, Chad

From: egrants@governor.state.tx.us
Sent: Wednesday, September 05, 2012 3:11 PM
To: Werlein, Ann; Bridges, Chad; McGuire, Robin
Cc: madeline.mcgallion@h-gac.com; james.mahood@h-gac.com; larry.smith@h-gac.com
Subject: eGrants: Notification of OOG Grant Award for Grant Number: 1344715

It is a pleasure to inform you that your application for funding has been awarded!

The Office of the Governor (OOG) is working to ensure that communities throughout the state receive the resources to make Texas a safer place by creating and supporting programs that protect people from crime, reduce the number of crimes committed, and promote accountability, efficiency, and effectiveness within the criminal justice system. Your project contributes to these efforts.

See the instructions below for specific information about activating your award. Thank you for your work and best wishes for a successful project.

Instructions for Activating Your Grant

To activate your agency's grant, the Authorized Official should log on to eGrants at <https://eGrants.governor.state.tx.us>

and go to the 'My Home' page. In the 'Project Status' column, locate the application(s) marked 'Pending Acceptance of Award'. Click on the grant number and proceed to the 'Accept Award' tab. At the bottom of this page you may click the appropriate tab to 'Accept' or 'Decline' the award for your grant.