

Organization Information

Last updated: 03/19/2019

Organization

Reference ID Number	2020-00328
Legal Name of Applicant	Fort Bend County
Name of Agency Contact	Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office
Agency Contact's Telephone Number	281-341-4681

Purpose Areas (Check all that Apply)

Direct Victim Services

Outreach

Training

Mission Statement

Provide the mission statement of your organization.

It is the mission of the person employed by the Sheriff's Office of Fort Bend County to protect the lives, property and rights of all people in this County. In accomplishing this mission, Sheriff's Office employees shall be at all times courteous, impartial and diligent. In the execution of their duties, they shall be guided by those constitutional and legal principles which are the foundation of the United States of America and the State of Texas.

Description of the Organization

Provide a detailed description of the history of your organization including the purpose for which it was created.

The Sheriff's Office provides service and protection of lives, property and rights of all people located within its jurisdiction. The Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office is located in one of the most diverse and fastest growing counties in the nation. Out of an approximate population of 764,828, the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office provides service to over 360,000. The Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office was established in 1838 and employs 755 full-time employees, 3 part-time, and approximately 40 reserve deputies.

Provide a detailed description of how the organization has evolved to its current structure, this may include the scope of service, geographic areas covered, staff hierarchy, legal organization, etc.

The Sheriff’s Office is a large facility containing 15 divisions, including the Fort Bend County Detention Facility, which now has an inmate capacity of more than 1,760. The Fort Bend County Sheriff’s Office offers services in all facets of a law enforcement agency: Public Safety, Enforcement of law, Detention, Investigation, Identification, Public Information, Community Services, Communications for Police, Fire and Medical, Victim Services, Emergency Management, Law Enforcement Training Academy, Courthouse Security and the Fort Bend County Sheriff’s Office Alumni Citizens Association. The Sheriff’s Office has existing collaboration with the Fort Bend County District Attorney’s Office, four Precinct Constable Offices, eight Municipal Police Departments, The Texas Department of Public Safety, The Texas Rangers, Adult & Juvenile Probation, 11 Emergency Medical Services, 12 Fire Departments and the Texas VINE project. The Sheriff’s Office promotes victim rights and services through Public Relations, Media, Community Events and Public Presentations.

Victim Services 20

How many years has the organization been providing victim-related services or assistance?

Victim Services Work

Provide a description of the work the organization is doing on behalf of victims of crime.

Our Victim Services Division is ultimately committed to having a positive impact in providing appropriate responses to the needs of all crime victims in a timelier manner in which to avoid inflicting “secondary victimization” that often characterizes much of the plight of the victims of crime. We strive to provide assistance and support to victims throughout their entire Criminal Justice process. In addition, we continue to raise public awareness of victims’ rights and services offered through this agency to the public and law enforcement. With the addition of a Victim Liaison Assistant, through this grant, we have been successful in accomplishing our goal to help meet the needs of all crime victims.

How does this work fit into the organization's overall goals and objectives?

Services provided by our Victim Services Unit are listed as follows: Assist in contacting and providing victims with support through case disposition, referrals to counseling services, community resources and local financial aid. The liaison assists victims with securing Magistrate EPOs and safety planning; assists victims in accordance with the application process of CVC and VINE; assists in conducting presentations to the public and law enforcement to increase awareness of victim's rights and services available; attends conferences and training seminars to remain current on victim-related issues; responds to major crime scenes to provide immediate assistance to victims when needed; makes sure transportation is provided; and assists in handling phones and follow-up calls. An updated educational brochure has been created to be distributed by our first responders, stating the rights of crime victims, CVC procedures, as well as a list of resources and phone numbers available to assist crime victims.

Volunteers

Does the organization currently have a volunteer program, or plan to implement one this grant term? Yes

How many volunteers were active within the last year?	25
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Describe how the organization utilizes or plans to utilize volunteers to support the organization's mission, including any specific victim-related services.

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Describe training for volunteers including both training required prior to providing services and ongoing training conducted throughout the volunteer's service.

Most of the volunteers relied on by the Sheriff's Office Victim Liaison are trained professionals who complete their own training each year through such organizations as the Texas Victim Services Association, MADD and others.

Describe how the organization recruits and retains volunteers or plans to do so.

CVRT volunteers, relied on by the Sheriff's Office Victim Liaison Coordinator Assistant, are employed by area Law Enforcement agencies as well as charitable agencies that handle victims' needs. The organization has a considerable membership and participation from existing agencies. Its leadership is vigilant in recruiting new members from new and existing victim services-related agencies in the county.

Community Resources and Collaborations

Is collaboration with one or more outside organizations required to achieve specific project activities in the detailed implementation plan? Yes

Do these collaborations currently exist? Yes

If your organization collaborates, provide a list of the organizations, including the organization type (law enforcement agency, advocacy center, hospital, task force, etc.) the applicant collaborates with to serve victims of crime for the purpose of supporting or assisting in victim recovery.

Fort Bend County District Attorney's Office, Fort Bend County Women's Center, Federal Bureau of Investigation, all law enforcement agencies within the county, local civic organizations throughout the area (Multi-County Interagency Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Fort Bend Children's Advocacy Center) community resources and local financial aid providers, (i.e.; Salvation Army, United Way, Helping Hands, Second Mile Ministries, etc.)

Describe the benefits realized by victims of crime as a result of your organization's collaboration(s) with other organizations (if your organization collaborates) or through your organization alone (if your organization does not collaborate).

The Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office continues to build on existing relationships through constant communication and to maximize services to all crime victims with numerous organizations. The Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office Victim Services Unit works with these agencies and organizations -- quite often on a daily basis. It is our goal to build on these already existing relationships with constant public relations, assistance and support as well as participation in annual projects based on training and public awareness. We also participate in monthly collaborative meetings, which include representatives from all listed organizations, in order to make certain victims' needs are recognized and fulfilled. The liaison also is involved in a regional victim services group, Multi-County Interagency Coalition Against Sexual Assault.

STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDS 20
EXPERIENCE

How many years of experience does the organization have in managing state or federal grant funds?