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Agency Name: Fort Bend County
Grant/App: 3932402 **Start Date:** 9/1/2020 **End Date:** 8/31/2021

Project Title: Forensic Evidence Testing
Status: Application Pending Submission

Eligibility Information

Your organization's Texas Payee/Taxpayer ID Number:
17460019692080

Application Eligibility Certify:

Created on:4/28/2020 10:33:18 AM By:Chad Bridges

Profile Information

Applicant Agency Name: Fort Bend County
Project Title: Forensic Evidence Testing
Division or Unit to Administer the Project: Fort Bend County DA's Office
Address Line 1: 301 Jackson
Address Line 2:
City/State/Zip: Richmond Texas 77469-3108
Start Date: 9/1/2020
End Date: 8/31/2021

Regional Council of Governments(COG) within the Project's Impact Area: Houston-Galveston Area Council

Headquarter County: Fort Bend
Counties within Project's Impact Area: Fort Bend

Grant Officials:

Authorized Official

Name: KP George
Email: county.judge@fortbendcountytexas.gov
Address 1: 301 Jackson Street
Address 1: Office of the County Judge
City: Richmond, Texas 77469
Phone: 281-341-8608 Other Phone: 281-633-7769
Fax: 832-471-1858
Title: The Honorable
Salutation: Judge
Position: County Judge

Financial Official

Name: Robert Sturdivant
Email: Accounting@fortbendcountytexas.gov
Address 1: 309 S. 4th Street, Suite 533
Address 1:
City: Richmond, Texas 77469
Phone: 281-341-3760 Other Phone: 281-341-3769
Fax: 281-341-3774
Title: Mr.
Salutation: Mr.
Position: County Auditor

Project Director

Name: Mark Hanna
Email: mark.hanna@fortbendcountytexas.gov
Address 1: 301 Jackson Street

Address 1: Suite 101
City: Richmond, Texas 77469
Phone: 281-238-4460 Other Phone:
Fax:
Title: Mr.
Salutation: Deputy Chief
Position: Deputy Chief - Felony Divison, Fort Bend County DA

Grant Writer

Name: Chad Bridges
Email: Chad.Bridges@fortbendcountytexas.gov
Address 1: 301 Jackson
Address 1:
City: Richmond, Texas 77469
Phone: 281-341-3353 Other Phone: 832-867-0471
Fax: 281-238-3340
Title: Mr.
Salutation: Mr.
Position: Assistant District Attorney

Grant Vendor Information

Organization Type: County
Organization Option: applying to provide services to all others
Applicant Agency's State Payee Identification Number (e.g., Federal Employer's Identification (FEI) Number or Vendor ID): 17460019692080
Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS): 081497075

Narrative Information

Introduction

The District Attorney Testing of Forensic Evidence Grant Program provides reimbursement to district attorney offices for costs associated with forensic analysis of physical evidence.

Please read the funding [announcement](#) for program rules and application guides and review the *Guide to Grants* available at [CJD's resources webpage](#) - for standard rules and conditions the applicant agrees to when certifying an application. For more instructions and information, see Developing a Good Project Narrative Guide, available [here](#).

Certifications

In addition to the requirements found in existing statute, regulation, and the funding announcement, this program requires applicant organizations to certify compliance with the following:

Constitutional Compliance

Applicant assures that it will not engage in any activity that violates Constitutional law including profiling based upon race.

Texas Forensic Science Commission Accreditation

Applicant assures that it will only utilize accredited laboratories that comply with state regulations and rules for accreditation, including forensic analyst licensing for mandatory disciplines, promulgated by the Texas Forensic Science Commission in the *Texas Administrative Code, Title 37, Part 15, Chapter 651*.

DNA Testing of Evidentiary Materials

When funds are used for DNA testing of evidentiary materials, any resulting eligible DNA profiles must be uploaded to the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) by a government DNA lab with access to CODIS.

Criminal History Reporting

Entities receiving funds from PSO 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 66*. 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. Click [here](#) for additional information from DPS on this new reporting requirement.

Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR)

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.

Conversion to National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS)

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). Additionally, the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) will collect required crime statistics solely through the NIBRS starting January 1, 2021. Due to this federal deadline, 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 Public Safety Office.

Compliance with State and Federal Laws, Programs and Procedures

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.

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:

Frances Desmond

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

281.341.7769

Enter the Address for the Civil Rights Liaison:

301 Jackson Richmond, Texas 77469

Each applicant agency must certify to the specific requirements detailed above as well as to comply with all requirements within the PSO Funding Announcement, the *Guide to Grants*, the *Grantee Conditions and Responsibilities*, any authorizing or applicable state and federal statutes and regulations to be eligible for this program.

X I certify to all of the application content & requirements.

Project Abstract :

This project is called the Expedited Narcotics Docket. This application seeks reimbursement of expedited narcotics testing for smaller felony drug possession offenses on the Fort Bend County Expedited Narcotics Docket. These offenses specifically exclude delivery offenses, and the Fort Bend County Board of District Judges has approved a direct file order (unofficial copy of the meeting minutes uploaded) that will put low-level narcotics cases on a compressed timetable for disposition. The goal of this project is to use a specialized docket with a visiting judge to speed up dispositions of these cases. The goal is a disposition in 90-120 days with a tailored treatment plan. If the defendant will not accept the treatment option, the judge will send the case and its associated lab report back to the original district court for an immediate trial setting. The desired outcome is to move small drug cases to disposition with quicker, more customized treatment options, while clearing dockets (particularly trial dockets) for the Fort Bend County District Courts to try higher-degree felony jury trials like sexual assaults, burglary of habitations, and robberies. We also believe that those charged with low-level drug possession will be more likely to take responsibility and accept treatment options when those options are offered closer to the time of arrest, rather than 18 months or longer later. We intend to send cases from this docket to the NMS for expedited testing. It will be qualitative testing by gas chromatograph. A copy of their fee schedule has been uploaded. The test we are using is listed as 22000 on the schedule and costs is \$120 per test. Based on the volume of state jail felony and third degree narcotics cases received in the last year and since the start of this year, we anticipate anywhere from 400 cases will qualify annually. However, this number is roughly based on current results during the pandemic.

Problem Statement :

We cannot move these cases to a disposition (either plea or trial) without a lab test. DPS typically takes six to nine months to return results. By the time we receive the lab report back from DPS, the window of opportunity has closed to get willing defendants for disposition with tailored treatment options on the Expedited Narcotics Docket. The backlog of small possession cases will continue to clog district court dockets and divert resources away from crimes with victims.

Supporting Data :

We started the program last December starting small. As of May 6, 2020, we had 82 active cases, 9 defendants on pre-trial diversions and 3 on deferred adjudication. As we got fully underway, our dockets were disrupted by the COVID-19 situation. As we move out of the pandemic we are sending seized narcotics for defendants from this caseload to expedited testing.

Project Approach & Activities:

The goal of the program is to identify issues in each case that can be addressed with either substance abuse treatment or through other community services that can help prevent the individual from engaging in criminal behavior. The screening tools this docket will use include The Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory (SASSI), Texas Christian University Drug Screen 5 and the Texas Risk Assessment System (TRAS). We will also

screen individuals to determine the need for mental health services, educational and vocational services, and housing needs. The program will utilize the Texas Work Force Commission, the Literacy Council of Fort Bend, Texas State Technical College, Wharton County Junior College, and the Fort Bend County Behavioral Health Department. The program will use Fort Bend Regional Council, Turning Point and Bay Area Recovery for substance abuse treatment and Texana, the Local Mental Health Authority, for mental health treatment.

Capacity & Capabilities:

Fort Bend County has a well developed criminal justice system that already includes specialty courts and specialized dockets. The Court will be staffed with deputy district clerks, assistant public defenders, staff from Fort Bend County Community Supervision and Corrections Department (CSCD), assistant district attorneys, a visiting judge from the 11th Administrative Judicial Region (Judge Susan Brown), and all the other court staff necessary to run the docket. The specialized docket will be handled in the 458th District Court's courtroom at the Fort Bend County Justice Center. We are committed to having recovery coaches and other community services available for those who wish to accept responsibility and begin a treatment program.

Performance Management :

The overall goals are to quickly evaluate and appropriately place low-level drug offenders that are willing to accept responsibility in an individualized treatment program on an expedited basis. The docket will match needs to resources for those who remain on the docket during supervision and appropriately place other offenders in drug court, mental health court, veteran's court, inpatient treatment or whatever diagnostic testing the Fort Bend County CSCD indicates is appropriate.

Target Group :

The Expedited Narcotics Docket targets defendants with low level felony narcotics cases for quick disposition with tailored treatment options. These cases will be moved to a specialized docket to allow more resources for District Court Judges to try other higher degree violent offenses.

Evidence-Based Practices:

The process the Expedited Narcotics Docket uses mirrors the successful re-integration court model employed in Harris County. The use of customized treatment options applied after pre-disposition assessment led to lower recidivism for individuals with small drug offenses. The information supplied by Dr. Teresa May, the Director of Harris County CSCD, documents the process proven results. Dr. May's report has been uploaded.

Project Activities Information

Introduction

This section contains questions about your project. It is very important for applicants to review their funding announcement for guidance on how to fill out this section. Unless otherwise specified, answers should be about the EXPECTED activities to occur during the project period.

Selected Project Activities:

ACTIVITY	PERCENTAGE:	DESCRIPTION
Crime Lab/Forensics	100.00	Reimbursement for forensic testing of felony narcotics cases assigned to the Expedited Narcotics Docket.

CJD Purpose Areas

PERCENT DEDICATED	PURPOSE AREA	PURPOSE AREA DESCRIPTION
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Measures Information

Objective Output Measures

OUTPUT MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
Document Examination: Number of pieces of evidence processed.	0
Firarms/Toolmarks: Number of pieces of evidence processed.	0
Forensic Biology: Number of pieces of evidence processed.	0
Material (Trace): Number of pieces of evidence processed.	0
Other: Number of pieces of evidence processed.	0
Seized Drugs: Number of pieces of evidence processed.	600
Toxicology: Number of pieces of evidence processed.	0

Objective Outcome Measures

OUTCOME MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
Number of exonerations where grant-funded evidence was tested.	0
Number of pieces of evidence used in trials conducted.	0
Number of plea bargains obtained where grant-funded evidence was tested.	250
Number of successful convictions where grant-funded evidence was tested.	0

Custom Output Measures

CUSTOM OUTPUT MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
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Custom Outcome Measures

CUSTOM OUTCOME MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
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Resolution from Governing Body

Applications from nonprofit corporations, local units of governments, and other political subdivisions must include a [resolution](#) that contains the following:

1. Authorization by your governing body for the submission of the application to the Public Safety Office (PSO) that clearly identifies the name of the project for which funding is requested;
2. A commitment to provide all applicable matching funds;
3. A designation of the name and/or title of an authorized official who is given the authority to apply for, accept, reject, alter, or terminate a grant (Note: If a name is provided, you must update the PSO should the official change during the grant period.); and
4. A written assurance that, in the event of loss or misuse of grant funds, the governing body will return all funds to PSO.

Upon approval from your agency's governing body, upload the [approved](#) resolution to eGrants by clicking on the **Upload Files** sub-tab located in the **Summary** tab.

Contract Compliance

Will PSO grant funds be used to support any contracts for professional services?

Select the appropriate response:

- Yes
 No

For applicant agencies that selected **Yes** above, describe how you will monitor the activities of the sub-contractor(s) for compliance with the contract provisions (including equipment purchases), deliverables, and all applicable statutes, rules, regulations, and guidelines governing this project.

Enter a description for monitoring contract compliance:

Our County Auditor will monitor costs as they do for all DA's Office expenditures and requests for reimbursement.

Lobbying

For applicant agencies requesting grant funds in excess of \$100,000, have any federally appropriated funds been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any federal contract, the making of any federal grant, the making of any federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any federal contract, grant loan, or cooperative agreement?

Select the appropriate response:

- Yes
 No
 N/A

For applicant agencies that selected either **No** or **N/A** above, have any non-federal funds been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress in connection with this federal contract, loan, or cooperative agreement?

Select the appropriate response:

- Yes
 No
 N/A

Fiscal Year

Provide the begin and end date for the applicant agency's fiscal year (e.g., 09/01/20xx to 08/31/20xx).

Enter the Begin Date [mm/dd/yyyy]:

10/1/2020

Enter the End Date [mm/dd/yyyy]:

9/30/2021

Sources of Financial Support

Each applicant must provide the amount of grant funds expended during the most recently completed fiscal year for the following sources:

Enter the amount (in Whole Dollars \$) of Federal Grant Funds expended:

552446435

Enter the amount (in Whole Dollars \$) of State Grant Funds expended:

6591299

Single Audit

Applicants who expend less than \$750,000 in federal grant funding or less than \$750,000 in state grant funding are exempt from the Single Audit Act and cannot charge audit costs to a PSO grant. However, PSO may require a limited scope audit as defined in 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart F - Audit Requirements.

Has the applicant agency expended federal grant funding of \$750,000 or more, or state grant funding of \$750,000 or more during the most recently completed fiscal year?

Select the appropriate response:

- Yes
 No

Applicant agencies that selected **Yes** above, provide the date of your organization's last annual single audit, performed by an independent auditor in accordance with the State of Texas Single Audit Circular; or CFR Part 200, Subpart F - Audit Requirements.

Enter the date of your last annual single audit:

3/31/2019

Debarment

Each applicant agency will certify that it and its principals (as defined in 2 CFR Part 180.995):

- Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, sentenced to a denial of Federal benefits by a State or Federal Court, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any federal department or agency;
- Have not within a three-year period preceding this application been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (federal, state, or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of federal or state antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property; or
- Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (federal, state, or local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in the above bullet; and have not within a three-year period preceding this application had one or more public transactions (federal, state, or local) terminated for cause or default.

Select the appropriate response:

- I Certify
 Unable to Certify

If you selected **Unable to Certify** above, please provide an explanation as to why the applicant agency cannot certify the statements.

Fiscal Capability Information

Section 1: Organizational Information

*** FOR PROFIT CORPORATIONS ONLY ***

Enter the following values in order to submit the application

Enter the Year in which the Corporation was Founded: 0

Enter the Date that the IRS Letter Granted 501(c)(3) Tax Exemption Status: 01/01/1900

Enter the Employer Identification Number Assigned by the IRS: 0

Enter the Charter Number assigned by the Texas Secretary of State: 0

Enter the Year in which the Corporation was Founded:

Enter the Date that the IRS Letter Granted 501(c)(3) Tax Exemption Status:

Enter the Employer Identification Number Assigned by the IRS:

Enter the Charter Number assigned by the Texas Secretary of State:

Section 2: Accounting System

The grantee organization must incorporate an accounting system that will track direct and indirect costs for the organization (general ledger) as well as direct and indirect costs by project (project ledger). The grantee must establish a time and effort system to track personnel costs by project. This should be reported on an hourly basis, or in increments of an hour.

Is there a list of your organization's accounts identified by a specific number (i.e., a general ledger of accounts)?

Select the appropriate response:

Yes

No

Does the accounting system include a project ledger to record expenditures for each Program by required budget cost categories?

Select the appropriate response:

Yes

No

Is there a timekeeping system that allows for grant personnel to identify activity and requires signatures by the employee and his or her supervisor?

Select the appropriate response:

Yes

No

If you answered 'No' to any question above in the Accounting System section, in the space provided below explain what action will be taken to ensure accountability.

Enter your explanation:

Section 3: Financial Capability

Grant agencies should prepare annual financial statements. At a minimum, current internal balance sheet and income statements are required. A balance sheet is a statement of financial position for a grant agency disclosing assets, liabilities, and retained earnings at a given point in time. An income statement is a summary of revenue and expenses for a grant agency during a fiscal year.

Has the grant agency undergone an independent audit?

Select the appropriate response:

Yes

No

Does the organization prepare financial statements at least annually?

Select the appropriate response:

Contractual and Professional Services	Non-DNA Forensic Testing	Reimbursement for expedited forensic testing of seized narcotics in cases assigned to the Fort bend county Expedited Narcotics Docket. The unit cost is \$300 for expedited testing at HFSC (unless it is a case from Houston PD). The 30k requests gets us 100 expedited tests in non-HPD cases.	\$30,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30,000.00	0
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Source of Match Information

Detail Source of Match/GPI:

DESCRIPTION	MATCH TYPE	AMOUNT
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Summary Source of Match/GPI:

Total Report	Cash Match	In Kind	GPI Federal Share	GPI State Share
\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Budget Summary Information

Budget Summary Information by Budget Category:

CATEGORY	OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	GPI	TOTAL
Contractual and Professional Services	\$30,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30,000.00

Budget Grand Total Information:

OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	GPI	TOTAL
\$30,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30,000.00

Condition Of Fundings Information

Condition of Funding / Project Requirement	Date Created	Date Met	Hold Funds	Hold Line Item Funds
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You are logged in as **User Name:** KPGeorge