



SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Fort Bend County, Texas

ERIC FAGAN
Sheriff

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To: Administrator,
Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention

Re: Letter of Commitment for Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Program – Second Chance Act
Addressing the Needs of Incarcerated Parents and Their Minor Children (OJJDP –2022-171233)

As Sheriff of the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office, I am pleased to write this letter of support of the Fort Bend County (FBC) proposal to the OJJDP for funding under the *FY 2022 Second Chance Act Addressing the Needs of Incarcerated Parents and Their Minor Children*.

Fort Bend County is one of the fastest growing counties in the United States with a current population of approximately 882,509, and one of the most ethnically diverse counties in all of America. As the population grows, so does the number of children and families involved in our justice systems. We know that without services and support, incarcerated parents and their children are more likely to become involved in the criminal justice system and have poorer outcomes, including educational, mental health, and substance abuse problems.

We support Fort Bend County Behavioral Health Services' application to develop and implement a coordinated system for the provision of programs and services that support the needs of incarcerated parents and their children. We understand and support this work that strives to reduce crime and recidivism, while improving outcomes for the children of incarcerated parents, by mitigating the adverse effects of parental incarceration and providing services that support the parent-child relationship. This program builds on the work that has been done in Fort Bend County by the Sheriff's Office, Behavioral Health Services Department, courts, juvenile probation department, behavioral health providers, and many others to reduce the number of individuals in our justice system and to connect them to the needed services.

Fort Bend County has a long history of working with other county partners to address the needs of children and adults that become involved in our legal system. The requested funding would provide a significant opportunity to focus and intervene on an "at risk" population, mitigate the negative impact of having a parent that is incarcerated, enhance a parent's ability and responsibility to care for their children, and break the intergenerational cycle of criminality.

We are pleased to be a partner, participate, and support this needed work that clearly addresses a significant gap in current systems and services. As Sheriff of the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office, I can assure you that we will play a key role in the planning and implementation of this project and will gather data and information and assist with program development.

Sincerely,

Eric Fagan, Sheriff

Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office