

[Print This Page](#)**Agency Name:** Fort Bend County**Grant/App:** 4937301 **Start Date:** 9/1/2024 **End Date:** 8/31/2025**Project Title:** Bullet-Resistant Shield Grant Program, FY2025**Status:** Application Pending Submission**Profile Information****Applicant Agency Name:** Fort Bend County**Project Title:** Bullet-Resistant Shield Grant Program, FY2025**Division or Unit to Administer the Project:** Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office**Address Line 1:** 301 Jackson Street**Address Line 2:****City/State/Zip:** Richmond Texas 77469-3108**Start Date:** 9/1/2024**End Date:** 8/31/2025**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:** Mandy Lesko**Email:** accounting@fortbendcountytexas.gov**Address 1:** 301 Jackson St**Address 1:** Suite 701**City:** Richmond, Texas 77469**Phone:** 281-344-3951 Other Phone:**Fax:****Title:** Ms.**Salutation:** Ms.**Position:** Accountant**Project Director****Name:** Manuel Zamora**Email:** Manuel.Zamora@fortbendcountytexas.gov**Address 1:** 1840 Richmond Pkwy**Address 1:**

**City:** Richmond, Texas 77469

**Phone:** 281-341-4616 Other Phone: 281-725-7013

**Fax:**

**Title:** Mr.

**Salutation:** Major

**Position:** Executive Major

**Grant Writer**

**Name:** Elizabeth Signorotti

**Email:** elizabeth.signorotti@fortbendcountytexas.gov

**Address 1:** 1840 Richmond Parkway

**Address 1:**

**City:** Richmond, Texas 77469

**Phone:** 281-341-8573 Other Phone:

**Fax:**

**Title:** Ms.

**Salutation:** Dr.

**Position:** Grant Coordinator

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



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## **Narrative Information**

### **Introduction**

The Bullet-Resistant Shield Grant Program equips law enforcement officers at risk of shootings with bullet-resistant shields.

### **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.

**Active Shooter Policy**

All eligible organizations that apply for grant funds will ensure its law enforcement agency adopts a Critical Incidents In-Progress (Active Shooter) policy implementing, at a minimum, protocols for assessing an active threat or violent encounter and immediately responding in order to stop the killing, stop the dying, and provide rapid casualty evacuation. The policy should include procedures that address:

- Concepts and Principles
- Community/First Responder Agency Notifications
- Mutual Aid Implementation
- Solo Officer Deployment
- Officer Team Deployment
- Follow-On Responders (Rescue Task Force)
- Incident Command - Unified Command Considerations
- Incident Debriefing
- Training

**ALERT Training**

All officers provided with a grant funded ballistic shield must have either attended 16 hours of ALERT (Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training) within the last 24 months or commit to attend within the next 24 months. ALERT's upcoming course catalog can be found here: <https://alert.org/Upcoming>.

**NIJ Ballistic Shield Standards**

Applicant assures that shields purchased with grant funds will comply with the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Level III, III+, or IV.

**Cybersecurity Training Requirement**

Local units of governments must comply with the Cybersecurity Training requirements described in Section 772.012 and Section 2054.5191 of the Texas Government Code. Local governments determined to not be in compliance with the cybersecurity requirements required by Section 2054.5191 of the Texas Government Code are ineligible for OOG grant funds until the second anniversary of the date the local government is determined ineligible. Government entities must annually certify their compliance with the training requirements using the [Cybersecurity Training Certification for State and Local Government](#). A copy of the Training Certification must be uploaded to your eGrants application. For more information or to access available training programs, visit the [Texas Department of Information Resources Statewide Cybersecurity Awareness Training](#) page.

**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.

Counties applying for grant awards from the Office of the Governor must commit that the county will report at least 90% of convictions within five business days to the Criminal Justice Information System at the Department of Public Safety.

**Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR)**

Eligible applicants operating a law enforcement agency must be current on reporting complete UCR data and the Texas specific reporting mandated by 411.042 TGC, to the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) for inclusion in the annual Crime in Texas (CIT) publication. 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 by the



deadline(s) established by DPS. Due to the importance of timely reporting, applicants are required to submit complete and accurate UCR data, as well as the Texas-mandated reporting, on a no less than monthly basis and respond promptly to requests from DPS related to the data submitted.

### **Entities That Collect Sexual Assault/Sex Offense Evidence or Investigate/Prosecute Sexual Assault or Other Sex Offenses**

In accordance with Texas Government Code, Section 420.034, any facility or entity that collects evidence for sexual assault or other sex offenses or investigates or prosecutes a sexual assault or other sex offense for which evidence has been collected, must participate in the statewide electronic tracking system developed and implemented by the Texas Department of Public Safety. Visit DPS's [Sexual Assault Evidence Tracking Program](#) website for more information or to set up an account to begin participating. Additionally, per Section 420.042 "A law enforcement agency that receives evidence of a sexual assault or other sex offense...shall submit that evidence to a public accredited crime laboratory for analysis no later than the 30th day after the date on which that evidence was received." A law enforcement agency in possession of a significant number of Sexual Assault Evidence Kits (SAEK) where the 30-day window has passed may be considered noncompliant.

### **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 PSO and is active until August 31, 2025 or the end of the grant period, whichever is later.

### **Overall Certification**

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 :**

Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office (FBCSO) seeks to continue serving as the regional project lead applicant for the Office of the Governor, Public Safety Office's Bullet-Resistant Shield Grant Program. In 2023, FBCSO received a generous award under this grant which allowed us to initiate the project and equip 47 law enforcement officers in the Sheriff's Office and three (3) Precinct Constable Offices. This application is to acquire the remaining 70 NIJ Level III bullet-resistant shields to equip the remaining deputies with the Sheriff's and Constable Offices and complete the project, which had an original request of 117 shields to be shared among the four (4) agencies. All project participants will undergo ALERRT training every 24 months in preparation for active shooter events in any of Fort Bend County's 212 public and 79 private schools. AND COLLEGES? Training will continue to be provided at our regional Gus George Law Enforcement Academy, certified by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE). FBCSO's Regional Collaboration includes the purchase of an additional 70 Vanguard shields with reinforced viewports, shooting platforms, solid handle systems, hook and loop forearm attachment systems, and a reinforced "Bolt System" for added protection.



These shields offer head and torso coverage, and due to their light weight (17.4 lbs. each), ease of mobility in complex, tightly coupled, and dynamic active shooter events. FBCSO has an authorized strength of more than 600 sworn peace officers serving our approximately 900,000 county residents, and at least 95% are already ALERRT trained. A large percentage are also AAIR trained as well. The precinct Constable offices have 70+ sworn personnel, making for a robust combined response team that will have vital protective equipment readily available for rapid deployment. All personnel that have access to these bullet-resistant shields will undergo, or will have already undergone within the previous 24 months, ALERRT training, and remain current on ALERRT and other tactical trainings every 24 months, per the condition of this funding. As response teams to active shooter situations are often ad hoc, comprised of those peace officers who can respond most quickly, it is imperative that all personnel be trained in the most current and uniform best practices for use of hand-held ballistic shields, stacking techniques, close-quarter use and perimeter-use, and proper shield storage. FBCSO's Regional Collaboration will have available to law enforcement personnel dispersed throughout our 862 square mile county this "body bunker" shield equipment that provides critical cover both indoors and outdoor, equipment essential for deputies' safety when neutralizing an active shooter and providing cover to safely extricate students. FBCSO's Regional Collaboration supports our agencies' first responders in protecting more than 200,000 Fort Bend County students in 291 public and private schools. Colleges Our Collaboration supports five Independent School Districts (ISD), one Municipal (MSD) and one Consolidated ISD. Of these, four have their own police units: Katy, Fort Bend, and Needville ISDs, and Lamar CISD. Their combined total of District sworn personnel is approximately 183. Our Regional Collaboration provides tactical support to these School District law enforcement officers and to the ISDs and public schools with no assigned officers/units.

### **Problem Statement :**

U.S. News & World Report (Wolf, 2024) states that 2023 saw 346 school shootings, with Texas' 23 shootings ranking third to California's and Ohio's 25 each. This means that Texas averaged close to two shootings per month. Education Week reports that 2023 "was the second highest for any year since [they] began tracking in 2018" (Lieberman, Kim & Peele, 2023). Data published in 2022 by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the FBI has led some researchers to conclude that the "rate of active shooter events appears to be increasing" (Blair and Duron, 2022). Despite school shootings being characterized as "rare" by other researchers, "in terms of mass victim school shootings, recent research shows that the U.S. has witnessed more such attacks in the last 18 years than in the entire 20th century" (Freilich, et al., 2022). Additionally, from July 2009 to June 2018, multiple-victim incidence rates in school shootings "increased significantly" (Holland, 2019). The May 2022 shooting at Robb Elementary in Uvalde is one example of this increasing rate of multiple-victim events. Texas ranked second behind California in 2023 for mass shootings, defined as "a shooting where three or more people were killed" (Statistica, 2024). It is a vast region with statutes that promote firearms ownership and has few restrictions on red flags, private gun sales and transfers, and few limitations on open carry. These factors place us at considerable risk for school shootings and mass casualty events. As of 2020, there was no single-point of data collection on incidents of school violence, frequency, location, trends in violent crime, geography, or temporality, thus the picture is incomplete, and much of the research now being produced results from culling open-source data (Frederique, 2020) conducted by groups of researchers with differing optics informing their conclusions, leading to bias, a limitation researchers themselves acknowledge (Freilich, et al., 2022). Though the consensus among most researchers is that "trends in violence and victimization at school reveal that levels of overall violence declined from 1992 to 2017" (Frederique 2020), school violence is real and not fully understood. Since 2017, which had 59 school shootings, the incidents have increased dramatically. In 2021 there were 256 incidents with 44 killed; in 2022, 308 incidents with 71 killed; and in 2023, 346 incidents with 57 killed (U.S. News, Jan. 5, 2024). Further complicating the picture, a comprehensive study on school violence published by the Secret Service and Department of Education's Comprehensive Safe School Initiative generated 10 key findings, one of which is that "There is no accurate or useful 'profile' of students who engaged in targeted school violence. . . . Although all of the attackers in this study were boys, there is no set of traits that described all-or even most-of the attackers" (Vossekuil et al., 2004). Freilich, et al. (2022) has also echoed this absence of fixed shooter profile, other than they are majority male. The Nashville trans shooter Audrey Hale serves as a possible exception. The nature and the scope of the underlying problem, then, is that given the lack of consensus among researchers interpreting the data, the public perception about school safety, the massive number of students currently attending U.S. schools, the shortage of teachers, the effects of the global pandemic on students' mental health, a shortage of law enforcement officers, the "defund the police" movement that is resulting in dramatic budget cuts, and the perpetuation of negative attitudes by media outlets toward law enforcement, which further puts



LE at risk, we are at an inflection point. Our law enforcement personnel must have access to the equipment, training, and support they need to do their jobs with a relative degree of safety. FBCSO responded to the 2022 Uvalde shooting by having any Deputy not assigned to a call visit ISD schools to walk the perimeter, check for locked doors, and look for suspicious activities and vulnerabilities. These Deputies are outfitted with soft vests, which can offer protection against pistol rounds, but only a few have bullet-resistant shields that can withstand a high-powered rifle round, such as was used at Uvalde, Nashville, and in the October 2023 shooting in Lewiston, Maine. These high-powered AR-style rifles appear to be the weapon of choice among mass shooters, with the Nashville shooter also using an arm brace. Though better equipped than prior to the 2023 award for shields, our first responders are not uniformly equipped gear-wise to respond with a reasonable level of protection themselves or while offering backup to ISD Police units. As our jurisdiction is the entire County, and because all 911 calls come through FBCSO's 911 Dispatch, which received 565,600 calls for service in 2023, regardless of where the event may occur in the County, SO and Precinct Deputies will be first responders.

### **Supporting Data :**

According to the U.S. Census, Fort Bend County (FBC) is one of the fastest growing counties in the United States and is projected to reach 1.8 million residents by 2050 (Woods & Poole, 2021). In addition to individuals and families moving to FBC from out of state, we also are gaining population spillover from densely populated Harris County, which in 2023 had only slightly less violent crime than 2022, which had the highest rates in the nation according to the FBI 2022 Uniform Crime Reporting Program. Fort Bend County appears a safer alternative for individuals and families. While our overall population is growing, our student population is growing, and new schools are being constructed to accommodate this growth, our law enforcement (LE) personnel is declining in numbers. LE agencies and officers are forced to do more with less due to fewer sworn officers and slashed operating budgets. These circumstances have resulted in the reduction if not disappearance of specialized teams whose principal objective is to prepare for and respond to critical incident and mass casualty events. Thus, all LE must now be trained and prepared to respond to force-on-force engagements such as school shootings, and importantly, they must be properly equipped to do their jobs, which is to stay alive so they can locate, isolate, and neutralize the ongoing threat and preserve student life. FBC currently has seven Independent, Municipal, and Consolidated Independent School Districts (ISD, MSD, and CISD, respectively), with a combined student population of approximately 206,000. (There are inconsistencies in reported student numbers, so this is a best approximation after considering numerous sources.) Current data show there are 79 private schools in the County, with approximately 10,000 students. Four of the C/ISDs employ an approximate total of 183 of their own police officers, assigned to a combined total of 201 schools. This averages to 0.9 LE per school, many of which are large and not geographically close, and does not account for those schools without a dedicated police unit. Considering these numbers, to protect all schools in Fort Bend County, we will need a large number of widely dispersed first responders in the event of school violence, and considering that FBCSO is the largest law enforcement agency in the County with four locations throughout (one headquarters and three annexes), our ongoing collaboration with the three Constable Offices in fortifying response efforts strengthens the County's overall ability to respond. But absent the proper protective equipment in sufficient numbers—bullet-resistant shields that can withstand the impact of .223 rounds, increasingly the round of choice for school shooters—we risk the loss of valuable life, LE and student alike. It is impossible to predict where a school shooting or mass casualty event will occur. Though researchers seek to determine temporal trends and geographic context for school shootings, "where school shootings tend to concentrate remains ambiguous," though some studies conclude that school shootings map to incidence of violent street crime, which occurs "disproportionately in the West and South" (Freilich et al., 2022). In addition, mass school violence tends to occur more frequently in suburban or rural schools, suggesting population "heterogeneity" (Kaufman et al., 2012; Shultz et al., 2013). Fort Bend County is classified as a generally suburban county, with large areas considered rural, and as of 2024, we rank first as the most diverse—or heterogeneous—county in Texas (stacker.com) and third most diverse the U.S., up from fifth in 2021 (niche.com). If the informal "risk matrix" of school violence occurring with higher frequency in suburban or rural schools with heterogeneous populations holds true, then predictive analytics would indicate that Fort Bend County schools are at higher risk than others not aligning with these criteria. As stated elsewhere, our County population is growing disproportionate to law enforcement's ability to keep pace. The more first responders we can prepare with equipment and scenario-based training, the better the potential outcome in the event that school violence occurs in Fort Bend County. FBCSO's Regional Collaboration with our Precinct Constable Offices is a coordinated force multiplier. It increases the odds of stopping an act of school violence swiftly and minimizing loss of life. If awarded additional funding for bullet-resistant shields, our agencies will be better



protected to engage and neutralize the shooter, to provide support to other first responders, and to shield students as they are moved to safety.

### **Project Approach & Activities:**

FBCSO's Regional Collaboration under this grant funding will continue to employ a cooperative and collaborative approach to training and response to active shooter events at schools and wherever else they may occur. Our philosophy is that cooperation and coordination results in a more efficient, effective, and robust response to crises. By general definition, the Sheriff Office's jurisdiction is county-wide and involves enforcement of the law, whereas the Constable Offices have jurisdictions within particular sections of the county, and their primary function is largely performing civil activities. However, Precinct Deputies are sworn officers with the same training and qualifications as SO Deputies, and given the current milieu—the dearth of LE personnel—it is important to partner with agencies throughout our County and capitalize on each other's strengths and knowledge of the County, its demographics, and its schools, among other things. More than 95% of FBCSO's sworn personnel are ALERRT trained, and of the 70+ Precinct Deputies, more than 50% are already trained. The SO and Constables understand the importance of remaining up-to-date on trainings for better preparation and response in any given situation, and we also understand that our own training not only benefits the citizens of Fort Bend County, but protects LE Deputies themselves. Training in groups and/or as a team is also imperative to effective deployment and utilization of bullet-resistant shields. The ALERRT-trained deputies of the SO have trained with CO Deputies and other LEOs from the Houston-Galveston Area Council (13 county region) at the FBCSO Gus George Regional Law Enforcement Academy. FBCSO Command Staff reviewed the specifications of a number of bullet-resistant shield options, and their selection of shield is based on the following: NIJ compliance under this funding opportunity; shield quality; shield size (full head and torso coverage for the average-sized deputy); reinforced viewport (to obviate the need to lean around the shield and risk exposure); shooting platform (for stability when shooting); and lightweight. Shield weight is a significant factor because "all other things being equal, a lighter shield is safer and easier to use" (Fletcher, 2022). Running with and holding a heavy shield can cause the operator to fatigue, making it "more likely the shield will drop down, exposing officers to potential danger" (Fletcher, 2022). Though lighter shields are more expensive than their heavier counterparts, they offer increased maneuverability for deputies of all sizes, which is priceless when fractions of seconds matter. Under this funding, the following activities will take place: 1) SO and Constable Offices (CO) will ensure all field personnel are aware of our Critical Incidents In-Progress (Active Shooter) policy implementing the protocols outlined in the NOFO. 2) SO will purchase 70 lightweight Level III bullet-resistant shields. 3) Command staff at the SO and the CO will determine how best to allocate additional shields for maximum shift coverage during school hours especially. 4) SO/CO will ensure that all who have access to shields are ALERRT trained or registered for the training. 5) Small group trainings on uniform best practices for shield deployment, one- and two-officer shield team tactics, stacking techniques, close-quarter use and perimeter-use, and proper shield storage will be scheduled and conducted at Gus George Law Enforcement Academy. 6) Award of additional shields and continued FBCSO Regional Collaboration will be communicated to ISDs, MSD, and CISD and respective Police units, as applicable. 7) Impromptu/unscheduled ISD school grounds visits will continue to be conducted. 8) SO and CO communication will be regularly maintained.

### **Capacity & Capabilities:**

Founded in 1837, Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office is the largest law enforcement agency in this geographically vast, fast-growing County of nearly one million residents, of whom more than 200,000 are students in our six Independent, Municipal, and Consolidated School Districts and private schools. FBCSO has over 500 sworn peace officers protecting and serving Fort Bend County residents. We are headquartered in Richmond, Texas, but have staffed annexes located in Sienna, Fulshear, and Katy, Texas. The SO oversees the U.S. DOJ certified County Jail and operates the regional Gus George Law Enforcement Academy, certified by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE). This Academy provides mandated and specialized continuing education and training for law enforcement personnel in the 13-county Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) region. More than 95% of our field operations personnel are ALERRT trained, and close to the same percentage are also AIRR trained. Deputies are also trained in safety techniques by uniformed personnel who are assigned to field operations. Their advanced safety training includes de-escalation for mental health consumers who are in crisis and who may be armed with firearms or knives. FBCSO leads a Type I Regional SWAT Team, has a dedicated Gang Unit, a Type II Air Support Unit, operates the Fort Bend County Narcotics Task Force, and is part of the Houston High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Initiative. Additionally, a



higher level of performance is achieved through intra- and inter-agency collaboration and partnerships. Other agencies with which the Sheriff's Office partners for a range of activities include Texas Department of Public Safety and the county and municipal agencies within Fort Bend County and within adjacent counties. These include Harris, Brazoria, Waller, Wharton, and Austin counties, as well as regional partners: Houston Police Department, Harris County Sheriff, Waller County Sheriff; four FBC precinct Constable Offices, and the municipalities of Arcola, Fulshear, Katy, Meadows Place, Missouri City, Needville, Richmond, Rosenberg, Stafford, and Sugar Land. The Narcotics Task Force is a partnership between FBCSO, the DEA, and police departments in Sugar Land, Rosenberg, Richmond, and Missouri City. The Gang Unit works with a range of outside agencies as needed. CID regularly works with local and regional agencies, particularly in investigating burglary crews that operate in Fort Bend, Harris County, and throughout the state. FBCSO is led by a team of law enforcement professionals who together have over 100 years in the field. It is led by Sheriff Eric Fagan, who was elected Sheriff in 2020 after more than 30 years with the Houston Police Department (HPD). During his tenure with HPD, Sheriff Fagan won the prestigious Officer of the Year Award three times. In 2023 Sheriff Fagan was elected Chair of the Houston High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Executive Board. Chief Deputy Mattie Provost was with HPD for over 31 years, where she reached the rank of Assistant Chief. She is the 2022 winner of the Melvin Drum Chief Deputy of the Year Award given by the Texas Chief Deputies Association. Assistant Chief Deputy Manuel Zamora, PhD, commands the Administrative Bureau, including the Gus George Law Enforcement Academy, the Investigations Command, Support Services, Emergency Management and Communications, Public Information Office, and Grants. Dr. Zamora began his career in 1981 with HPD, during which he authored the grant proposal and contributed toward the design of the \$2.0 million Houston Police Real Time Crime Center, led a Special Response Group field force, and managed the Planning & Research Section, where he led product and equipment evaluation, program assessment, and the analysis and development of policy. Assistant Chief Norman Wong oversees the Field Operations Command, Detention Command, Human Resources, and Internal Affairs. Assistant Chief Wong has served over three decades with the Houston Police Department and his last 10 plus years, he served at the rank of Assistant Chief. The Fort Bend County Precinct Offices are led by well-respected, elected Constables with years of law enforcement experience. Precinct Offices are geographically dispersed, located in Sugar Land, Missouri City, Katy, and Richmond, Texas. The Precinct Deputies are responsible for executing civil citations, notices, writs, subpoenas, and criminal arrest warrants. They enforce state laws and traffic codes and serve as bailiffs when courts are in session. Fort Bend County Precinct Offices are staffed by a combined total of 70+ Deputies, all of whom respond to any significant event, including school violence. Like the SO Deputies, the Precinct Deputies also regularly visit schools in their precincts. We regularly collaborate and coordinate activities with County Emergency Management Services, including the Fire Departments within Fort Bend County. Multi-agency coordination is a fundamental element in successful response efforts and was determined to be a "problem" that potentially exacerbated loss of life in the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in 2018. The Safety Commission report on this shooting identified problems in the response, specifically that "the law enforcement and fire department command posts were not unified" (Duron, 2021). The importance of unification has informed our proposed FBCSO Regional Collaboration.

### **Performance Management :**

Success will be measured by both qualitative and quantitative methodologies. This approach captures both statistical and ethnographic data that provides greater depth and understanding than limiting measurement to incidents, such as number of school-related interventions, identifications, apprehensions, and number of incidents requiring the use of Level III bullet-resistant shields. The ethnographic element involves personnel interviews and feedback in the event that a bullet-resistant shield is deployed. We will solicit feedback on the ability to utilize the shield, identify areas in training and utilization that require attention, and evaluate overall success in utilization. SO/CO will continue to measure success for this project based on completing shield training goals and successful collaboration among all four agencies (SO and three Precincts). Field training will employ scenarios and tactics using shields and wooden replicas of the same weight and size to best replicate real-world scenarios. As responders first arriving to an active shooter scene can be unknown to one another and have wide variations in experience and training, we will ensure that all are trained using uniform, current best practices and techniques for a degree of response consistency. Field training will emphasize one- and two-person teams, and also other team-type scenarios. Goal 1) Purchase Level III bullet-resistant shields. 2) Schedule and conduct ALERRT trainings for all staff who require it. 3) Safely respond to school violence and other dangerous situations where bullet-resistant shields are deployed. 4) Minimize injury or risk in armed situations. 5) Collect data and information about shield deployment. 6) Inventory and track shields. 7) Ensure



that personnel remain up-to-date on ALERRT training. 8) Complete reporting requirements as determined by the grantor.

### **Target Group :**

Success will be measured by both qualitative and quantitative methodologies. This approach captures both statistical and ethnographic data that provides greater depth and understanding than limiting measurement to incidents, such as number of school-related interventions, identifications, apprehensions, and number of incidents requiring the use of Level III bullet-resistant shields. The ethnographic element involves personnel interviews and feedback in the event that a bullet-resistant shield is deployed. We will solicit feedback on the ability to utilize the shield, identify areas in training and utilization that require attention, and evaluate overall success in utilization. SO/CO will continue to measure success for this project based on completing shield training goals and successful collaboration among all four agencies (SO and three Precincts). Field training will employ scenarios and tactics using shields and wooden replicas of the same weight and size to best replicate real-world scenarios. As responders first arriving to an active shooter scene can be unknown to one another and have wide variations in experience and training, we will ensure that all are trained using uniform, current best practices and techniques for a degree of response consistency. Field training will emphasize one- and two-person teams, and also other team-type scenarios. Goal 1) Purchase Level III bullet-resistant shields. 2) Schedule and conduct ALERRT trainings for all staff who require it. 3) Safely respond to school violence and other dangerous situations where bullet-resistant shields are deployed. 4) Minimize injury or risk in armed situations. 5) Collect data and information about shield deployment. 6) Inventory and track shields. 7) Ensure that personnel remain up-to-date on ALERRT training. 8) Complete reporting requirements as determined by the grantor.

### **Evidence-Based Practices:**

Bullet-resistant shields save lives, and not just the lives of sworn personnel, but the lives of the students they protect as well. "It is time to properly equip the first officers to arrive at every call for service," Fletcher argues. "Portable and lightweight ballistic protection is a necessity for our patrol officers and communities" (2022). According to Blair & Duron (2022), in the events they studied, "an officer was shot in about one out of every six active shooter events," and statistics show that more officers are shot outside—on arrival, in pursuit, or moving to a building—than inside (Blair & Duron, 2022; Freilich, et al., 2022; Holland et al, 2019). Outside, deputies are frequently more exposed, which is why bullet-resistant shields are critical to ensure an added measure of safety for LE as they move to engage the shooter. Of the events Blair & Duron studied, 67% officers were shot outside and 33% were shot inside during response. Depending on the type of weapon used and wound location, shields can be the determining factor between life and death. Only 33% of their study group of officers survived a rifle hit to the torso; they were 12 times more likely to die than those shot with a pistol or shotgun, and one quarter of all attackers use rifles (Blair & Duron, 2022). Shields cover the torso and head, and the viewport obviates the need for a Deputy to expose his/her head to take position, to advance, and to assess their environment. Blair & Duron report that two officers in their data were "shot in the head while wearing ballistic helmets," one of whom was shot with a rifle, and both survived (2022). A ballistic shield can protect the head much like a helmet can. In addition to the evidence presented elsewhere in support of this proposal, please see: 1. Bertomen, Lindsey. (2006). Body bunker basics: handheld portable bullet-resistant shield designed to augment an officer's vest. Officer.com. Body Bunker Basics | Officer 2. Blair, J. Pete & Duron, Aaron. (2022). How police officers are shot and killed during active shooter events: implications for response and training. Police Journal: Theory, Practice and Principles, Vol. 96(3), 1-19. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0032258X221087827> 3. Blair, John, Nichols, Terry, Burns, David, Curnutt, John R. (2013). Active Shooter Events and Response. Active Shooter Events and Response - John P. Blair, Terry Nichols, David Burns, John R. Curnutt - Google Books 4. Duron, Aaron. (2021). "Shots fired! We have many people down!": Common recommendations for managing high-casualty active shooter events in the USA. International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction, v. 65(November). "Shots fired! We have many people down!": Common recommendations for managing high-casualty active shooter events in the USA - ScienceDirect 5. Fletcher, Todd. (2022). Ballistic shields can improve officer safety. Police 1. Why all police officers should be equipped with ballistic shields (police1.com) 6. Freilich, Joshua D. Chermak, Steven M., Connell, Nadine M., Klein, Brent R. & Green-Colozzi, Emily A. (2022). Using open-source data to better understand and respond to American school shootings: introducing and exploring the American School Shooting Study (TASSS). Journal of School Violence, 22(2), 93-118. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/15388220.2021.1991804> 7. Holland,



K. M., Hall, J. E., Wang, J., Gaylor, E.M., Johnson, L. L., Shelby, D., & Simon, T. R., with the School Associated Violent Deaths Study Group. (2019, January 25). Characteristics of school-associated youth homicides – United States, 1994 – 2018. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 68(3): 53-60. <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6803a1> 8. O'Connor, Dennis. (2022). Shield or no shield? That is the question. Government Training Institute (GTI). Shield or No Shield ([gtitraining.org](http://gtitraining.org)) 9. Smith, Dwight J. (2023). Law Enforcement Agencies' Perceptions on the Current Issues of School Safety. *Law Enforcement Agencies Perceptions on the Current Issues of School Safety* - ProQuest 10. Vossekuil, B., Fein, R. A., Reddy, M., Borum, R., & Modzeleski, W. (2004). The final report and findings of the safe school initiative. US Secret Service and Department of Education. *The Final Report and Findings of the Safe School Initiative: Implications for the Prevention of School Attacks in the US* (PDF) ([ed.gov](http://ed.gov))

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**Agency Name:** Fort Bend County  
**Grant/App:** 4937301 **Start Date:** 9/1/2024 **End Date:** 8/31/2025  
**Project Title:** Bullet-Resistant Shield Grant Program, FY2025  
**Status:** Application Pending Submission

**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
Equipment and Technology	100.00	Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office will acquire Level III bullet-resistant shields with viewports and continue allocation to field personnel for maximum shift coverage for SO and Precinct deputies. All field personnel that utilize the equipment will undergo and remain current every 24 months on ALERRT training. Trainings will be conducted with the bullet-resistant shield and/or a wooden facsimilie of the shield with the same dimensions and weight.

**CJD Purpose Areas**

PERCENT DEDICATED	PURPOSE AREA	PURPOSE AREA DESCRIPTION
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Measures Information

Objective Output Measures

OUTPUT MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
Equipment or technology: Individuals/Operators equipped	70
Equipment or technology: Organizations directly using	4
Number of bullet-resistant shields purchased with grant funds.	70

Objective Outcome Measures

OUTCOME MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
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Custom Output Measures

CUSTOM OUTPUT MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
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Custom Outcome Measures

CUSTOM OUTCOME MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
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[Print This Page](#)**Agency Name:** Fort Bend County**Grant/App:** 4937301 **Start Date:** 9/1/2024 **End Date:** 8/31/2025**Project Title:** Bullet-Resistant Shield Grant Program, FY2025**Status:** Application Pending Submission**Budget Details Information****Budget Information by Budget Line Item:**

CATEGORY	SUB CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	GPI	TOTAL	UNIT/%
Equipment	Bullet-Resistant Shield	70 Paraclete Vanguard Level III 21 X 36 bullet-resistant shields with viewport (17.4 lbs.). Shield features 3" X 9" reinforced viewport, weapon mount system, shooting platform, solid handle system, thick high density foam pad, hook and loop forearm strap and attachment system, reinforced Bold System for added protection. Shield does not have a light. Single shield price = \$6,851.09 X 70 = \$479,576.30.	\$479,576.30	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$479,576.30	70

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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:

### 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]:

9/1/2024

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

8/31/2025

### 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:

116214776

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

7053433

### 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:

6/30/2023

### 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.

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