

2025 Fort Bend County Improvement Grant Application Narrative
Fort Bend County Public Defender Appellation Section
Multi-year

a. Application Form

Counties Represented: **Fort Bend**

Fiscal Year: **2025**

State Payee Identification Number: **746001969**

Division To Administer Grant: **Public Defender**

Program Title: **Fort Bend County Public Defender Appellation Section**

Requested Grant Amount: **\$578,233.00**

Authorized Official: **Roderick Glass**

Financial Officer: **Robert Ed Sturdivant**

Program Director: **Roderick Glass**

Mailing Address: **301 Jackson Street; Richmond, TX 77469**

b. Introduction (Executive Summary)

Fort Bend County spent approximately \$323,000 on indigent Appeals last year. Court appointed counsel currently do appeals, however, there is no guarantee that you get someone who has experience doing appeals. Moreover, some judges appoint the same attorney who did the trial or hearing. The main goal of an Appellate Section of the Public Defender is do quality appeals for indigent clients. It is the even the playing field between the District Attorney's Appellate Section and the Defense. Justice works when both sides have quality representation at all levels. The Appellate section will do both felony and juvenile appeals.

c. Problem Statement

Currently, Judges appoint court appointed counsel for both felony appeals and juvenile appeals. Some judges appoint the same person who did the hearing or trial to the appeal. Many do not know the deadlines involved. Many, have never done an appeal.

The District Attorney has an Appellate Section with seasoned attorneys who only do appeals. They often attend hearings and often whisper in ears of the hearing attorneys or do memos for the Judges on issues that might arise. Defense attorneys are often overwhelmed and are forced to respond to legal memos at the spur of the moment.

The Public Defender has already done excellent work for indigent defendant/clients in both trial and mental health. An Appellate section is the only place where the District Attorney still has supremacy.

d. Objectives

1. Appellate Section will do indigent Appeals.
2. Appellate Section will assist both Trial and Mental Health sections on important legal matters.
3. Appellate Section will hold training for local bar about when to file notice appeal and what matters to file notice of appeal. As well as preserving error.
4. The number of appeals, petition for discretionary review, the number hearings, and the number of trainings can be counted for evaluation and progress reports.

e. Activities

1. Hire Attorney II who is experience with doing appeals, reply briefs, accelerated appeals, petitions for discretionary review, writs of habeas corpus and oral argument.t. Able to train Attorney I.
2. Hire Attorney I who has experience with general appeals who will learn from Attorney II about reply briefs, petitions for discretionary review, as well argument.
3. Hire part-time Administrative Assistant who will calendar deadlines, make arrangements for travel for oral argument and CLE.
4. Computers, desks, phones, printers, laptops, for both attorneys and administrative assistant will be part of start-up costs.

5. Ongoing activities include appeals and training local bar members about preserving error and filing notice of appeal after hearings or trial.

f. Evaluation

1. Number of felony appeals.
2. Number of misdemeanor appeals
3. Number of Juvenile appeals.
4. Number of Reply briefs.
5. Number of PDR's filed.
6. Number of trainings.
7. Number of oral arguments requested.
8. Number of oral argument attended.

g. Future Funding

Fort Bend County has supported the Public Defender program with every step. It was created by a grant for Mental Health. It has expanded the Mental Health section several times after the grant ended.

Fort Bend County supported the Trial Section after it was created by a grant. It has expanded the trial section several times after the grant ended.

Fort Bend County has supported the Padilla Attorney after the grant ended.

Fort Bend County has supported each program after each grant. Every grant was from the Texas Indigent Defense Commission.

Fort Bend County has continued the Advisory Board meetings every year since the very first grant. We continue to meet quarterly. This year makes 14 years of board meetings. Advisory board continues to have 2 Commissioners, 2 local bar members, 1 Behavioral Health member, and both felony and misdemeanor judges.

Public Defender continues to save the County money. Appellate section will do the same.

h. Budget Narrative and Budget Form

Equipment will be a one time cost..

Travel and training will go down. Amount includes State Bar Dues, Local Bar Dues, and TCDLA dues. Public Defender training cost reductions and scholarships will go in effect so amount will decrease.

Personnel Costs		\$343,516.00
FTE's	2.50	
Salary	\$249,551.00	
Fringe Benefits	\$93,965.00	
Travel and Training		\$2,200.00
Equipment		\$15,430.00
Supplies		\$500.00
Contract Services		\$0.00
Indirect		\$361,145.00
Total		\$722,791.00
Required County Match		\$144,558.00
Total less County Match		\$578,233.00

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2025 Fort Bend County Resolution
Indigent Defense Improvement Grant Program

WHEREAS, under the provisions of the Texas Government Code § 79.037 and Title I of the Texas Administrative Code Chapter 173, counties are eligible to receive grants from the Texas Indigent Defense Commission to provide improvements in indigent defense services in the county; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court authorizes this grant program to assist the county in the implementation and the improvement of the indigent criminal defense services in this county; and

WHEREAS, Fort Bend County Commissioners Court has agreed that in the event of loss or misuse of the funds, Fort Bend County Commissioners Court assures that the funds will be returned in full to the Texas Indigent Defense Commission.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED and ordered that Roderick Glass is designated as the Authorized Official to apply for, accept, decline, modify, or cancel the grant application for the Indigent Defense Improvement Grant Program and all other necessary documents to accept said grant; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Roderick Glass is designated as the Program Director and contact person for this grant and the Auditor is designated as the Financial Officer for this grant.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2024.

KP George
County Judge

Attest:

County Clerk

Internet Submission Form

After submitting the Improvement grant application on-line, the following Internet submission confirmation number was received # _____. This grant application submission was in accordance with the Commissioners Court Resolution above.

Roderick Glass
Program Director