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**Agency Name:** Fort Bend County

**Grant/App:** 3944606 **Start Date:** 10/1/2025 **End Date:** 9/30/2026

**Project Title:** Human Trafficking Investigation and Prosecution Project

**Status:** Application Pending Submission

### Eligibility Information

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

17460019692080

### Application Eligibility Certify:

Created on:12/26/2024 12:16:19 PM By:Terri Stuart

### Profile Information

**Applicant Agency Name:** Fort Bend County

**Project Title:** Human Trafficking Investigation and Prosecution Project

**Division or Unit to Administer the Project:** District Attorney's Office

**Address Line 1:** 301 Jackson St

**Address Line 2:**

**City/State/Zip:** Richmond Texas 77469-3106

**Start Date:** 10/1/2025

**End Date:** 9/30/2026

**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,Harris,Montgomery

### 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:

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**Title:** Ms.

**Salutation:** Ms.

**Position:** Accountant

#### Project Director

**Name:** Terri Stuart

**Email:** terri.stuart@fortbendcountytexas.gov

**Address 1:** 1422 Eugene Heimann Circle, Ste 21004

**Address 1:**

**City:** Richmond, Texas 77469

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**Title:** Ms.

**Salutation:** Ms.

**Position:** Grants Coordinator

**Grant Writer**

**Name:** Terri Stuart

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**Fax:**

**Title:** Ms.

**Salutation:** Ms.

**Position:** Grants Coordinator

**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

**Unique Entity Identifier (UEI):** MJG8N8EPN2L3

**Narrative Information**

**Introduction**

The purpose of this funding is to support solution-driven projects from county governments to prevent, investigate, and prosecute commercial sexual exploitation in Texas.

**Program-Specific Requirements**

### **Child Sex Trafficking Team Guiding Principles**

Eligible applicants are required to adhere to the Guiding Principles of the Child Sex Trafficking Team (CSTT), where applicable. The CSTT's Guiding Principles are:

- a. We treat individuals who have experienced exploitation as victims and survivors, not perpetrators.
- b. We are collaborative.
- c. We are survivor informed.
- d. Our systems and programs prioritize the needs of children and transition-age youth who have experienced exploitation and strive to give equal access to services regardless of system involvement.
- e. We seek to prevent exploitation by educating the public, supporting protective factors for all children and transition-age youth, and by building resiliency among the most vulnerable.
- f. Our approaches, systems and services are trauma-informed, responsive, and include trust-based relationships.
- g. We develop and support community-based, sustainable resources and services.
- h. We are committed to long-term individualized services, including planning for, and re-engaging with, children and transition-age youth after relapse.
- i. We research the causes of and effective responses to exploitation and we evaluate and continuously improve our activities.
- j. We work to prevent and reduce demand for exploitation and to hold all exploiters, including facilitators, and those who benefit from exploitation accountable.

### **Trauma Informed Response**

Each application should include proposed strategies to ensure that individuals experiencing commercial sexual exploitation receive a trauma informed response. A trauma informed response for this population should not be contingent upon a direct outcry of victimization. If conducting an operation in which victims of commercial sexual exploitation may be identified, applicant must provide a detailed plan for engagement of victim service providers. **Funds administered through this grant program may not be used in furtherance of activities to investigate, arrest, detain, or prosecute individuals for engaging in prostitution under Texas Penal Code § 43.02.** Strategies for a trauma-informed response should be detailed under "Project Approach & Activities" in the Narrative tab of eGrants.

### **Additional Requirements for Targeted Investigation and Prosecution Applications**

Under "Project Approach & Activities" within the Narrative tab of eGrants, applicants must describe how the proposed strategies will improve local investigations and/or prosecutions of sex buyers, traffickers, and other actors benefitting from the commercial sexual exploitation of people.

Under "Supporting Data" within the Narrative tab of eGrants, applicants should also provide the number of registered sex offenders in their county and provide baseline data on sex trafficking-related arrests and prosecution data for the most recent calendar year available. It is understood that arrest data does not necessarily correspond to prosecution data provided for the same time period. At a minimum, data should pertain to the following offenses:

- Section 20A.02. Trafficking of Persons
- Section 20A.03. Continuous Trafficking of Persons
- Section 43.02. Prostitution
- Section 43.03. Promotion of Prostitution
- Section 43.031. Online Promotion of Prostitution
- Section 43.04. Aggravated Promotion of Prostitution
- Section 43.041. Aggravated Online Promotion of Prostitution
- Section 43.05. Compelling Prostitution
- Section 21.02. Continuous Sexual Abuse of Young Child or Disabled Individual
- Section 21.11. Indecency with a Child
- Section 22.011. Sexual Assault
- Section 22.021. Aggravated Sexual Assault
- Section 43.021. Solicitation of Prostitution
- Section 43.25. Sexual Performance by a Child
- Section 43.251. Employment Harmful to Children
- Section 43.26. Possession or Promotion of Child Pornography

### **Community Collaboration**

Applicants from communities with an existing human trafficking task force or coalition must **upload documentation of active membership in the task force or coalition**. Applicants should also **upload letters of support from any partners** critical to achieving the proposed objectives. Failure to provide these will affect funding decisions. All documents must be uploaded onto the Upload Files Tab prior to the submission and certification of the eGrants application.

**Project Evaluation**

Each application should clearly identify the goals of the project, including methods for evaluating progress toward those goals, under "Performance Management" in the Narrative tab of eGrants. Additionally, recipients of funding under this announcement may be required to participate in a third-party evaluation funded by PSO and in improvement reviews performed by PSO program staff. Grantees must make good-faith efforts to follow recommendations by the evaluator and PSO staff – including recommended project modifications – as a condition of ongoing funding.

**Training and Technical Assistance**

Recipients of funding under this announcement may be required to participate in training and technical assistance opportunities recommended by PSO program staff. Grantees must make good-faith efforts to participate in designated trainings as a condition of ongoing funding.

**Project Sustainability**

Please articulate the project's plan for continued financial sustainability.

**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.

### **Activities that Compromise Victim Safety and Recovery**

Applicant agrees to not engage in activities that jeopardize victim safety, deter or prevent physical or emotional healing for victims, or allow offenders to escape responsibility for their actions.

### **Prohibited Activities**

Funds administered through this grant program may not be used in furtherance of activities to investigate, arrest, detain, or prosecute individuals for engaging in prostitution under Texas Penal Code §43.02.

### **Polygraph Testing Prohibition**

A peace officer or attorney representing the state may not require an adult or child victim of an alleged sex offense to submit to a polygraph examination or other truth telling device as a condition for proceeding with the investigation of such an offense. In addition, the refusal of a victim to submit to a polygraph or other truth telling examination will not prevent the investigation, charging, or prosecution of an alleged sex offense or on the basis of the results of a polygraph examination.

### **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 and other dispositions 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

Evidence kits (SERV) where the 90 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 [2026 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, 2026 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 :**

Over the last four years, the Texas Office of the Governor supported the Fort Bend County District Attorney's Office's efforts to eradicate human trafficking through grant funding to increase capacity with an additional investigator and criminal data analyst dedicated to investigating human trafficking and related offenses. The criminal data analyst plays a crucial role in our investigations, analyzing digital evidence and providing valuable insights that aid in the identification and prosecution of traffickers. Currently, the Fort Bend County District Attorney's office has two dedicated human trafficking prosecutors, an investigator and a criminal data analyst (funded through the Texas Office of the Governor), and a Human Trafficking Task Force Coordinator (funded through the DOJ-ECM Program). This application seeks continued funding for the two previously awarded positions in the Fort Bend County District Attorney's Office: a criminal investigative analyst and a criminal investigator assigned to work on investigations involving child and adult exploitation and sex trafficking.

### **Problem Statement :**

Fort Bend County is one of the fastest-growing counties in Texas, with a population of over 822,000 residents (US Census 2020). Due to its proximity to the Texas-Mexico border, the 59 corridor, and the well-known Bissonnet 'track' of roadway walked nightly by victims, a notorious area for human trafficking, Fort Bend County is perfectly positioned to see its citizens fall victim to the epidemic of human trafficking. Houston, parts of which are located inside of Fort Bend County, is a well-known hub for human trafficking due to the lack of zoning, international tourism, and ethnic diversity. A report published by the Human Trafficking Hotline indicates that in 2022, the hotline received 2,882 tips in Texas related to human trafficking and identified 968 survivors, resulting in 909 cases with 1,742 victims. In 2023, the hotline reported 2,373 tips and identified 583 survivors, resulting in 900 cases and 1,723 victims. Fort Bend County District Attorney's Office seeks to continue to address modern-day trafficking by utilizing investigative techniques centered around obtaining modern-day evidence derived from cellular telephones, social media, and geolocation data to eradicate networks of traffickers and obtain convictions without relying on victim testimony. The Fort Bend County District Attorney's Office also seeks to address the problem of human trafficking as one of supply and demand. It plans to prioritize the identification and prosecution of sex buyers. By identifying and prosecuting sex buyers through early identification of victims through other means of intelligence, we will be able to reduce the demand for commercial sex and eliminate profitability for third-party beneficiaries (i.e., "pimps" and "traffickers"). By creating a team-oriented approach with prosecutors, criminal investigators, and a criminal intelligence analyst working together, we can more efficiently identify and prosecute traffickers without putting the onus on the victims at trial, allowing victims to focus on recovery. Prosecutors typically cannot rely on traditional prosecution methods in cases involving trafficking or trafficking-

related offenses. In many of these cases, the victim is unwilling to testify against their trafficker due to fear or trauma. In others, it may be challenging to establish the necessary elements of force, fraud, or coercion with a lack of physical evidence and a jury uneducated in grooming and trauma bonds. We aim to continue implementing a modern-day prosecution solution: seeking out modern-day evidence through technology. Research supports our conclusion that modern-day traffickers use the Internet almost exclusively for business activities. Business activities include recruiting and grooming victims, advertising sexual conduct, communicating with victims, communicating with co-actors, taking and disseminating photographs, communicating with "clients," and arranging transportation. By drafting search warrants for cellular telephones, geolocation data, and social media accounts, we obtain crucial evidence in the form of communications, photographs, and location data and remove the necessity of victim cooperation from the equation. This method also seeks to identify and destroy an entire network of traffickers. Access to a trafficker's communication network, including cellular telephone, geophysical positioning (GPS), and/or social media data, gives law enforcement critical insight into everyone involved in a trafficking scheme. Identifying and prosecuting each individual involved in the scheme strengthens the underlying case and reassures the victim that no one is left to retaliate against them if they cooperate with law enforcement. Conducting large-scale, long-term, technology-forward investigations takes considerable time and resource investment. Identifying relevant social media accounts takes time (sometimes weeks, depending on available information) and training. Cellular telephone forensic reports and returns from social media accounts generate thousands of pages. Search warrants detailing human trafficking and related offense investigations, which are often a minimum of 30 pages and can take half a day or longer to draft. Locating and interviewing victims identified in the inquiry and ensuring they have appropriate resources can take days or weeks. Jail calls range from up to 20 minutes per call, and individuals typically make multiple calls daily.

### **Supporting Data :**

According to US Census data from 2020, Fort Bend County was one of the nation's top counties with the most significant gains in population nationwide. Rapid population growth in Fort Bend County in recent years (current population 822,779 - US Census Bureau 2020) required increasing the number of law enforcement officers, investigators, prosecutors, judges, and available courts to address the increased number of cases and subsequent victims of crime. Recent projections (2023 Population Estimates, Texas Demographic Institute, University of Texas San Antonio) show a 9.2% population increase to 898,514 residents between 2020 and 2023. Expansion of law enforcement agencies and the judicial system has been necessary to maintain a safe environment for our citizens. The population growth has been accompanied by an increase in specific types of cases that require specialized teams of investigators and prosecutors to address - such as Human Trafficking. In 2022, the Fort Bend County District Attorney's Office saw a significant increase for the second year in a row in the number of sex buyers prosecuted by our office, which arrested 161 individuals for attempting to buy sex as a result of proactive investigations conducted by the Fort Bend County District Attorney's Office. We also saw a notable increase in the number of Human Trafficking and related cases (compelling, promotion, and smuggling) filed and accepted for prosecution in our office. During the 2022-2023 grant cycle, the Fort Bend County DA's Office of Human Trafficking Investigators and assisting agencies referred over 104 human trafficking/exploitation cases. It charged over 161 individuals for human trafficking-related offenses. Currently, the Fort Bend County District Attorney's office has over 130 active human trafficking cases, with an additional 55 cases actively under investigation. During the 2022-2023 grant cycle, the Fort Bend County DA's Office Human Trafficking Division conducted or assisted in approximately 12 human trafficking/exploitation operations. These investigations resulted in approximately 161 arrests of sex buyers and promoters of prostitution in human trafficking.

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

The Fort Bend County District Attorney's Office seeks to continue to address modern-day trafficking by utilizing investigative techniques centered around obtaining modern-day evidence, such as cellular telephones, social media, and geolocation data, to eradicate networks of traffickers and obtain convictions without relying on victim testimony. We use a team-oriented approach to investigating and prosecuting human trafficking, with collaboration between prosecutors, criminal investigators, and a criminal intelligence analyst. We request funds to continue employing a criminal intelligence analyst who uses open-source and law enforcement databases to gather information on suspects and victims. The criminal investigator and criminal intelligence analyst provide essential surveillance and intelligence to reduce the follow-up time between arresting identified traffickers and identifying other individuals in their network who may be exploiting additional victims. This approach requires daily case review and follow-up because social media platforms allow users to post temporary content; for example, if we are watching a suspect's Instagram account, they may post to their Instagram Story, which is only available to view for 24 hours after it is posted. Information gathered by the criminal intelligence analyst is documented and saved for current and future investigations and to build a database of information that can be used to identify other networks of traffickers. The analyst is responsible for developing contacts at different agencies, including in contiguous counties, to ensure we are responsibly using resources and any to identify and address overlaps in investigative targets as early as possible. The analyst assists the dedicated Human Trafficking



investigator with reviewing forensic reports from cell phone search warrants, information obtained from social media account returns, jail communications, and other evidentiary material. The criminal intelligence analyst enables us to quickly identify traffickers and victims and assist with managing this part of the workload (i.e., data mining of all available systems to gather and retrieve information, including social media accounts and surveillance support) to reduce the length of our investigations. Additionally, criminal intelligence analysts are utilized during proactive operations, where often, the only information that law enforcement has about potential suspects is their online username or phone number. Having criminal intelligence analysts on the scene during these operations can quickly obtain crucial information about suspects before they even arrive on the scene. This gives us an investigatory advantage and helps alleviate safety concerns for undercover officers. We are requesting funds to continue employing a criminal investigator dedicated to investigating human trafficking and related offenses. The investigator reviews information compiled by the criminal intelligence analyst, drafts search warrants, conducts interviews, sets up medical and sexual assault examinations, and sets up forensic interviews of victims at our local Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) and with Texas Forensic Nurse Examiners (TxFNE), set victims up with victim advocates, request grand jury subpoenas and provide testimony in court for bond hearings and trials. The investigator will also follow up on leads that develop from search warrant returns. The investigator will also work undercover to effectuate the rescue of identified victims. The criminal investigator, criminal intelligence analyst, and prosecutors will continuously update one another regarding developments in each case so that tasks can be delegated efficiently and evidence reviewed thoroughly. This team approach will ensure that all investigations are thorough from start to finish, resulting in convictions for traffickers and recovery and justice for victims.

### **Capacity & Capabilities:**

The DA's Office represents the State of Texas in state criminal prosecutions for crimes in Fort Bend County. We have 172 employees consisting of 89 attorneys, 21 investigators, and 62 support staff. The Special Crimes Division of the Fort Bend County District Attorney's Office prosecutes Human Trafficking and related offenses. This division consists of a Chief and three felony prosecutors, two of whom handle the Human Trafficking caseload assigned to the Special Crimes Division and managed by two prosecutors—one with full-time Human Trafficking responsibilities and a second with Child Abuse responsibilities. Before receiving our grant award, the Fort Bend County District Attorney's Office employed one investigator assigned to the Human Trafficking Rescue Alliance (HTRA), responsible for all human trafficking-related investigations in Fort Bend County. In 2022, we added a second investigator, supported through other grant funds, to assist with the human trafficking investigations in our county. We also continue to leverage the skills and resources available through our grant-funded analyst to help with the human trafficking investigations. The addition of these positions has increased the number of human trafficking cases and related offenses being investigated and prosecuted in Fort Bend County. The Human Trafficking Rescue Alliance (HTRA) collaborates with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies working with area social service organizations. This membership allows us to partner and share resources with various agencies, including the FBI, Department of Justice, Department of State, and victim resource agencies such as YMCA International, United Against Human Trafficking, and the Landing. With HTRA, we have access to personnel needed to conduct proactive investigations targeted at identifying and rescuing victims of trafficking, as well as identifying and prosecuting sex buyers and pimps. However, this alliance does not provide resources for the time-consuming follow-up investigation required in each case. Our partnership with the other members of HTRA also ensures that victims and potential victims encountered during proactive operations receive a trauma-informed response and subsequent care. Social service organizations are always on scene during these operations to assist victims and potential victims, including arranging medical care and finding housing. Our goal of moving toward technology-based investigations also ensures that victims can continue focusing on their recovery needs rather than the stress, worry, and fear accompanying the wait and preparation for eventual prosecution. The Fort Bend County District Attorney's Office is also a member of the Houston Metro Internet Crimes Against Children (HMICAC) Task Force, a network of state and federal law enforcement agencies in the Southern District of Texas that are involved in proactive and reactive investigations and prosecutions of persons involved in child abuse and exploitation involving the Internet. Our strong ties with the Houston Metro ICAC Task Force have allowed for collaboration in cases where child victims are exploited on the Internet as part of the commission of a Human Trafficking offense. The Fort Bend County District Attorney's Office is also a member of the Coalition in the Fight Against Human Trafficking and creator of a new Fort Bend County Human Trafficking Collective Task Force supported by a multi-year federal grant which connects and empowers service providers, law enforcement agencies, and stakeholders to prevent, detect, and dismantle human trafficking in Fort Bend County. The new task force will provide a forum to coordinate care and communicate between leadership staff among other county agencies, including Fort Bend County Juvenile Probation, Behavioral Health Services, the Office of the County Judge, the Fort Bend County Attorney's Office, as well as other interested parties including Access Health, The George Foundation, and Child Advocates of Fort Bend. These collaborative efforts will increase case filings, resulting in an accelerated need for prosecutorial support in the county.

### **Performance Management :**



The Fort Bend County District Attorney's Office utilizes a comprehensive strategy focused on evidence-based prosecution by leveraging surveillance, intelligence gathering, and data mining technology. This approach allows them to collect essential evidence that supports the prosecution of traffickers without solely depending on victim-witness testimony, which can often be fraught with challenges due to the victims' reluctance or fear. This methodology not only enhances the ability to secure convictions but also aims to disrupt trafficking networks more effectively. In 2023, the office hosted five undercover operations that helped rescue 32 victims and arrest 74 sex buyers and sex traffickers for solicitation of prostitution and other human trafficking-related offenses. The success of our program has been recognized through the US Department of Justice with a multi-year grant award for the Enhanced Collaborative Model (ECM) Human Trafficking Task Force Program. Through the support of the Texas Office of the Governor and the US Department of Justice, the Fort Bend County District Attorney's Office will create a comprehensive task force focused on efforts in Fort Bend County through the addition of a Human Trafficking Task Force Coordinator to increase the capacity of our office to coordinate activities between law enforcement and victim service providers to promote comprehensive investigations and effective, evidence-based prosecution. Currently, the Fort Bend County District Attorney's office has two dedicated human trafficking prosecutors (not grant-funded), an investigator and a criminal data analyst (funded through the Texas Office of the Governor), and a Human Trafficking Task Force Coordinator (financed from the DOJ-ECM Program).

### **Target Group :**

Our office will continue to identify and rescue victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation in Fort Bend County (and those who have a nexus to Fort Bend County) and seek to provide them with referrals necessary to facilitate their recovery as healthy and productive citizens. We also expect to identify perpetrators who engage in human trafficking and related offenses to hold them accountable for their crimes through aggressive prosecution.

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

In a 2015 study conducted by Thorn, in collaboration with Texas Christian University, 260 survivors of domestic minor sex trafficking provided information on recruiting practices, experiences in life, technology use, advertising, interactions with buyers, and prosecution. When asked about the role technology played in trafficking, 63% reported communicating online with their trafficker, 57% reported that their trafficker purchased a cellular telephone for them to use, and 75% reported their trafficker used social media and "apps" regularly. The Thorn study found that, as of 2015, the most common sites accessed by traffickers were Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Tagged, MeetMe, MocoSpace, and Twitter. Additionally, the Thorn survey found that online advertising was increasing alarmingly: only 38% of those trafficked before 2004 were advertised online, compared to 75% post-2004. In 2018, the Ohio Attorney General's Human Trafficking Commission commissioned a study into how social media is used to contact, recruit, and sell children for sex. The study, which was conducted by the University of Toledo Human Trafficking and Social Justice Institute, found that social media not only allows a trafficker to have access to multiple vulnerable potential victims at once but also allows a trafficker to mask traditional clues that they are a potentially dangerous individual. The research confirms what we observed in our investigations in 2019-2022 – that social media and cellular telephones are essential tools of the trade in the trafficking world. Having a sufficient number of dedicated personnel trained to locate social media sites, draft search warrants, and review information and evidence obtained from social media search warrant returns and cellular telephone forensics is imperative to obtaining and intelligently evaluating information that will not only lead to successful prosecutions but may lead to the identification of additional suspects and identification and rescue of further victims. References: Bouche, Vanessa, *The Role of Technology in Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking*, Texas Christian University, January 2018; Miller, Dan, *Study Details Link Between Social Media and Sex Trafficking*, Forensic Magazine: Rockaway, October 8, 2018.

## **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
CSEP Targeted Investigation and Prosecution	100.00	The Fort Bend County District Attorney's office seeks to address modern-day trafficking by utilizing investigative techniques to obtain modern-day evidence, such as evidence derived from cellular phones, social media, and geolocation data. This will eradicate networks of traffickers and obtain convictions without relying on victim testimony. We also seek to introduce a team-oriented approach to investigating and prosecuting human trafficking

		through collaboration between prosecutors, criminal investigators, and criminal intelligence analysts.
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### CJD Purpose Areas

PERCENT DEDICATED	PURPOSE AREA	PURPOSE AREA DESCRIPTION
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### Measures Information

#### Objective Output Measures

OUTPUT MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
A. Number of human trafficking/exploitation cases investigated by the unit/division benefiting from the grant.	165
A. Number of human trafficking/exploitation cases referred for prosecution.	120
A. Number of human trafficking/exploitation cases reported to the unit/division benefiting from the grant.	165
B. Number of adult victims identified through the project activities.	50
B. Number of child victims identified through the project activities.	5
B. Of victims identified, number that were referred to victim services.	50
C. Total number of registered sex offenders within agency's jurisdiction.	1000
C. Total number of sex offender compliance checks conducted by unit/division benefitting from the grant.	0

#### Objective Outcome Measures

OUTCOME MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
A. Number of arrests: Aggravated Online Promotion of Prostitution, Section 43.041.	0
A. Number of arrests: Aggravated Promotion of Prostitution, Section 43.04.	0

A. Number of arrests: Aggravated Sexual Assault, Section 22.021.	0
A. Number of arrests: Compelling Prostitution, Section 43.05.	0
A. Number of arrests: Continuous Sexual Abuse of Young Child or Disabled Individual, Section 21.02.	0
A. Number of arrests: Continuous Trafficking of Persons, Section 20A.03.	0
A. Number of arrests: Employment Harmful to Children, Section 43.251.	0
A. Number of arrests: Indecency with a Child, Section 21.11.	0
A. Number of arrests: Online Promotion of Prostitution, Section 43.031.	0
A. Number of arrests: Possession or Promotion of Child Pornography, Section 43.26.	0
A. Number of arrests: Promotion of Prostitution, Section 43.03.	0
A. Number of arrests: Sexual Assault, Section 22.011.	0
A. Number of arrests: Sexual Performance by a Child, Section 43.25.	0
A. Number of arrests: Solicitation of Prostitution, Section 43.021.	0
A. Number of arrests: Trafficking of Persons, Section 20A.02.	0
A. Number of repeat offenders identified through an arrest under the offenses listed above.	0
B. Number of charges accepted by prosecuting agency: Aggravated Online Promotion of Prostitution, Section 43.041.	5
B. Number of charges accepted by prosecuting agency: Aggravated Promotion of Prostitution, Section 43.04.	5
B. Number of charges accepted by prosecuting agency: Aggravated Sexual Assault, Section 22.021.	30
B. Number of charges accepted by prosecuting agency: Compelling Prostitution, Section 43.05.	5
B. Number of charges accepted by prosecuting agency: Continuous Sexual Abuse of Young Child or Disabled Individual, Section 21.02.	20

B. Number of charges accepted by prosecuting agency: Continuous Trafficking of Persons, Section 20A.03.	20
B. Number of charges accepted by prosecuting agency: Employment Harmful to Children, Section 43.251.	5
B. Number of charges accepted by prosecuting agency: Indecency with a Child, Section 21.11.	50
B. Number of charges accepted by prosecuting agency: Online Promotion of Prostitution, Section 43.031.	30
B. Number of charges accepted by prosecuting agency: Possession or Promotion of Child Pornography, Section 43.26.	25
B. Number of charges accepted by prosecuting agency: Promotion of Prostitution, Section 43.03.	30
B. Number of charges accepted by prosecuting agency: Sexual Assault, Section 22.011.	25
B. Number of charges accepted by prosecuting agency: Sexual Performance by a Child, Section 43.25.	5
B. Number of charges accepted by prosecuting agency: Solicitation of Prostitution, Section 43.021.	100
B. Number of charges accepted by prosecuting agency: Trafficking of Persons, Section 20A.02.	15
B. Number of individual perpetrators criminally charged for a human trafficking/exploitation-related offense.	100
C. Number of individuals convicted: Aggravated Online Promotion of Prostitution, Section 43.041.	5
C. Number of individuals convicted: Aggravated Promotion of Prostitution, Section 43.04.	5
C. Number of individuals convicted: Aggravated Sexual Assault, Section 22.021.	30
C. Number of individuals convicted: Compelling Prostitution, Section 43.05.	5
C. Number of individuals convicted: Continuous Sexual Abuse of Young Child or Disabled Individual, Section 21.02.	20
C. Number of individuals convicted: Continuous Trafficking of Persons, Section 20A.03.	20

C. Number of individuals convicted: Employment Harmful to Children, Section 43.251.	0
C. Number of individuals convicted: Indecency with a Child, Section 21.11.	50
C. Number of individuals convicted: Online Promotion of Prostitution, Section 43.031.	30
C. Number of individuals convicted: Possession or Promotion of Child Pornography, Section 43.26.	25
C. Number of individuals convicted: Promotion of Prostitution, Section 43.03.	20
C. Number of individuals convicted: Sexual Assault, Section 22.011.	25
C. Number of individuals convicted: Sexual Performance by a Child, Section 43.25.	0
C. Number of individuals convicted: Solicitation of Prostitution, Section 43.021.	100
C. Number of individuals convicted: Trafficking of Persons, Section 20A.02.	20
D. Number of human trafficking/exploitation cases dismissed.	5
D. Number of human trafficking/exploitation cases resulting in a deferred adjudication.	20
D. Number of individuals acquitted of a human trafficking/exploitation-related offense.	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:

## 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]:

10/1/2025

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

9/30/2026

## 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:

66111417

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

7780259

### Single Audit

Applicants who expend less than \$1,000,000 in federal grant funding or less than \$1,000,000 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 \$1,000,000 or more, or state grant funding of \$1,000,000 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:

3/20/2024

### 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:

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

According to the organization's most recent Audit or Balance Sheet, are the current total assets greater than the liabilities?

Select the appropriate response:

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If you selected 'No' to any question above under the Financial Capability section, in the space provided below explain what action will be taken to ensure accountability.

Enter your explanation:

## **Section 4: Budgetary Controls**

Grant agencies should establish a system to track expenditures against budget and / or funded amounts.

Are there budgetary controls in effect (e.g., comparison of budget with actual expenditures on a monthly basis) to include drawing down grant funds in excess of:

a) Total funds authorized on the Statement of Grant Award?

☐ Yes  
☐ No

b) Total funds available for any budget category as stipulated on the Statement of Grant Award?

☐ Yes  
☐ No

If you selected 'No' to any question above under the Budgetary Controls section, in the space provided below please explain what action will be taken to ensure accountability.

Enter your explanation:

### Section 5: Internal Controls

Grant agencies must safeguard cash receipts, disbursements, and ensure a segregation of duties exist. For example, one person should not have authorization to sign checks and make deposits.

Are accounting entries supported by appropriate documentation (e.g., purchase orders, vouchers, receipts, invoices)?

Select the appropriate response:

☐ Yes  
☐ No

Is there separation of responsibility in the receipt, payment, and recording of costs?

Select the appropriate response:

☐ Yes  
☐ No

If you selected 'No' to any question above under the Internal Controls section, in the space provided below please explain what action will be taken to ensure accountability.

Enter your explanation:

### Budget Details Information

#### Budget Information by Budget Line Item:

CATEGORY	SUB CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	GPI	TOTAL	UNIT/%
Personnel	Certified Peace Officer - All Others	Investigator: Lieutenant David Hall. This full-time investigator position supports the human trafficking and child exploitation unit in the Special Crimes Division of the Fort Bend County DA's office. This position investigates	\$131,768.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$131,768.00	100

	reports of human trafficking and child exploitation referred by local law enforcement to build cases and file charges against suspected traffickers. The investigator will be responsible for conducting and assisting with undercover operations dedicated to identifying and rescuing victims of human trafficking and child exploitation. Duties also include following up and obtaining additional digital evidence, including geolocation data, social media, video surveillance, and cellular telephone evidence, to identify networks of traffickers. The investigator leads human trafficking victim recovery operations and represents the Fort Bend County DA's Office on any local or regional task forces. Salary is \$101,540 plus \$40,781 in fringe benefits for a						
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		total compensation of \$142,321.						
Personnel	Analyst (e.g., crime, crime scene investigators, forensic, crime laboratory, etc.)	Criminal Intelligence Analyst: Demetria Black. This full-time investigator position supports the human trafficking and child exploitation unit in the Special Crimes Division of the Fort Bend County DA's office. This position investigates reports of human trafficking and child exploitation referred by local law enforcement to build cases and file charges against suspected traffickers through the analysis of computer forensic data. Duties include obtaining digital evidence, including geolocation data, social media, video surveillance, and cellular telephone evidence, to identify networks of traffickers utilizing open- source and law enforcement databases. Duties also include	\$109,232.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$109,232.00	100

		maintaining and updating a database of information compiled from reviewing jail calls and search warrant returns, as well as maintaining communication with contiguous counties to quickly and effectively locate victims, traffickers, and any additional evidence. Salary is \$74,869 plus \$34,363 in fringe benefits for a total compensation of \$109,232.						
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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
Personnel	\$241,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$241,000.00

**Budget Grand Total Information:**

OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	GPI	TOTAL
\$241,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$241,000.00

**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:** tstuart8430