



Technical Support Application Form

County Requesting Support:		Date of Request:
Fort Bend County		February 3, 2015
Address:	Contact Information	
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Project Name:	Time Period:
Fort Bend County Veterans Court	1 Year
Brief Description:	
<p>The Fort Bend County Veterans Court is a treatment court designed to help returning veterans whose service connected problems result in an encounter with the criminal justice system. County Court at Law #2, Hon. J. McMeans presiding, supervises the court. The Court utilizes a team approach, with support from veteran advocacy groups, the private bar, state, local and federal agencies to provide a graduated program of treatment for those eligible veterans with the incentive of a clean record and a restored life at the end of the road. Rigorous supervision and drug testing, combined with mandated counseling and close court monitoring as well as peer support, provides a clear program of graduated progress to help the veteran regain control of their lives.</p>	
Issue to Be Addressed:	
<p>Hundreds of thousands of returning Iraq and Afghanistan veterans have Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder or traumatic brain injury, or depression, as a result of their service. Many veterans of past campaigns, from Vietnam to the Gulf War, to the Balkans and Somalia, also struggle with re-integrating into society. Many are reluctant to seek help; often they self-medicate. The Veterans Court provides those honorably or generally discharged veterans with the treatment to which they are entitled, and a court support staff who advise them and help them maintain their treatment while completing their terms of community supervision. To do that, the Veterans Court requires court appointed defense attorneys with a commitment to helping the veterans while providing sound legal advice and zealous advocacy. Based upon a range of hours of up to ten per attorney per month to handle the estimated case load of twenty to twenty five veterans, a grant of 20,000.00 dollars is requested</p>	
Proposed Project to Address Problem:	
<p>Veteran's Court is a collaborative court utilizing a non-adversarial approach to encourage VA treatment for veterans with service connected disabilities where they had a role in causing the veteran's encounter with the criminal justice system, such as drinking</p>	

problems that may result in an arrest for driving while intoxicated. The Fort Bend Veterans Court follows the drug court model, emphasizing close supervision and support, while meeting the unique problems veterans face with the resources of the VA and veteran advocacy groups. This court is projected to handle misdemeanor cases with a proposed docket of between twenty and twenty five veterans receiving focused attention and help to complete the program.

Specific Assistance Needed from the Task Force:

Fort Bend County is requesting an annual renewable \$20,000.00 in grant funds to cover court appointed defense attorneys for the veterans court to help advise and defend veterans through this process. The attorneys will be compensated \$100.00 per hour, with a range of eight to ten hours expected per attorney per month.

Summary Report

In order to establish a misdemeanor pilot program oriented towards treating honorably discharged veterans whose service-connected disability resulted in a criminal charge, Fort Bend County respectfully requests this grant to enable it to pay for the services of qualified renewal contract attorneys with the experience and the motivation needed to help the local veteran population.

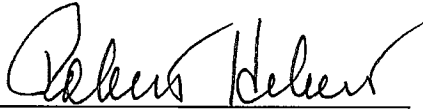
Additional Documentation if Applicable (describe here and attach to this Application)

Letter of support from presiding Judge J. McMeans
Fort Bend County Veterans Court Program Participants Handbook

Fort Bend County requests the above Technical Support from the Texas Indigent Defense Commission (Commission). We understand that:

1. The above requested technical support is subject to approval by the Commission.
2. This application does not constitute an agreement until approved and accepted by all parties.
3. Commission reimbursement will only be made for expenses incurred during the period indicated in this request but in no case may it be for expenses prior to the beginning of this agreement or after the end date agreed in writing with the Commission.
4. The county may not obligate Commission funds or staff without a specific written agreement.

5. Disbursement of funds is always subject to the availability of funds.



Signature

February 3, 2015

Date

Robert E. Hebert

Printed Name

County Judge, Fort Bend County

Title