



Office of the Governor

## Criminal Justice Division

Funding Announcement:

***Violence Against Women Justice and  
Training Program***

December 1, 2017

## Opportunity Snapshot

Below is a high-level overview. Full information is in the funding announcement that follows.

### Purpose

The purpose of this funding is to solicit applications for projects that promote a coordinated, multi-disciplinary approach to improve the justice system’s response to violent crimes against women, including domestic violence, commercial sex trafficking, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

### Eligible Purpose Areas

Projects must fall under one of the eligible purpose area categories: General Victim Services, Targeted Criminal Justice Response, Recidivism Reduction, or Prevention or Intervention.

**Related Opportunity for Victims Services Projects:** Only a limited amount of funds is available for direct victim services projects statewide. Applicants for such projects may instead wish to apply under the *General Victim Assistance Program*, which has up to \$120 million reserved specifically for victim services. Applicants may not submit the same or substantially similar applications under both programs.

### Organizational Eligibility

Applications may be submitted by state agencies, public and private non-profit institutions of higher education, Native American tribal governments, non-profit corporations (including faith-based) and units of local government, defined as a non-statewide governmental body with authority to establish a budget and impose taxes (includes hospital districts). Other local governmental agencies must apply through an associated unit of local government. See the [Eligible Organizations](#) section for details.

### Project Periods

Continuation projects may not exceed a 12-month period.

### Budget

The minimum budget under this program is \$5,000 and there is maximum funding request.

### Match

Grantees must provide matching (cash or in-kind) funds equal to 29% of the total project cost.

### Process

Applications under this funding announcement must be submitted in eGrants at [eGrants.gov.texas.gov](http://eGrants.gov.texas.gov)

### Timelines

Action	Date
Online System Opening Date	12/18/2017
Final Date to Submit an Application	02/20/2018 at 5:00PM CST
Earliest Project Start Date	09/01/2018
Latest Project Start Date	12/01/2018

### Contact Information

For more information, contact the eGrants help desk at [eGrants@gov.texas.gov](mailto:eGrants@gov.texas.gov) or (512) 463-1919.

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# Violence Against Women Justice and Training program

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## Overview of Application Process

Applicants should carefully review the application process as outlined below. CJD will not consider applications that fail to adequately address the application requirements and prompts, including those that have been previously approved for funding and/or are recommended for funding by local Criminal Justice Advisory Committees.

### ☐ **Step 1 – Review eligibility and requirements:**

- The [Eligibility](#) section outlines who may apply, which purpose areas will be considered, and the expenses and activities eligible to be included.
- The [Program-Specific Details](#) section has information on timelines, reporting, and funding.
- The [Standard CJD Requirements](#) section addresses application and project requirements.

### ☐ **Step 2 – Contact your regional criminal justice planner (local and regional projects only):** The regional Council of Governments' (COG) Criminal Justice Advisory Committee will review local and regional applications first, and some COGs have additional, mandatory application procedures. Applicants should contact their COG's criminal justice planner early as possible. A directory is available at <http://txregionalcouncil.org/regional-programs/criminal-justice/cjcontacts/>.

### ☐ **Step 3 – Develop your project:** Before starting your application, applicants should develop a concrete understanding of their project and read CJD's *Developing a Good Project Narrative* at <http://gov.texas.gov/cjd/resources>, which details how to explain:

- **What the project will accomplish:** What problem will the project solve? Who is the targeted population to serve and/or prosecute? What does success look like and how do you measure it?
- **How the project will help:** What specifically will you do? What standards or evidence says it's an effective approach? What capabilities are needed to succeed?
- **What is required for success:** What resources (including funding) does the project require?

### ☐ **Step 4 - Apply in eGrants:** Compile and submit your grant application via eGrants, at <http://eGrants.gov.texas.gov>. For more instructions and information, see *How to Apply for a CJD Grant*, available at <http://gov.texas.gov/cjd/resources>.

### ☐ **Step 5 - Funding Decisions and Grant Acceptance:** Await the funding decision, which is provided through a grant award or other notice from CJD. If you receive an award, complete the acceptance process to access funds.

## Application Resources

CJD has published several resources to assist applicants in understanding and applying for funding, all of which can be found at <http://gov.texas.gov/cjd/resources>

- **Developing a Good Project Narrative:** Guidance on how to formulate an effective project, and how to communicate it clearly in the application's narrative prompts.
- **How to Apply for a CJD Grant:** Instructions on how to file an application in eGrants.
- **Guide to Grants:** CJD policies and guidance on common grant issues.
- **Grantee Conditions and Responsibilities:** A compendium of CJD and Homeland Security Grants Division policies for all grantees.
- **Standard Certifications and Requirements:** CJD's standard requirements that the Authorized Official must certify upon applying for a grant.
- **CJD Grant Activities and Measures:** A reference for applicants on the activities allowed for different project types and the measures associated with each.

## Eligibility

### Eligible Organizations

Applications may be submitted by state agencies, public and private non-profit institutions of higher education, Native American tribal governments, councils of governments, non-profit corporations (including faith-based organizations) and units of local government, which are defined as a non-statewide governmental body with the authority to establish a budget and impose taxes (includes hospital districts).

Other local governmental agencies must be submitted by a unit of government affiliated with the agency, including an authorizing resolution from that unit of government. For example, police departments must apply through their municipal government; and community supervision and corrections departments and district attorneys must apply through their affiliated county government (or one of their affiliated counties, in the case of agencies that serve more than one county).

Agencies applying for funds to support a CASA or Children's Advocacy Center program must apply through either Texas CASA, Inc. or Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas.

### Eligible Activities and Costs

The following list of eligible and ineligible activities and costs apply generally to all projects under this announcement, unless otherwise noted in the purpose area-specific sections below. For definitions, see *CJD Grant Activities and Measures* (available at <http://gov.texas.gov/cjd/resources>)

#### Eligible:

1. Casework, non-licensed counseling, individual advocacy, or other support (including crisis services, multi-disciplinary teams and case coordination, domestic violence high-risk teams, victim-offender meetings, system advocacy, etc.);

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2. Counseling, therapy, or other care performed by a licensed (or certified) professional (including forensic interviews of victims not performed by law enforcement officers or prosecutors);
3. Emergency shelter or transportation;
4. Equipment and technology;
5. General law enforcement or public safety (public outreach sessions only);
6. Legal assistance (for protective order assistance only);
7. Program evaluation and assessment;
8. Targeted prosecution or investigation (including forensic interviews performed by law enforcement officers or prosecutors and court services/improvements addressing violence against women, including specialized courts but excluding Specialty Courts authorized under Ch. 121 of the Texas Government Code);
9. Training, professional development, or technical assistance – received from others or performed in-house;
10. Supplies and direct operating costs; and
11. Indirect costs (see the *Guide to Grants* and *Grantee Conditions and Responsibilities* for further guidance and restrictions).

### **Ineligible:**

1. Counseling or treatment for substance abuse (activities with a primary purpose);
2. Remodeling and construction;
3. Instruction and support for academic programs;
4. Instruction and support for employment or workforce programs;
5. Instruction and support for life, social, or emotional skills;
6. Materials or curriculum development;
7. Processing DNA evidence;
8. Victim-offender meetings that serve to replace (or as a part of) criminal justice proceedings;
9. Services to incarcerated individuals, including re-entry rehabilitative services related to the crime for which they are incarcerated;
10. Medical training;
11. Medical services other than forensic medical examinations and prophylaxis;
12. Forensic medical evidence collection for sexual assault offenses;
13. Cash payments to victims, gift cards, or fuel vouchers;
14. Creation of a voucher program where victims are directly given vouchers for such services as housing or counseling;
15. Leasing or purchasing vehicles;
16. Research and studies;

17. Overtime;
18. Legal defense services for perpetrators of violence against women;
19. Criminal defense work, including for women who assault, kill, or otherwise injure their abusers;
20. Liability insurance on buildings;
21. Major maintenance on buildings, including minor renovations, lawn care, landscaping, painting, plumbing and HVAC repair;
22. Reimbursement to crime victims for expenses incurred as a result of a crime, such as insurance deductibles, replacement of stolen property, funeral expenses, lost wages, and medical bills;
23. Services for programs that primarily focus on children and/or men;
24. Activities exclusively related to violence prevention, such as media campaigns to educate the general public about violence against women, public awareness, and community education campaigns are also prohibited;
25. Prosecution of child sexual abuse when the victim is now an adult;
26. Relocation expenses for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking such as moving household goods to a new location in another state or acquiring furniture or housing in a new location;
27. Development or presentation of a domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking curriculum for primary or secondary schools (educating students from an existing curriculum would also be prohibited);
28. Law enforcement equipment that is standard department issue;
29. Activities that may compromise victim safety; and
30. Any other prohibition imposed by federal, state, or local law or regulation.

## Eligible Purpose Areas

Applications must designate in eGrants which of the following six purpose areas corresponds to their project:

*(Victim Services)*

- **General Victim Services**

*(Targeted Criminal Justice Response)*

- **Targeted Investigations**
- **Specialized Prosecutions**
- **Targeted Response Operational Support**

*(Recidivism Reduction)*

- **Diversion and Community Supervision**

(Prevention or Intervention)

- **Criminal Behavior Prevention**

Applications must also contain target measures that demonstrate the scope of the project. These targets will be one measure of project success and grantees will be required to report periodic progress towards them. Each of the purpose areas have measures that correspond to them and specific activities. For a list of the measures and activities for this funding announcement, see *CJD Grant Activities and Measures*, available at <http://gov.texas.gov/cjd/resources>.

## Victim Services

**Note:** Only a limited amount of funding is set-aside for direct victim services projects statewide. Applicants for such projects may instead wish to apply under the *General Victim Assistance Program*, which has up to \$120 million reserved specifically for victim services. Applicants may not submit the same or substantially similar applications under both programs.

- **General Victim Services.** General Victim Services projects provide direct services to victims of crime, with the goal of speeding their recovery and aiding them through the criminal justice process.

## Targeted Criminal Justice Response

Targeted Criminal Justice Response projects respond to specific crimes or criminal elements, with the ultimate goal of increasing the successful prosecutions of those crimes. Applications for these projects should clearly define the targeted set of crimes or criminal elements, have data on the severity of the problem, and how the project will identify and pursue offenders.

Projects should fall under these sub-categories:

- **Targeted Investigations.** These projects increase successful clearances for targeted sets of crime. Example: A project to conduct proactive investigations on a specific type of crime such as human trafficking, sexual assault, or domestic violence.
- **Specialized Prosecutions.** These projects increase successful prosecutions (including convictions, deferred adjudications, and diversions) for targeted sets of crimes. Example: A project to provide a specialized prosecutor for human trafficking, domestic violence, or sexual assault.
- **Operational Support:** These projects will improve the general capacity and capability of targeted criminal justice responses through direct support of investigations or prosecutions, including equipment and training. Examples: 1) A project that replaces and/or upgrades forensic equipment used in the investigation or prosecution of specific crimes; 2) A project to provide targeted training for law enforcement officers on forensics, human trafficking, highway interdiction, gangs, border patrol, and drug trafficking; 3) A project to provide analysis of sexual assault forensic evidence kits to reduce a backlog.

## Recidivism Reduction

Recidivism reduction projects have an ultimate goal of reducing crimes committed by offenders.



- **Diversion and Community Supervision.** These projects prevent recidivism among non-incarcerated offenders, including those enrolled in specialty court programs. Example: A project that provides increased case management and supervision for individuals on probation for domestic violence.

## Prevention or Intervention

Prevention or Intervention projects reduce criminal behavior and opportunities to commit crime, with the goal of reducing criminal offenses.

- **Criminal Behavior Prevention.** These projects work with individuals at-risk of criminal behavior. Example: A community-based program that provides early intervention services to individuals at risk of becoming domestic violence offenders.

## Program-Specific Details

### Program-Specific Requirements

In addition to the special requirements for specific purpose areas detailed above, all projects under this funding announcement must meet these requirements:

#### **Budgeting requirement:**

Applicants are strongly cautioned to only apply for the amount of funding they can responsibly expend in the grant period. CJD will be tracking expenditure rates throughout the life of the grants and may take action to avoid large de-obligations at the end of grant periods.

#### **Demonstrated capabilities or funding:**

Applicants must have a demonstrated record of providing effective victim services. In rare cases where services are critically needed, CJD may award funds to entities that have not yet demonstrated a record of providing services, if they can demonstrate that (1) 25 percent of their financial support comes from non-federal sources (to demonstrate financial stability); and (2) the entity is already operational at the time of application.

Applicants must submit adequate information in the “Capacity & Capabilities” section of the eGrants application to determine which of these conditions they are applying under.

#### **Cultural competency:**

Applicants must be culturally competent when providing services to victims. Victim service providers must have the ability to blend cultural knowledge and sensitivity with victim restoration skills for a more effective and culturally appropriate recovery process. Cultural competency occurs when: (1) cultural knowledge, awareness and sensitivity are integrated into action and policy; (2) the service is relevant to the needs of the community and provided by trained staff, board members, and management; and (3) an advocate or organization recognizes each client is different with different needs, feelings, ideas and barriers.

**Victim services assessment survey:** All recipients of funding under this announcement may be required to participate in a victim services assessment during their grant period, as directed by CJD.

## Funding and Reporting Details

Category	Detail
Funds Available	Up to \$9 million <sup>1</sup>
Budget Minimum	\$5,000
Budget Maximum	None
Match Requirement	29% of total project cost <sup>2</sup>
Project Period	May not exceed 12 months
Funding Source	Federal: Authorized under the Violence Against Women Act of 2013, Pub. L. No. 113-4 (VAWA 2013).
Financial Reporting	At least quarterly, submitted via Financial Status Reports in eGrants
Financing method	Reimbursement-for-costs basis
Progress Reporting	- Semi-annual, submitted via the Public Policy Research Institute at Texas A&M University at <a href="http://cjd.tamu.edu">http://cjd.tamu.edu</a> - Additional reports may be required

- 1) Funds are made available through a Congressional appropriation. All awards are subject to the availability of federal funds and any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law.
- 2) Total project cost is the aggregate of OOG grant funds, cash match, and in-kind match. Go to the Guide to Grants, available at <http://gov.texas.gov/cjd/resources> for more information.

## Timeline

Action	Date
Funding Announcement Release	12/01/2017
Online System Opening Date	12/18/2017
Final Date to Submit an Application	02/20/2018 at 5:00PM CST
Earliest Project Start Date	09/01/2018
Latest Project Start Date	11/01/2018

## Standard CJD Requirements

When accepting an award under this funding announcement, the grantee agrees to comply with a variety of state and federal laws and regulations, including requirements related to Uniform Crime Reports, criminal history reporting, and immigration and customs enforcement requests. For more information see the following documents, available at <http://gov.texas.gov/cjd/resources>.

- *Standard Certifications and Requirements*
- *Grantee Conditions and Responsibilities*
- *Guide to Grants*

## Selection Process

**Application Screening:** CJD will screen all applications to ensure that they meet the requirements included in the funding announcement. Applications that meet those requirements will move forward to the merit review phase.

**Merit Review – Local Projects:** Projects with a local impact will be reviewed by a panel appointed by the local Council of Governments using their own criteria. The merit review panels will assess the applications for quality and rank by priority, and then report their findings to the CJD executive director.

**Merit Review – Statewide Projects:** Projects with a statewide impact will be reviewed by a panel appointed by the CJD executive director in an effort to prioritize funding. The merit review panel will assess and score each application on a 100-point scale, and then report its findings to the executive director. Scores will be based on standard criteria. For more information, see *How to Apply for a CJD Grant*, available at <http://gov.texas.gov/cjd/resources>.

**Final Decisions – All Projects:** The executive director will consider merit review rankings along with other factors and make all final funding decisions. Other factors may include cost effectiveness, overall funds availability, CJD or state government priorities and strategies, legislative directives, need, geographic distribution, balance of focuses and approaches, or other relevant factors.

CJD may not fund all applications or may only award part of the amount requested. Per Rule 3.9 of the Texas Administrative Code, all funding decisions made by the executive director are final and are not subject to appeal. The receipt of an application by CJD does not obligate CJD to fund the grant or to fund it at the amount requested.

## Announcements

After CJD makes final funding decisions, each applicant will receive either an unfunded notice or a preliminary decision notification or final grant award. Release of final grant awards for federally funded programs are always contingent on CJD's receipt of the federal grant award for that program and CJD cannot release or guarantee funding to any applicant until it has received and accepted the federal award and a determination is made that adequate funding is available.

## About CJD

Our mission at the Criminal Justice Division is to direct much needed resources to those who are committed to making Texas a safer place and those who help victims of crime to recover and feel safe again. In carrying out this mission, we are committed to helping our grantees by actively finding ways for them to accomplish their goals and by making sure that we always have our eye to identifying the approaches that work best. We envision positive and beneficial working relationships with our grantees where we provide as much assistance as is needed and where we are always ready with answers, not burdensome restrictions or requirements.

CJD will make over \$275 million in funding available to hundreds of organizations during state fiscal year 2018 for juvenile justice, delinquency prevention, victims services, law enforcement, prosecution, courts, specialty courts, prevention of child sex trafficking, and other types of projects to benefit Texans.