



Office of the Governor, Public Safety Office Child Sex Trafficking Team Funding Announcement: ***County Innovations to Prevent Commercial Sexual Exploitation***

Purpose

The purpose of this announcement is to solicit applications from counties for innovative projects that prevent, investigate, and/or prosecute the commercial sexual exploitation of people in Texas.

Note: Applicants seeking to operate a Commercially Sexually Exploited Persons (CSEP) Specialty Court should refer to funding opportunities specific to a specialty court program.

Available Funding

State funds for these projects are authorized under the Texas General Appropriations Act, Article I, Rider 35 for Trusteed Programs within the Office of the Governor. All awards are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law. PSO expects to make available up to \$2.5M for FY2020.

Eligible Organizations

Applications may only be submitted by Texas counties.

Application Process

Applicants must access the PSO's eGrants grant management website at <https://eGrants.gov.texas.gov> to register and apply for funding. For more instructions and information, see *Developing a Good Project Narrative Guide*, available [here](#).

Key Dates

Action	Date
Funding Announcement Release	11/15/2019
Online System Opening Date	11/15/2019
Final Date to Submit and Certify an Application	01/14/2020 at 5:00pm CST
Earliest Project Start Date	04/01/2020

Project Period

Mandatory 18-month project period. Projects must begin on 04/01/2020 and must end on 9/30/2021.

Funding Levels

Minimum: None

Maximum: None

Match Requirement: None

Standards

Grantees must comply with standards applicable to this fund source cited in the State Uniform Grant Management Standards ([UGMS](#)), [Federal Uniform Grant Guidance](#), and all statutes, requirements, and guidelines applicable to this funding.

Eligible Activities and Costs

The following list of eligible activities and costs applies generally to all projects under this announcement.

Diversion Programs (CSEP): Programs to divert individuals experiencing commercial sexual exploitation away from the criminal justice system. This includes pre-arrest and pre-trial diversion programs for individuals engaged in prostitution (selling).

Targeted Investigation and Prosecution (CSEP): The investigation and/or prosecution of crimes related to the commercial sexual exploitation of people, including the use of dedicated personnel such as investigators, analysts, task force coordinators, or prosecutors.

Program Evaluation and Assessment: Evaluation and/or assessment of the effectiveness of targeted criminal justice responses.

Innovative Programs (CSEP): Consideration will be given to a limited number of innovative programs that address commercial sexual exploitation but do not fit neatly into the other eligible activities.

Program Specific Requirements

Please closely review the following requirements for projects under this funding announcement as some instructions are not contained on eGrants. Failure to provide requested information will be considered in the review process and may result in an application being deemed ineligible for funding. Unless otherwise noted, the following requirements may be addressed in whatever section of the Project Narrative that the applicant deems most appropriate.

Requirements for specific purpose areas:

Diversion Programs (CSEP): Applicants seeking to implement diversion programs must provide a detailed overview of the proposed diversion structure, including: program goals; target population; method of entry/point of contact; type of intervention/service; completion criteria; impact on a participant's criminal record; and any other critical details. Applicants should also provide baseline data on prostitution-selling offenses for at least one prior year, including (at a minimum): the number of prostitution-selling arrests by age and gender; and a breakdown of case dispositions for prostitution-selling cases.

Targeted Investigation and Prosecution (CSEP): Applicants should describe how the proposed strategies will improve local investigations and/or prosecutions of sex buyers, traffickers, and/or other actors benefitting from the commercial sexual exploitation of people. Applicants should also provide baseline data on prostitution and sex trafficking related arrests for at least one prior year, including (at a minimum): the number of arrests by age, gender, and offense; and a breakdown of case dispositions by offense. Offense data should include (at a minimum); prostitution-buying; prostitution-selling; promotion of prostitution; aggravated promotion of prostitution; compelling prostitution; child sex trafficking; and adult sex trafficking.

Requirements for all projects:

Trauma Informed Response: Each application should include proposed strategies to ensure that individuals experiencing commercial sexual exploitation receive a trauma informed response.

Project Evaluation: Each application should clearly identify the goals of the project, including methods for evaluating progress toward those goals. 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.

Data Collection: All projects are required to collect data related to the local response to commercial sexual exploitation, and applications are expected to affirm the ability to collect such information; at a minimum, this includes the following individual-level data for prostitution and sex trafficking offenses: System Person Number; Date of Birth; Gender; Race/Ethnicity; Date of Arrest; Charge 1; Charge 2 (if applicable); Date of Final Case Disposition; Case Disposition; and Sentence. Grantees may be required to provide data to PSO or a designated third-party evaluator.

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. All documents must be uploaded onto the Upload.Files Tab prior to the submission and certification of the eGrants application.

Guiding Principles: The Child Sex Trafficking Team conducts its activities in alignment with its guiding principles. Partners and grantees are expected to adhere to these same guiding principles, where applicable. The level of commitment to these principles, as indicated by an applicant’s proposed strategies, may be considered in the merit review process and ultimately required as a condition of funding. CSTT’s guiding principles are:

- a. We treat exploited youth as victims and survivors, not perpetrators.
- b. We are collaborative.
- c. We are survivor informed.
- d. Our systems and programs prioritize the needs of exploited youth 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 youth, and by building the resiliency of our most vulnerable youth.
- f. Our approaches, systems and services are trauma informed and 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 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.

Eligibility Requirements

1. Entities receiving funds from CJD 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 60. 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.
2. Eligible applicants operating a law enforcement agency must be current on reporting Part I violent crime data to the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) for inclusion in the annual Uniform Crime Report (UCR). 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.
3. The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) has established a goal set by the Texas Legislature for all local law enforcement agencies to implement and report crime statistics data by using the requirements of the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) no later than September 1, 2019. Additionally, the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) will collect required crime statistics solely through the NIBRS starting January 1, 2021. Due to these state and federal deadlines, grantees are advised that eligibility for future grant funding may be tied to compliance with NIBRS. Financial grant assistance for transitioning to NIBRS may be available for your jurisdiction from the Public Safety Office.
4. 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 OOG and is active until August 31, 2021 or the end of the grant period, whichever is later. Eligible applicants must have a DUNS (Data Universal Numbering System) number assigned to its agency (to request a DUNS number, go to <https://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>).

5. Eligible applicants must be registered in the federal System for Award Management (SAM) database located at <https://sam.gov/>.

6. Eligible applicants will be required to provide regular reports reflecting the financial status of the grant, performance measures for services delivered, victims assisted and other selected metrics, and engagement with activities of care coordination where applicable.

Failure to comply with program eligibility requirements may cause funds to be withheld and/or suspension or termination of grant funds.

Prohibitions

Grant funds may not be used to support the unallowable costs listed in the [Guide to Grants](#) or any of the following unallowable costs:

1. Construction, renovation, or remodeling;
2. Law enforcement equipment that is standard department issue;
3. Judges;
4. Lobbying or advocacy activities with respect to legislation or to administrative changes to regulations, whether conducted directly or indirectly;
5. Any other prohibition imposed by federal, state or local law or regulation.

Selection Process

Application Screening: The Public Safety Office (PSO) will screen all applications to ensure that they meet the requirements included in the funding announcement.

Merit Review: All applications will be reviewed by a panel appointed by the Child Sex Trafficking Team 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.

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

The PSO may not fund all applications or may only award part of the amount requested. In the event that funding requests exceed available funds, PSO may revise projects to address a more limited focus.

Contact Information

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