



MEMORANDUM

To: Galveston County Commissioners' Court  
From: Betsy Thomas, Grants Administrator  
Court Date: February 3, 2025  
RE: District Attorney's Office  
FY 2026 Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Grant Application  
Violence Against Women Prosecutor and Protective Order Attorney

BACKGROUND

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) offers grant programs to promote coordinated, multidisciplinary approaches to improving the criminal justice systems to respond to violent crimes against women, including domestic violence, commercial sex trafficking, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

Since 2009, Galveston County has operated a Violence Against Women Prosecutor Program through the District Attorney's Office. This program designates a specific prosecutor position to handle cases involving violence against women. Although this position is not the only prosecutor who handles this type of cases, the grant program provides the County an opportunity to have a position specifically for this type of case.

In 2017, Galveston County added a Violence Against Women Protective Order Attorney to elevate the three-month backlog. By adding this position, the County was able to expedite the process to obtain Protective Orders for Galveston County residents.

Congress allocates funding to each state for VAWA programs and the Office of the Governor's Public Safety Office – Criminal Justice Division administers the funds for the state. Funds are distributed to the local Councils of Government (COGs) such as the Houston-Galveston Council (HGAC) here in our region, who regulates the grant caps and prioritizes applications for funding recommendations through their Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC). The CJAC has raised the grant request cap from \$80,000 to \$150,000.



### SUMMARY

In FY 2025, Galveston County combined two VAWA grants into one as required and funded the program at a 50/50 match to account for the more than 10% increase in our application.

For 2026, staff recommends a 54/46 match to meet the funding need for both position and the HGAC Regional VAWA application cap of \$150,000.

### FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Grant	Grant Amount	Match Amount	Total Project Cost
FY 2024 VAWA Prosecutor	\$99,284.50	\$42,550.50	\$141,835.00
FY 2024 PO Attorney	\$99,592.61	\$39,682.56	\$132,275.17
FY 2024 TOTALS	\$198,877.11	\$82,233.06	\$274,110.17
FY 2025 Combined VAWA Application	\$138,276.00	\$138,276.00	\$276,552.00
FY 2026 Combined VAWA Application	\$150,000.00	\$126,159.00	\$276,159.00

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Professional Services requests the Court to consider approval to submit the FY 2026 VAWA grant application to the Office of the Governor's Public Safety Office – Criminal Justice Division and authorize the County Judge to sign supporting resolution.

### ATTACHEMENTS FOR WET SIGNATURE

- ☐ FY 2026 VAWA Application Resolution

**Agency Name:** Galveston County  
**Grant/App:** 2704113 **Start Date:** 9/1/2025 **End Date:** 8/31/2026

**Project Title:** Galveston County Violence Against Women Prosecutor  
**Status:** Application Pending Submission

**Eligibility Information**

**Your organization's Texas Payee/Taxpayer ID Number:**  
17460009081010

**Application Eligibility Certify:**

Created on: 1/2/2025 6:08:42 PM By: Betsy Thomas

**Profile Information**

**Applicant Agency Name:** Galveston County  
**Project Title:** Galveston County Violence Against Women Prosecutor  
**Division or Unit to Administer the Project:** Galveston County District Attorney's Office  
**Address Line 1:** 722 Moody  
**Address Line 2:** 2nd Floor  
**City/State/Zip:** Galveston Texas 77550-2317  
**Start Date:** 9/1/2025  
**End Date:** 8/31/2026

**Regional Council of Governments (COG) within the Project's Impact Area:** Houston-Galveston Area Council  
**Headquarter County:** Galveston  
**Counties within Project's Impact Area:** Galveston

**Grant Officials:**

**Authorized Official**

**Name:** Mark Henry  
**Email:** mark.henry@co.galveston.tx.us  
**Address 1:** 722 Moody  
**Address 1:**

**City:** Galveston, Texas 77550  
**Phone:** 409-766-2244 Other Phone: 409-765-2639  
**Fax:** 409-766-4582  
**Title:** The Honorable  
**Salutation:** Judge  
**Position:** County Judge

**Financial Official**

**Name:** Randall Rice  
**Email:** Randall.Rice@galvestoncountytexas.gov  
**Address 1:** 722 Moody Avenue 4th Floor  
**Address 1:**  
**City:** Galveston, Texas 77550  
**Phone:** 409-770-5301 Other Phone: 469-534-5988  
**Fax:** 409-765-3252  
**Title:** Mr.  
**Salutation:** Mr.  
**Position:** County Auditor

**Project Director**

**Name:** Mary Pitts  
**Email:** mary.pitts@galvestoncountytexas.gov  
**Address 1:** 722 Moody Ave, 3rd Floor  
**Address 1:**  
**City:** Galveston, Texas 77550  
**Phone:** 409-770-5207 Other Phone:  
**Fax:**  
**Title:** Ms.  
**Salutation:** Ms.  
**Position:** Grant Administrator

**Grant Writer**

**Name:** Ricque Davis  
**Email:** ricque.davis@galvestoncountytexas.gov  
**Address 1:** 600 59th Street, Suite 1001  
**Address 1:**  
**City:** Galveston, Texas 77551



**Phone:** 409-770-5461 Other Phone:

**Fax:**

**Title:** Ms.

**Salutation:** Ms.

**Position:** Chief ADA- VAWA

### **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):** 17460009081010

**Unique Entity Identifier (UEI):** DRP9KU1PVJN4

### **Narrative Information**

#### **Introduction**

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, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

### **Program-Specific Questions**

#### **Culturally Competent Victim Restoration**

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.

Provide information in this section regarding how your organization is culturally competent when providing services to victims.

The primary role of this project in assisting victims is to prosecute their assailants and obtain protective orders to increase their safety. Despite a singular goal, not all cases of violence against women can be treated the same because each case has an individual victim. Emphasis is placed on taking the time to get to know and understand the individual victim, including their cultural background, family dynamics, support system (including familial and economic), etc. It is only after becoming familiar with the victim and their background that a prosecutor can know how best to proceed with a case. Furthermore, it is the policy

of the Galveston County District Attorney's Office to ensure every victim of a violent crime is informed of their legal rights as a victim. The Office puts this into action by making every effort to provide information in writing to every victim of violent crime regarding their legal rights, as well as to provide information about state and local resources, including protective orders and "no-contact" bond conditions. This information is available in English and Spanish. Galveston County is comprised of many low-income families, and it is the focus of the VAWA Prosecutor and Protective Order Prosecutor to ensure justice for victims from every walk of life as well as safety measures to prevent them from being victimized again by the same perpetrator. The VAWA and Protective Order prosecutors have advocated for victims who are homeless, drug abusers, or have immigration issues, whose abusers have preyed upon these victims particularly because perpetrators think society will not believe these particular types of victims. Furthermore, trained victim advocates assist the prosecutor in getting to know victims and assisting with their needs while the Protective Order prosecutor works collaboratively with the advocates and all the prosecutors in the office to obtain protective orders and "no-contact" bond conditions. The Galveston County District Attorney's Office currently has a Spanish-speaking advocate to assist with Spanish speaking victims. Allowing a victim to communicate in the language in which they feel most comfortable aids in making victims comfortable with the process. When appropriate, arrangements for official court interpreters are made so that victims can also testify in their native language. An outreach advocate also focuses on victims in areas without law enforcement agency advocates, and victims who are unable to travel to the courthouse. Prosecution of perpetrators of violence against women is absolutely relevant to the needs of Galveston County. Violence against women continues to be a pervasive issue in the County and such violence has dramatic effects on the victims, their children and families, and ultimately the entire community. Holding perpetrators accountable is vital to curbing violence against women and its effect on the community. It is also an important piece in the victim restoration process. The prosecutor currently serving as the VAWA Prosecutor has been a licensed attorney for over 7 years, and as a prosecutor, has handled victim caseloads (aggravated robberies, sexual assaults, domestic violence, murder, crimes against children, and currently violence against women) almost exclusively since 2019. The Protective Order prosecutor has been licensed for 13 years. The needs, feelings, ideas, and barriers of every victim are different. These needs and barriers are addressed by listening to the Victim's complete story, and when appropriate referring victims for services, including protective orders. Transportation arrangements are also made for victims who want to be present for the court process but are without transportation. Victims' feelings and ideas are acknowledged, particularly regarding their own safety. The needs and safety of the victim are always given careful consideration in determining how best to handle the prosecution of a criminal case.

#### **Culturally Specific and Underserved Populations**

Following are relevant definitions needed to answer this question.

- Underserved populations means populations who face barriers in accessing and using victim services, and includes populations underserved because of geographic location, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, underserved racial and ethnic populations, populations underserved because of special needs (such as language barriers, disabilities, alienage status, or age), and any other population determined to be underserved by the Attorney General or by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, as appropriate.
- Culturally specific means the program is primarily directed toward racial and ethnic minority groups (as defined in section 1707(g) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300u-6(g))).
- Racial and ethnic minority group means American Indians (including Alaska Natives, Eskimos, and Aleuts); Asian Americans; Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders; Blacks; and Hispanics.

- Hispanic means individuals whose origin is Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or any other Spanish-speaking country.

Does your program have a primary focus on serving a culturally specific population? (The organization must do more than merely provide services to an underserved population or culturally specific group; rather, the organization's primary focus must be on providing culturally competent services designed to meet the specific needs of the target population in order to justify a YES response in the section below.)

☐ Yes  
☒ No

If you answered '**YES**' above, you must explain in the box below how your organization's program is specifically designed to focus on and meet the needs of culturally specific populations. If this item does not apply enter '**N/A**'.

N/A

#### **Eligibility Requirements**

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:

#### **Grant Eligibility Regarding Compelling Victim Testimony:**

In accordance with 34 USC § 10454, in order for a prosecutor's office to be eligible to receive grant funds under this subchapter, the head of the office shall certify to the State receiving the grant funding that the office will, during the 3-year period beginning on the date on which the grant is awarded, engage in planning, developing and implementing—

- (1) training developed by experts in the field regarding victim-centered approaches in domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking cases;
- (2) policies that support a victim-centered approach, informed by such training; and
- (3) a protocol outlining alternative practices and procedures for material witness petitions and bench warrants, consistent with best practices, that shall be exhausted before employing material witness petitions and bench warrants to obtain victim-witness testimony in the investigation, prosecution, and trial of a crime related to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking of the victim in order to prevent further victimization and trauma to the victim.

#### **Constitutional Compliance**

Applicant assures that it will not engage in any activity that violates Constitutional law including profiling based upon race.

#### **Forensic Medical Examination Payments**

Health care facilities shall conduct a forensic medical examination of a victim of an alleged sexual assault if the victim arrived at the facility within 120 hours after the assault occurred and the victim consents to the examination. The victim is not required to participate in the investigation or prosecution of an offense as a condition of receiving a forensic medical examination, nor pay for the forensic examination or the evidence collection kit. Crime Victim Compensation funds may be used to pay for the medical portion of the exam unless the victim of sexual assault is required to seek reimbursement for the examination from their insurance carrier. If a health care facility does not provide diagnosis or treatment services for sexual assault victims, the facility is required to refer the victim to a facility that provides those services.

**Confidentiality and Privacy**

Applicant agrees to maintain the confidentiality of client-counselor information and research data, as required by state and federal law. Personal identifying information or individual information collected in connection with services requested, utilized, or denied may not be disclosed; or, reveal individual client information without informed, written, reasonably time-limited consent of the person about whom information is sought. If release of information is compelled by statutory or court mandate, reasonable attempts to provide notice to victims affected by the disclosure of information will be made and steps necessary to protect the privacy and safety of the persons affected by the release of information will be taken.

**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.

**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.

**Protection Orders**

Victims applying for a protective order or their attorney may not bear the costs associated with the filing of an order of protections.

**Offender Firearm Prohibition**

The applicant certifies that its judicial administrative policies and practices include notification to domestic violence offenders of the requirements delineated in section 18 USC § 992(g)(8) and (g)(9).

**Criminal Charges**

In connection with the prosecution of any misdemeanor or felony domestic violence offense, the victim may not bear the costs associated with the filing of criminal charges against a domestic violence offender, issuance or service of a warrant, or witness subpoena.

**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 follow 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 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.

**Immigration Legal Services**

PSO prioritizes funding of projects that provide a full spectrum of counseling, crisis services, and other direct victim services. PSO will not fund projects that focus primarily on immigration legal services and do not provide a significant level of other types of victim services.

**Legal Representation in Divorce and Custody Cases**

PSO limits eligibility for legal representation in divorce and custody cases to circumstances where the survivor has been directly victimized by intimate partner violence (IPV) within the last six (6) months. This may include physical violence, sexual violence, stalking, and psychological aggression (including coercive tactics) by a current or former intimate partner against the survivor or survivor's kin sharing the residence. Additionally, legal services in divorce and custody cases funded under this award are limited to emergency order assistance, safety planning, client representation in divorce or guardianship proceedings, and other family law matters directly resulting from the victimization. Through acceptance of this award, grantee agrees that reimbursement for divorce and custody-related legal services will be limited to circumstances listed above.

**Community Efforts**

Applicant agrees to promote community efforts to aid crime victims. Applicants should promote, within the community, coordinated public and private efforts to aid crime victims. Coordination efforts qualify an organization to receive these funds, but are not activities that can be supported with these funds.

**No Charge**

Applicant agrees to provide grant-funded services at no charge to victims of crime. Applicants are also prohibited from billing Crime Victims Compensation, private insurance, Medicaid, or Medicare for services provided using VAWA funds.

**Discrimination**

Applicant agrees not to discriminate against victims because they disagree with the State's prosecution of the criminal case.

**Equal Employment Opportunity Plan (EEO Plan)**

If awarded, applicant agrees to comply with the Equal Employment Opportunity Program (EEOP) requirements per 28 C.F.R. § 42 Subpart E. Agencies may use the [EEO Utilization Report Builder](#) to assist with preparing Verification Forms and, if required, Utilization Reports.

**Compliance with State and Federal Laws, Programs and Procedures**

**Local Units of Government:** 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 PSO and is active until August 31, 2026 or the end of the grant period, whichever is later.

**Non-profit Organizations:** Each non-profit 501(c)(3) organization must certify that it does not have, and will continue not to have any policy, procedure, or agreement (written or unwritten) that in any way encourages, induces, entices, or aids any violations of immigration laws. Additionally, the organization certifies that it does not have in effect, purport to have in effect, and is not subject to or bound by any rule, policy, or practice (written or unwritten) that would: (1) encourage the concealment, harboring, or shielding from detection of fugitives from justice or aliens who illegally came to, entered, or remained 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, the organization certifies that it will not adopt, enforce, or endorse a policy which prohibits or materially limits the enforcement of immigration laws, and will not, as demonstrated by pattern or practice, prohibit or materially limit the enforcement of immigration laws.

Each non-profit organization must download, complete and then upload into eGrants the [CEO/NGO Certifications and Assurances Form](#) certifying compliance with federal and state immigration enforcement requirements.

#### **Legal Assistance for Victims (LAV) Certification**

The applicant certifies that it meets the following federal statutory requirements in regards to the provision of legal advocacy: (1) any person providing legal assistance through a program funded under this section—

(A)(i) is a licensed attorney or is working under the direct supervision of a licensed attorney;

(ii) in immigration proceedings, is a Board of Immigration Appeals accredited representative;

(iii) in Veterans' Administration claims, is an accredited representative; or

(iv) is any person who functions as an attorney or lay advocate in Tribal court; and

(B)(i) has demonstrated expertise in providing legal assistance to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking in the targeted population; or

(ii)(I) is partnered with an entity or person that has demonstrated expertise described in clause (i); and

(II) has completed, or will complete, training in connection with domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault and related legal issues, including training on evidence-based risk factors for domestic and dating violence homicide;

(2)any training program conducted in satisfaction of the requirement of paragraph (1) has been or will be developed with input from and in collaboration with a tribal, State, territorial, local, or culturally specific domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking victim service provider or coalition, as well as appropriate tribal, State, territorial, and local law enforcement officials;

(3)any person or organization providing legal assistance through a program funded under subsection (c) has informed and will continue to inform State, local, or tribal domestic violence, dating violence, or sexual assault programs and coalitions, as well as appropriate State and local law enforcement officials of their work; and

(4)the grantee's organizational policies do not require mediation or counseling involving offenders and victims physically together, in cases where sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or child sexual abuse is an issue.

Does the applicant meet the criteria outlined above?

☒ Yes

☐ No

#### **Prosecutor Certification**

In order for a prosecutor's office to be eligible to receive grant funds under this subchapter, the head of the office shall certify, to the State, Indian Tribal government, or territorial government receiving the grant funding, that the office will, during the 3-year period beginning on the date on which the grant is awarded, engage in planning, developing and implementing—

(1) training developed by experts in the field regarding victim-centered approaches in domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking cases;

(2) policies that support a victim-centered approach, informed by such training; and

(3) a protocol outlining alternative practices and procedures for material witness petitions and bench warrants, consistent with best practices, that shall be exhausted before employing material witness petitions and bench warrants to obtain victim-witness testimony in the investigation, prosecution, and trial of a crime related to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking of the victim in order to prevent further victimization and trauma to the victim.

Does the applicant certify to the requirements outlined above?

☒ Yes

☐ No

☐ N/A-This grant will not be administered by a Prosecutor's Office

#### **Civil Rights Liaison**

A civil rights liaison who will serve as the grantee's civil rights point of contact and who will be responsible for ensuring that the

grantee meets all applicable civil rights requirements must be designated. The designee will act as the grantee's liaison in civil rights matters with PSO and with the federal Office of Justice Programs.

Enter the Name of the Civil Rights Liaison:

Rebecca Gilliam

Enter the Address for the Civil Rights Liaison:

722 Moody Avenue, 3rd Floor Human Resources Galveston, Texas 77550

Enter the Phone Number for the Civil Rights Liaison [(999) 999-9999 x9999]:

4097705352

**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.

**☒ I certify to all of the application content & requirements.**

**Project Abstract:**

Violence against women is a continuing concern in Galveston County, and is often perpetrated by repeat offenders. In order to substantially decrease instances of violence against women and their negative effects on the community, these offenders need to be fully held accountable for their offenses. However, such accountability in cases involving crimes against women demand more time and expertise than general prosecutors have to give. Often times, victims of these types of crimes covered by the VAWA grant minimize, recant, or refuse to cooperate. An experienced VAWA prosecutor in this position is more equipped to successfully tackle these types of all-too-common issues and are better able to hold abusers accountable for crimes they perpetrate against women. Misdemeanor prosecutors with the least amount of experience previously handled protective order requests in addition to their large caseloads and did not have time or understanding of family law to dedicate to these complicated cases. Under this Grant, the VAWA Prosecutor will serve as a dedicated prosecution unit for prosecution of the most serious crimes of violence against women in Galveston County, comprising the VAWA docket (including but not limited to

sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, violent offenses and high risk offenders), and will actively promote policy that fosters strong victims and strong cases for prosecution. The Protective Order Prosecutor will handle all the requests for protective orders and will serve as the first contact for all "no-contact" bond condition requests in active criminal cases. By giving violence against women cases the attention they deserve, offenders will be fully held accountable and the community will be stronger for it. The VAWA and Protective Order prosecutor will both serve as a needed training resource to law enforcement officers and to fellow prosecutors for violence against women cases.

**Problem Statement:**

Traditionally, even the most serious cases of violence against women were handled along with all other types of cases, divided amongst general prosecutors with varied levels of experience and training, and mixed-in with large caseloads. Protective Order requests were handled by the least experienced prosecutors in the office. Thus, these cases could not be given the attention necessary to fully hold offenders accountable. A dedicated violence against women prosecutor and protective order prosecutor are needed to exclusively handle the most serious cases of violence against women so that perpetrators of violence against women can fully be held accountable. The most serious cases include family violence resulting in murder and serial domestic violence offenders, who often perpetrate against the same woman multiple times before moving on to the next. The most serious cases also include egregious assaults that raise concern for future danger, as well as sexual assault, human trafficking, and stalking cases. Obtaining protective orders for these victims reduces the likelihood that they will be victimized by the same perpetrator in the future. Most experienced prosecutors agree that adult sexual assault cases are one of the most difficult types of cases to go to trial on. Therefore, a prosecutor with experience in handling adult sexual assault cases is important to get justice for those victims. Offender accountability in violence against women crimes demands significant dedication of resources in the form of time, training, and experience. Violence against women cases demand more time than other cases because prosecutors need to be in regular communication with victims to keep them engaged in the process and ensure they are prepared if and when the time comes to testify against their perpetrator. Additionally, with regard to family violence cases, it is important to investigate any prior history of violence between the current victim and perpetrator as well as between any past victims and the perpetrator. Once identified, this history can sometimes be admitted as evidence to corroborate the victim's testimony, and generally is admissible as crucial punishment evidence. Affirmative findings of family violence by the same perpetrator in prior criminal cases can also be used in obtaining protective orders in family court. This evidence helps to accurately portray the perpetrator to the jury for true accountability and in family court. Furthermore, family violence cases demand prosecutors with experience and knowledge of the unique dynamics of these cases to understand the whole situation and be able to effectively portray that situation to a jury and in family law court. Ongoing training on the dynamics of domestic violence, as well as statutes, protocols, protective orders and best practices related to violence against women crimes is needed for general prosecutors (who handle the numerous violence against women cases not on the VAWA docket) and law enforcement officers in Galveston County.

**Supporting Data:**



Galveston County files nearly 250 felony domestic violence and dating violence cases (in Texas referred to as family violence cases) each year. From 2016-present, over 2,172 felony offenses involving family violence have been filed (including Assaultive offenses, strangulation, sexual assault and stalking). Many of those felony assaults involve defendants who have been convicted of at least one prior family violence assault. Repeat offenders create a higher lethality in the risk assessment evaluation, so the cases need to be handled with extra care. The VAWA prosecutor is the only prosecutor in the DA's Office that handles any stalking, adult sexual assault and adult human trafficking cases. Additionally, the VAWA prosecutor now handles murder cases resulting from family violence. Given the highly complex nature of these cases, they are best handled by one prosecutor with the training and experience to deal with their unique challenges. Without this project, these cases would be mixed in with the more than 3,500 felony cases filed per year in Galveston County (on average based on totals from the last five years) handled by approximately 25 felony trial prosecutors. In 2023, 300 walk-ins requested protective orders. 66 applications for protective orders were filed by the Protective Order prosecutor and 63 resulted in final protective orders, while 64 "no-contact" bond conditions were requested in pending family violence, stalking and sexual assault cases. Data was taken from the Galveston County District Attorney's Office's internal data management system. Additionally, 220 Magistrate's Emergency Protective Orders and 449 "no-contact" bond conditions were signed by local magistrates in the county. (p. 13, GCCPSCP) This is an increase over prior years and is believed to be a result of ongoing training to law enforcement officials about protective orders provided by the Protective Order Prosecutor. Over 6,698 misdemeanor offenses involving family violence were filed from 2016-present, averaging over 837 misdemeanor cases filed per year. These misdemeanor cases are handled by seven relatively less experienced prosecutors who manage diverse overall caseloads of more than 700 cases per prosecutor on average. Family violence and protective order training for these new prosecutors is vital to cases being handled in a way that fosters victim restoration and perpetrator accountability. Data was taken from the Galveston County District Attorney's Office's internal data management system. Moreover, the Galveston County's Community Plan Critical Incident Stress Management for Law Enforcement Officers in Galveston County discusses domestic violence in Law Enforcement families, emphasizing the prevalence of family violence in our county. In 2012, there were 2,115 incidents of family violence (misdemeanor and felony) investigated by Galveston County law enforcement. In 2013, there were 2,040 incidents; 2,264 incidents in 2014; 2,360 incidents in 2015; 2,652 incidents in 2016; 2,590 in 2017; 2,703 in 2018; 2,593 in 2019; 3,525 in 2020; 3,608 in 2021, and 3,297 in 2022 (2023 data not yet available by report date by TX DPS). Data was taken from annual "Crime in Texas" reports produced by the Texas Department of Public Safety. Investigating family violence incidents is a regular part of law enforcement duties. The number of felony and misdemeanor family violence cases filed per year listed above compared to incidents reported per year, indicates that roughly half of the incidents make their way into the court system. Thus law enforcement is often the first and only access a victim will have to the criminal justice system and services. Training for officers on relevant statutes, protocols, best practices, domestic violence dynamics, and protective orders is necessary to improving the initial, and for many the only, response to victims. Many victims of family violence have additional family law issues but lack the resources to hire a private attorney to address them. Experienced violence against women and Protective Order Prosecutors can assist these victims with referrals to other legal remedies in addition to assisting them with obtaining safety measures through protective orders and additional "no-contact" bond conditions. Research has shown that victims who lack safety measures such as protective orders and "no-contact" bond conditions are less likely to follow through with the prosecution process due to safety concerns. At present, there is no other organization in Galveston County that has a dedicated attorney handling protective orders, so the District Attorney's Office continues to shoulder the responsibility for providing this

essential service to the community as mandated by state statute.

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

This project will provide a dedicated and trained prosecutor to handle the most serious violence against women cases including, but not limited to: murders, adult sexual assault, human trafficking, stalking, violent offenses, and high-risk offenders. The VAWA Prosecutor will handle violence against women cases exclusively, and will maintain a docket small enough to give these most serious cases substantial time and attention, including substantial victim contact when appropriate, thorough background research, comprehensive legal research as required, and extensive trial strategizing, and preparation. Through this project, the VAWA prosecutor and the Protective Order Prosecutor will have the time and training necessary to prosecute these serious cases to the fullest extent possible. Furthermore, this project, through the VAWA and Protective Order prosecutors, will provide both formal and informal training to general prosecutors in the Galveston County District Attorney's Office who handle numerous violence against women cases. The VAWA prosecutor will also act as an in-house resource by maintaining pleadings, resource material, protective orders and a case law data bank specific to violence against women crimes. This project, through the VAWA prosecutor and the Protective Order prosecutor, will provide formal and informal training to law enforcement officers on improved response to victims in the field, including requesting Magistrate's Emergency Protective Orders and "no-contact" bond conditions, thereby improving cases for prosecution. The Community Plan lists domestic violence as the number one priority issue, sexual assault as the number three priority issue, and human trafficking as the number five priority issue in Galveston County for Victim Issues. Three of the top five priorities in the Galveston community Plan falls within the VAWA caseload (the other 2 areas involved child/elder abuse and survivors of homicides and mass violence.) This project will provide expanded legal assistance to survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking, and sexual assault through criminal prosecution and seeking protective orders and "no-contact" bond conditions to enhance victim safety. Conviction and incarceration of the perpetrator, when appropriate, can prevent future violence, as can protective orders, and be a healing mechanism for a victim of these crimes. Prosecution of these crimes can also be instrumental in facilitating separation from an abuser. The additional time and training the VAWA and Protective Order prosecutor will have to dedicate to violence against women crimes will allow for greater consideration of the mental health issues that often overlap with domestic violence. Additionally, Galveston county's Community Plan lists critical incident stress management of Law Enforcement Officers in Galveston County as a priority issue for law enforcement. Within this priority issue, data collection shows that COVID-19 increased family violence calls which led to escalating demands on law enforcement. The objectives of this project include training police officers, along with prosecutors, medical care providers, and other professionals who interact with victims on a daily basis. This training will aid law enforcement in handling domestic violence calls and prosecution can aid victims to escape the cycle of violence by holding the perpetrator accountable and providing protective order services as needed.

#### **Capacity & Capabilities:**

The Galveston County District Attorney's Office employs forty-nine prosecutors (all licensed attorneys in the State of Texas) to address the criminal prosecution needs of the county's more than 350,000 citizens. These prosecutors are distributed between misdemeanor, felony, grand jury, and appellate sections as well as sections dedicated to Child Protective Services/family



division and juvenile prosecution. Additionally, the Office employs six investigators to assist with follow-up investigations and subpoena service, one fraud examiner to assist in major fraud cases, twenty-four administrative assistants of which three are paralegals, and five victim assistance coordinators who facilitate communication with victims, in addition to ensuring victims have access to resources and know their rights. One of the five victim assistance coordinators is assigned to the Santa Fe case. Prosecutors receive continuing education hours yearly, meeting and often exceeding the state-mandated requirements for attorney licensure. Investigators and victims' assistants also receive yearly training to expand their skills and knowledge. The prosecutor currently serving as the VAWA Prosecutor has been a licensed attorney for approximately seven (7) years, and as a prosecutor, has handled victim caseloads (domestic violence, crimes against children, and currently violence against women). The prosecutor currently serving as the Protective Order prosecutor has been a licensed attorney for approximately 13 years. These prosecutors have also attended numerous state trainings focused on victim cases. It is well established that domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking victims cooperate more fully with law enforcement and the criminal justice system if they are well informed and understand their rights and options. Prosecutors trained specifically to deal with domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking victims have a significant impact on the reduction of crime by holding the abuser accountable and gaining the victim's cooperation with prosecution. Any future prosecutors assigned to these positions would be a licensed attorney and senior experienced prosecutor.

#### **Performance Management :**

The goals of this project are to fully hold offenders accountable for crimes of violence against women and to improve the response to victims by educating prosecutors and law enforcement and gaining safety measures for them through protective orders and "no-contact" bond conditions. An objective of the project is to increase the number of training events held by the VAWA and Protective Order Prosecutors, focusing specifically on an increase in law enforcement training of sexual assault and human trafficking identification and investigations, as well as the need to seek Magistrate's Emergency Protective Orders and "no-contact" bond conditions. An additional objective is to increase, through training, the number of family violence, sexual assault and stalking cases filed fiscal year 2023 by law enforcement with a victim protection measure (an emergency protective order or bond conditions). These objectives will be measured respectively by the number of training events and the number of cases filed with protection measures. Another objective of this project is to increase the number of the most serious violence against women cases resulting in convictions or deferred adjudications. This objective will be measured by the number of sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking cases resulting in conviction or deferred adjudication. An additional objective is to include agreed protective orders in plea offers where applicable so that victims can continue to have a no-contact order in place to enhance their safety after the final disposition of the criminal case, without having to seek a protective order in family court. A final plan is to work more extensively and hand-in-hand with law enforcement during the investigation phase of the case in order to assist in the strength of the cases being submitted to the DA's Office for criminal prosecution, instead of law enforcement officers submitting a higher number of cases, but the VAWA prosecutor having to decline prosecution during the screening stage due to insufficiency of the evidence.

#### **Target Group :**

This grant project will support adult women, of all races and socioeconomic backgrounds, victimized by violent crime in Galveston County. It will also provide protective orders for minors and males who have been the victims of family violence, sexual assault or stalking. Galveston County contains 13 municipalities as well as unincorporated residential areas and is home to 121,438 households, according to the United States Census Bureau. According to Census Bureau data, Galveston County has an estimated 350,682 residents, 50.9% of the population is female and 75.9% of the population is 18 or older. This amounts to an estimated 135,479 adult women living in Galveston County. In 2018 nearly 2,703 incidents of family violence were reported in Galveston County and statewide, approximately 72% of victims of family violence are women according to Texas Department of Public Safety crime data. In 2019, according to the Texas Department of Public Safety data, there were 2,593 incidents of family violence and statewide 71.3% of victims of family violence are women. In 2020 the number of family violence incidents increased to 3,525 and, statewide, 70.8% were female. Accordingly, more than 1,800 women are victims of family violence each year in Galveston County. This project will support those approximately 1,800 family violence victims along with other adult female victims of violent crime including Sexual Assault and Stalking. For training events, Galveston County Prosecutors and law enforcement officers will be the focus. Galveston County has 13 local law enforcement agencies, employing 1,187 commissioned officers according to the Texas Department of Public Safety.

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

Offices throughout the state maintain prosecution units dedicated to violence against women crimes. Whether it is an entire family violence division, as it is with the largest jurisdictions in Texas, or a single prosecutor as it is in Galveston County, these units are essential to the just treatment of victims. Violence against women crimes by their nature require more time, patience, and expertise than other types of crime. They also require multiple other resources, such as protective orders, "no-contact" bond conditions, shelter and counseling referrals. These crimes are also less likely to result in guilty verdicts or large prison sentences. Thus, when these cases are one part of a diverse caseload, there is limited incentive for a prosecutor to prioritize them, despite their tremendous negative impact on the community. Without prosecutors solely focused on these crimes, they would too often be dismissed, plead down, or otherwise denied justice in the interest of moving dockets and disposing of cases, which could result in the perpetuation instead of the reduction of violence against women crimes.

### **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.

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

In the space below, briefly explain how your project will address one or more of the state priority areas listed below:

a) Law Enforcement

- Victim-Centered/Trauma-Informed Training
- Regional Sexual Assault Response Teams: Law Enforcement participation
- Specialized Investigators/Units
- Coordination between Law Enforcement and Victim Service Providers

b) Prosecution

- Victim-Centered/Trauma-Informed Training
- Regional Sexual Assault Response Teams: Prosecution participation
- Specialized Prosecutors/Units

c) Victim Services

- Trauma-Informed, Professional Mental Health Therapy and Counseling
- Address Rural Needs
- Transportation and Emergency Housing
- Implementation of Telehealth/Tele-Advocacy Technology
- Language access plans
- Victim-Centered/Trauma-Informed Training

d) Courts

- Legal Advocacy (protective order assistance, legal rights & options, court accompaniment, etc.)
- Access to Court Hearings

b) Prosecution - VAWA PROSECUTOR -Victim-Centered/Trauma- Informed Training: The VAWA prosecutor will attend the week-long national Conference on Crimes Against Women, allowing her the opportunity to learn about how victims respond in traumatic situations and why they respond in different ways. This training will allow the VAWA prosecutor to build rapport with victims by communicating with them in a trauma-informed manner, and provide her with tools she can use the prosecution of domestic violence cases when a victim recants, minimizes, or asks that charges be dismissed. The VAWA prosecutor will also maintain a good working relationship between the Forensic Center of Excellence and the Galveston County District Attorney's Office. This partnership will allow law enforcement agencies in Galveston County to utilize Adult Forensic Interviews for high-risk domestic violence cases and sexual assault cases. Utilizing the adult forensic interview process reduces the number of times a victim has to re-tell their story and also provides them with an interviewer that is specifically trained in trauma. The VAWA prosecutor plans to attend multiple trainings in the future to continue to broaden their knowledge on trauma, the cycle of violence, and how to better prosecute cases in the VAWA caseloads and best serve the victims. The VAWA prosecutor also plans to train multiple agencies in courtroom testimony and how to respond to these cases. The VAWA prosecutor also plans to help organize trainings with law enforcement agencies to provide a trauma informed response to victims. - Regional Sexual Assault Response Teams: Prosecution participation The VAWA prosecutor will be a member of the Galveston County Sexual Assault Response Team, which meets bi-weekly at the Resource and Crisis Center in Galveston. The goal of the Sexual Assault

Response Team is to provide a uniformed procedure into how the agencies across the county respond to and investigate sexual assault cases. The VAWA prosecutor is involved in this process and plans to encourage agencies to utilize the partnership we have formed with the Forensic Center of Excellence to provide victims with forensic interviews. - Specialized Prosecutors/Units

The VAWA prosecutor screens all felony violence against women, family violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking cases when police agencies submit such cases to the District Attorney's Office. The VAWA prosecutor then pulls all of the domestic violence murders, adult sexual assault, human trafficking, stalking and high-risk offenders into the VAWA caseload. The VAWA prosecutor is also available to all Galveston County prosecutors for questions and strategizing in domestic violence prosecution. The VAWA prosecutor is also the point of contact, participant, and helps organize multi-agency sting operations related to human-trafficking. VAWA Protective Order Attorney The Protective Order prosecutor attends specialized training focusing on crimes against women and trauma-informed interviewing annually in order to effectively communicate with victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. The protective order prosecutor also participates in the Galveston County Coordinated Community Response Team (GCCRT.) The GCCRT is a multidisciplinary effort that focuses on establishing best practices in handling family violence, stalking and sexual assault cases across the county and to build relationships with other community partners who also serve this population. The protective order prosecutor serves as a liaison with law enforcement, providing training throughout the county as well as internally in the office.

**Selected Project Activities:**

ACTIVITY	PERCENTAGE:	DESCRIPTION
Prosecution	50.00	VAWA PROSECUTOR screens all felony violence against women, family violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking cases when police agencies submit arrested offenders to the District Attorney's Office. The VAWA prosecutor then pulls all of the domestic violence murders, adult sexual assault, human trafficking, stalking and high-risk offenders into the VAWA caseload. The VAWA prosecutor handles the cases on the VAWA caseload from intake (including presenting the cases to the grand jury) through final disposition of the case. The files stay with the same prosecutor and not part of the general felony unit where multiple prosecutors may rotate through and handle cases in different courts. The VAWA prosecutor is assigned to all five district courts and will handle all of the VAWA caseload, traveling among all five of the felony district courts, as opposed to being assigned to just one district court.

Protective Order Assistance	45.00	<p>Warning letters drafted by the prosecutor informing the offender of alleged criminal offenses that may be prosecuted by our office if the actions continued which may be a violation of the Texas Penal Code; court services including the request for, approval and prosecution of all protective orders filed on behalf of victims, presentation to the court for approval, conducting hearings, trials or other services involved in prosecuting protective orders, including appeals; assist and advise applicants of protective orders with completing applications, obtaining personal and incidental background data, and drafting affidavits as part of the protective order application. Draft &amp; e-file protective orders for hearing, reviewing case files, conferring and negotiating with private family law attorneys. Referral of victims for other legal remedies as appropriate and advocating with law enforcement for the enforcement of existing protective orders. This dedicated grant funded prosecutor will assist family violence, stalking and sexual assault victims seeking safety and legal remedies by obtaining protective orders as well as seeking "no contact" bond conditions against perpetrators of family violence, sexual assault and stalking offenses while advocating with misdemeanor and felony prosecutors in include agreed 2-year protective orders in plea offers when disposing of family violence, sexual assault or stalking cases when appropriate. If agreed protective orders are obtained as part of plea offers, the protective order prosecutor obtains all the necessary information to draft and e-file the application and agreed protective order for the misdemeanor and felony prosecutors. The protective order prosecutor will develop best practices and protocols to streamline the application process for protective orders while providing safety to victim.</p>
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Training	5.00	The protective order prosecutor will continue to provide training to law enforcement officers, prosecutors within the District Attorney's Office and community service partners regarding the legal criteria for a protective order, the overall process and procedures to obtain a protective order, including a magistrate's emergency protective order and additional "no contact" bond conditions, as well as how to interpret the different types of protective orders, including the enforcement of existing protective orders and "no contact" bond conditions.
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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
Number of criminal justice professionals trained.	100
Number of final protective orders granted / obtained.	75
Number of final protective orders requested.	85



Number of non-criminal justice professionals trained.	50
Number of sexual assault, domestic violence and / or stalking cases filed.	47
Number of sexual assault, domestic violence, and / or stalking cases referred.	54
Number of temporary protective orders granted / obtained.	20
Number of temporary protective orders requested.	20
Number of training events provided.	8
Number of victims / survivors seeking services who were served.	350

#### Objective Outcome Measures

OUTCOME MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
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Number of cases resulting in conviction or deferred adjudication.	37
Number of charges dismissed or acquitted.	9

#### 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:

N/A

**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:

15229043

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

1708149

**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:

9/30/2024

**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.

#### **FFATA Certification**

##### **Certification of Recipient Highly Compensated Officers**

The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) requires Prime Recipients (CJD) to report the names and total compensation of each of the five most highly compensated officers (a.k.a. positions) of each sub recipient organization for the most recently completed fiscal year preceding the year in which the grant is awarded if the subrecipient answers **YES** to the **FIRST** statement but **NO** to the **SECOND** statement listed below.

In the sub recipient's preceding completed fiscal year, did the sub recipient receive: (1) 80 percent or more of its annual gross revenue from Federal contracts (and subcontracts), loans, grants (and subgrants) and cooperative agreements; AND (2) \$25,000,000 or more in annual gross revenue from Federal contracts (and subcontracts), loans, grants (and subgrants) and cooperative agreements?

- ☐ Yes  
☒ No



Does the public have access to information about the compensation of the senior executives through periodic reports filed under Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m(a), 78o(d)) or Section 6104 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986?

☒ Yes  
☐ No

If you answered **YES** to the **FIRST** statement and **NO** to the **SECOND** statement, please provide the name and total compensation amount of each of the five most highly compensated officers (a.k.a. positions) within your agency for the current calendar year. If you answered NO to the first statement you are NOT required to provide the name and compensation amounts. NOTE: "Total compensation" means the complete pay package of each of the sub recipient's compensated officers, including all forms of money, benefits, services, and in-kind payments (see SEC Regulations: 17 CCR 229.402).

Position 1 - Name:

Position 1 - Total Compensation (\$):

0

Position 2 - Name:

Position 2 - Total Compensation (\$):

0

Position 3 - Name:

Position 3 - Total Compensation (\$):

0

Position 4 - Name:

Position 4 - Total Compensation (\$):

0

Position 5 - Name:

Position 5 - Total Compensation (\$):

0

### **Victim Services Information**

#### **Agency Type**

Implementing Agency Type - Government

Which designation best describes your agency

- Prosecutor

#### **Purpose of Award**

- Continue an OOG-funded victim project funded in a previous year

#### **Type of Crime Funding Distribution**

Identify the percent of funding dedicated to each type of victimization. The percentages provided below should not include matching funds. Cumulative total for all types of victimization must equal 100%.

<b>Type of Crime</b>	<b>Percent of Funds Dedicated to Crime Enter whole percentages only</b>	<b>Funds Dedicated to Crime Current Award x Percent Entered</b>
Child Physical Abuse	0	\$0.00
Child Sexual Abuse	0	\$0.00
Domestic and Family Violence	71	\$106,500.00
Child Sexual Assault	0	\$0.00
Adult Sexual Assault	22	\$33,000.00
DUI/DWI Crashes	0	\$0.00
DUI/DWI Crashes	0	\$0.00
Assault	0	\$0.00
Adults Molested As Children	0	\$0.00
Elder Abuse	0	\$0.00
Robbery	0	\$0.00
Survivors of Homicide	0	\$0.00
Adult Human Trafficking	1	\$1,500.00
Child Human Trafficking	0	\$0.00
Other Violent Crimes	0	\$0.00

Description:			
Other Non-Violent Crimes	6		\$9,000.00
Description:	Other non-violent crimes including stalking offenses		
SUM of %'s Sum of % MUST = 100%	100	SUM of Funds Sum of Funds MUST = OOG Current Budget	\$150,000.00

#### Use of Funds

Does this project provide DIRECT SERVICES to victims:

☐ Yes

☒ No

Information and Referral

Personal Advocacy/Accompaniment

Emotional Support or Safety Services

Shelter/Housing Services

Criminal/Civil Justice System Assistance

Assistance in Filing Compensation Claims

All VOCA-funded direct service projects MUST assist victims with seeking crime victim compensation benefits. Please explain why your agency is not assisting victims with crime victim compensation benefits:

### **Types of Victimizations**

Check the types of victimization that best describe the victims the grant-funded project will serve. "Other" refers to a type that Is Not associated with any of the types provided in the list. Check all that apply:

Types of Victimizations

- Adult physical assault (includes aggravated and simple assault)
- Adult sexual assault
- Domestic and/or family violence
- Human trafficking; sex
- Stalking/harassment

- Teen dating victimization

### **Budget and Staffing**

Answer the questions below based on your current fiscal year. Report the total budget available to the victim services program by source of funding. Do not report the entire agency budget, unless the entire budget is devoted to victim services program.

Annual funding amounts allocated to all victimization programs and/or services for the current fiscal year:

Identify by source the amount of funds allocated to the victimization program/services budget for your agency. DO NOT COUNT FUNDS IN MORE THAN ONE CATEGORY. OTHER FEDERAL includes all federal funding except the award amount for this grant.

OOG Current Budget:  
\$150,000.00

Other State Funds:  
\$0.00

Other Local Funds:  
\$85,454.40

Other Federal Funds:  
\$0.00

Other Non-Federal Funds:  
\$0.00

Total Victimization Program Budget:  
\$235,454.40

Total number of paid staff for all grantee victimization program and/or services:

COUNT each staff member once. Both full and part time staff should be counted as one staff member. DO NOT prorate based on FTE.

Total number of staff:

2

Number of staff hours funded through THIS grant award (plus match) for grantee's victimization programs and/or services:

Total COUNT of hours to work by all staff supporting the work of this award, including match.

Total number of hours:

4160

Number of volunteer staff supporting the work of this award (plus match) for grantee's victimization programs and/or services:

COUNT each volunteer staff once. DO NOT prorate based on FTE.

Total number of volunteer staff:

0

Number of volunteer hours supporting the work of this award (plus match) for grantee's victimization programs:

Total COUNT of hours to work by all volunteers supporting the work of the award, including match

Total hours to work by all volunteers:

0

Explain how your organization uses volunteers to support its victimization programs or if your organization does not use volunteers explain any circumstances that prohibit the use of volunteers.

## **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/%
The Violence Against Women STOP-funded Protective Order Prosecutor provides a variety of complex legal duties within the District Attorney's office, including interviewing domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking victims who request protective orders, preparing affidavits on behalf of victims, drafting legal pleadings, negotiating agreed orders and conducting protective order trials. The Protective Order Prosecutor has extensive family law experience and specialized training in working with the unique dynamics of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking victims which enables her to evaluate complicated legal theories and make referrals for other legal remedies and to community partners when victims do not meet the legal criteria for protective orders. The protective order prosecutor also works with the misdemeanor and felony prosecutors within the office to provide education about protective orders, to obtain additional bond conditions (no contact orders) on behalf of victims and agreed protective orders as part of plea offers in domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking cases whenever appropriate. The STOP-funded Protective Order Prosecutor also works with law enforcement agencies throughout the county to provide training to officers regarding protective orders and serves as the liaison to law enforcement whenever they have questions regarding protective orders.. The protective order prosecutor will continue to help expand services to meet the needs and fill the gaps in services for domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking victims who are in need of immediate assistance with protective orders. Victims will be assisted with preparing and filing for emergency, ex parte temporary protective orders and two year protective orders, as well as bond conditions when criminal charges are pending against the perpetrator and warning letters when a victim doesn't qualify for a protective order. The prosecutor will also continue								

to ensure that victims are informed of relevant court proceedings, hearing cancellations, continuances, case updates, and referrals to the departmental victim service unit for additional services as needed. This position will also screen and conduct client interviews and prepare victims and witnesses for full protective order hearings. Protective Order Prosecutor. The FY 2026 estimated salary for this position is \$90,655 plus fringe benefits of \$30,351 for a total of \$121,006. This position is currently held by Jennifer Lawson.

Personnel	Attorney		\$65,722.82	\$55,283.18	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$121,006.00	100
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The Galveston County Violence Against Women Prosecutor works to improve the criminal justice system response to victim violence against women by working to hold offenders, particularly repeat offenders accountable for their offences. The VAWA Prosecutor maintains regular communication with victims to keep them engaged in the process and ensure they are prepared to testify as well as handle the unique dynamics of VAWA cases so it can be properly portrayed to the jury. The Galveston County Violence Against Women Prosecutor works to improve court services regarding domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking by working specifically with cases so repeat offenders can be quickly identified and juries can be better informed on the unique dynamics of these particular types of offenders and cases. The Galveston County Violence Against Women Prosecutor works to strengthen victim restoration by working with victims throughout the court process so the offender comes to justice and the victim is able and continues to be willing to prosecute without fear. The VAWA Prosecutor is fully aware of the unique dynamics involved in the victim/abuser relationship and can work to help a case come to court and conviction. The Galveston County Violence Against Women Prosecutor works to increase collaboration and communication across all levels of government and among all victim services by being a steady face for referrals, information and education regarding the victim/abuser cycle and the court process. By being a constant contact for agencies and law enforcement, the VAWA Prosecutor provides a solid foundation to begin the process from violent event to prosecution and restoration for victims. Galveston County Violence Against Women Prosecutor - is 100% VAWA dedicated. The estimated FY 2026 salary is \$118,811 plus \$36,342 in fringe benefits for a total of \$155,153. This position is currently VACANT. An offer for the position has been made and upon acceptance, the person will start 03/13/2025.

Personnel	Prosecutor		\$84,277.18	\$70,875.82	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$155,153.00	100
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### Source of Match Information

#### Detail Source of Match/GPI:

DESCRIPTION	MATCH TYPE	AMOUNT
Galveston County General Fund - Cash Match	Cash Match	\$126,159.00

#### Summary Source of Match/GPI:

Total Report	Cash Match	In Kind	GPI Federal Share	GPI State Share
\$126,159.00	\$126,159.00	\$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	\$150,000.00	\$126,159.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$276,159.00



**Budget Grand Total Information:**

OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	GPI	TOTAL
\$150,000.00	\$126,159.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$276,159.00

**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:** Betsy Thomas



## County of Galveston Resolution

**WHEREAS**, the Galveston County Commissioners Court finds it in the best interest of the citizens of Galveston County, that the **Galveston County VAWA Prosecutor Program** be operated for FY 2026 ; and

**WHEREAS**, the Galveston County Commissioners Court agrees to provide any applicable matching funds for said project as required by the Office of the Governor Criminal Justice Division's **Violence Against Women Justice and Training Grant Program** application; and

**WHEREAS**, the Galveston County Commissioners Court agrees that in the event of loss or misuse of the Office of the Governor funds, The Galveston County Commissioners Court assures the funds will be returned to the Office of the Governor in full.

**WHEREAS**, the Galveston County Commissioners Court designates the Galveston County Judge as the grantee's authorized official. The authorized official is given the power to apply for, accept, reject, alter, or terminate the grant on behalf of the applicant agency.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Galveston County Commissioners Court approves submission of the grant application for the **Galveston County VAWA Prosecutor Program** to the Office of the Governor.

Passed and approved this 3rd day of February , 2025.

  
Mark Henry, Galveston County Judge

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Dwight D. Sullivan, Galveston County Clerk

Grant Application Number: 2704113

By:  Deputy  
  
The seal of the State of Texas, County of Galveston, is a circular emblem. It features a five-pointed star in the center, surrounded by a wreath. The words "THE STATE OF TEXAS" are inscribed in a circle around the top, and "COUNTY OF GALVESTON" is inscribed around the bottom.