



## MEMORANDUM

To: Galveston County Commissioners' Court  
From: Betsy Thomas, Grants Administration Manager  
Date: September 15, 2025  
RE: Justice Administration  
FY 2025 Texas Indigent Defense Commission Formula Grant Award

### BACKGROUND

The Texas Indigent Defense Commission (TIDC) makes grants available to all 254 counties in the state to help meet the statutory mandates of indigent defense. These grants provide money to counties for increased indigent defense costs based on a formula set by the TIDC. That formula considers population and a county's percentage of the statewide indigent defense expenditures for the previous year.

To be eligible, a county must submit current Indigent Defense Plans for the District, County, and Juvenile levels. Those plan updates are in the process and submitted by the Courts. The TIDC Formula application also requires a report from the County Auditor's Office regarding expenditures for indigent defense. This report is being compiled for upload. Commissioners Court is required to consider approval to submit the application and approve a supporting resolution to be signed by the County Judge.

### SUMMARY

Galveston County has received formula grant funds from TIDC since 2004. Below is a list of the awarded funding for the past five years:

- FY 2020 Galveston County was awarded \$245,128
- FY 2021 Galveston County was awarded \$211,108
- FY 2022 Galveston County was awarded \$196,727
- FY 2023 Galveston County was awarded \$207,971
- FY 2024 Galveston County was awarded \$155,344
- FY 2025 Galveston County is awarded \$183,424

For FY 2025 there are two (2) Special Grant Conditions that must be met before TIDC Formula grant funds can be distributed:

- The County's District Clerk must submit the reports necessary on the Court Activity Reporting and Directory System (CARD); and



- The Galveston County Juvenile Board must submit their indigent defense plan.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Professional Services requests the Court to consider acceptance of the FY 2025 Formula Grant award from the Texas Indigent Defense Commission.



CHAIR:

Honorable Missy Medary  
Corpus Christi, Presiding Judge,  
5th Administrative  
Judicial Region of Texas

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Woolley, Jr.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Scott Ehlers

August 12, 2025

The Honorable Mark A Henry  
Galveston County Judge  
Via Email: Mark.Henry@co.galveston.tx.us

Dear Judge Henry:

I am pleased to inform you that the Texas Indigent Defense Commission (TIDC) has awarded Galveston County a Formula Grant in the amount of \$183,424. The FY25 Formula Grant Statement of Grant Award is attached. **This Statement of Grant Award includes special conditions. Please note that we cannot disburse funds until these conditions have been met.** The resolution adopted by the Commissioners Court and submitted with the application is considered your county's acceptance of the grant terms.

Please note that Galveston County's FY25 Formula Grant award will be disbursed in a single payment in August 2025 instead of quarterly payments.

The Commission works together with counties to promote innovation and improvement in indigent defense systems statewide. On behalf of the Commission, I commend Galveston County for its efforts in these areas. If you have any questions or need clarification about the Commission's grant programs, please reach out to the TIDC Funding Team at [Grants@TIDC.Texas.Gov](mailto:Grants@TIDC.Texas.Gov) or 1-866-499-0656.

Sincerely,

Missy Medary  
Chair, Texas Indigent Defense Commission  
Presiding Judge, 5th Administrative Judicial Region of Texas

Cc: randall.rice@co.galveston.tx.us



## Statement of Grant Award

### FY25 Formula Grant

Date Issued:	August 8, 2025
Grant Number:	212-25-084
Grantee Name:	Galveston County
Program Title:	Formula Grant Program
Grant Period:	10/01/2024-9/30/2025
Grant Award Amount:	\$183,424

The Texas Indigent Defense Commission (Commission) has awarded the above-referenced grant for indigent defense services. Formula Grants are provided by the Commission to meet its statutory mandates and to promote Texas counties' compliance with standards adopted by the Commission.

#### **Grant Calculation:**

- The sum of \$15,000 plus;
- A calculation applied to the funds budgeted for FY2025 formula grants by the Commission based:
  - 50 percent on the County's percent of state population; and
  - 50 percent on the County's percent of statewide FY 2024 direct indigent defense expenditures (as defined in Title 1, Part 8, Texas Administrative Code Sec. 173.202(1)-(3)):
    - less discretionary funds provided by the Commission for expenditures defined in Title 1, Part 8, Texas Administrative Code Sec. 173.202(1)-(3)
    - less the reimbursed costs of operating a regional program
    - The baseline requirements contained in the Request for Applications do not apply to counties with a 2000 Census population of less than 10,000 but do apply to all other counties.
- The County shall not receive more in funds than what was actually spent by the county in the prior year.

#### **Standard Grant Conditions:**

- The authorized official for the grantee accepts the grant award.
- The authorized official, financial officer, and program director, referred to below as grant officials, agree to the terms of the grant as written in the FY25 Formula Grant Program Request for Applications issued in September 2024, including the rules and documents adopted by reference in the Commission on Indigent Defense's Grant Rules in Title 1, Part 8, Chapter 173, Texas Administrative Code.

- The grant officials understand that a violation of any term of the grant may result in the Commission placing a temporary hold on grant funds, permanently de-obligating all or part of the grant funds, requiring reimbursement for funds already spent, or barring the organization from receiving future grants.
- Disbursement of funds is always subject to the availability of funds.
- Any plan documents submitted to the Commission must continue to meet all grant eligibility requirements.

### **Special Grant Conditions:**

**The grant officials understand that they must satisfy all special conditions placed on this grant if indicated below before receiving any funds:**

- The County's District Clerk must submit the reports necessary on the [Court Activity Reporting and Directory System \(CARD\) site](#) to be in compliance as of August 31, 2024 with reporting requirements promulgated by the Texas Judicial Council and reports required under Chapter 36 of the Texas Government Code.
  - If you have any questions about the missing reports, please reach out to the Office of Court Administration at [judinfo@txcourts.gov](mailto:judinfo@txcourts.gov) for guidance.
- The judges hearing criminal matters and the juvenile board in the county must submit their indigent defense plan(s) to meet all requirements of the 2023 Biennial Indigent Defense Plan Submission process as required by Government Code §79.036. The following plan(s) level marked by an "X" do not currently meet all plan requirements:

☐ District Court Plan

☐ County Court Plan

☒ Juvenile Board Plan