



Office of the Governor, Public Safety Office

Homeland Security Grants Division

Funding Announcement: **Border Prosecution Unit (BPU), FY 2024**

Purpose

The Public Safety Office (PSO) is soliciting grant applications for projects that prosecute border crimes during state fiscal years 2024 and 2025. The purpose of this solicitation is to provide prosecution resources for District and County Attorneys along the Texas-Mexico border and for counties that are significantly affected by border crime.

Available Funding

State funds for these projects are authorized under the Texas General Appropriations Act, Article I for Trusted Programs within the Office of the Governor. All awards are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law.

Eligible Organizations

1. Counties within the Texas border region as defined by Texas Government Code §772.0071(a)(2) having a prosecuting attorney with membership in the Border Prosecution Unit as provided by Texas Government Code §772.053.
2. Counties that the PSO determines to be significantly affected by border crime.

Application Process

Applicants must access the PSO's eGrants grant management website at <https://eGrants.gov.texas.gov> to register and apply for funding. Additional requirements are included within the online application. For more instructions and information, see *eGrants User Guide to Creating an Application*, available [here](#).

Key Dates

Action	Date
Funding Announcement Release	01/13/2023
Online System Opening Date	01/13/2023
Final Date to Submit and Certify an Application	03/17/2023 at 5:00pm CST
Earliest Project Start Date	09/01/2023

Project Period

Projects selected for funding must begin on or after September 1, 2023 and expire on or before August 31, 2025.

Funding Levels

Minimum: \$10,000

Maximum: None

Match Requirement: None

Standards

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

Eligible Activities and Costs

1. Prosecuting criminals charged with border crimes as defined by Texas Government Code §772.0071(a)(1).
2. Training members of the unit and law enforcement agencies in the border region on specific issues and techniques relating to the investigation and prosecution of border crime.

Program-Specific Requirements

Applicants must be in compliance with the Texas Administrative Code (37 TAC Part 7 Chapters 221-225) and all rules established by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) regarding the training of law enforcement in Texas; or, contract or reimburse for services with training providers who meet this requirement.

Eligibility Requirements

1. 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 be in compliance with 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 Governments. 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.
2. 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.

3. 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.
4. Local units of government, including cities, counties and other general purpose political subdivisions, as appropriate, and institutions of higher education that operate a law enforcement

agency, must comply with all aspects of the programs and procedures utilized by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”) to: (1) notify DHS of all information requested by DHS related to illegal aliens in Agency’s custody; and (2) detain such illegal aliens in accordance with requests by DHS. Additionally, counties and municipalities may NOT have in effect, purport to have in effect, or make themselves subject to or bound by, any law, rule, policy, or practice (written or unwritten) that would: (1) require or authorize the public disclosure of federal law enforcement information in order to conceal, harbor, or shield from detection fugitives from justice or aliens illegally in the United States; or (2) impede federal officers from exercising authority under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a), § 1226(c), § 1231(a), § 1357(a), § 1366(1), or § 1366(3). Lastly, eligible applicants must comply with all provisions, policies, and penalties found in Chapter 752, Subchapter C of the Texas Government Code.

5. 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. 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.
6. Eligible applicants must be registered in the federal System for Award Management (SAM) database and have an UEI (Unique Entity ID) number assigned to its agency (to get registered in the SAM database and request an UEI number, go to <https://sam.gov/>).

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

Prohibitions

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

1. Inherently religious activities such as prayer, worship, religious instruction, or proselytization;
2. Lobbying;
3. Any portion of the salary of, or any other compensation for, an elected or appointed government official;
4. Vehicles or equipment for government agencies that are for general agency use;
5. Weapons, ammunition, tasers, or explosives;
6. Admission fees or tickets to any amusement park, recreational activity or sporting event;
7. Promotional gifts;
8. Food, meals, beverages, or other refreshments, except for eligible per diem associated with grant-related travel or where pre-approved for working events;
9. Membership dues for individuals;
10. Any expense or service that is readily available at no cost to the grant project;
11. Any use of grant funds to replace (supplant) funds that have been budgeted for the same purpose through non-grant sources;
12. Fundraising;
13. Construction;
14. Medical services;

15. Legal services for adult offenders; and
16. Any other prohibition imposed by federal, state, or local law.

Selection Process

Application Screening: PSO will screen all applications to ensure that they meet the requirements included in the funding announcement. Applications will be reviewed by PSO staff or a review group selected by the Executive Director. PSO will make all final funding decisions as described below.

Merit Review: Requests for funding in a grant application will be compared to funding requests previously reviewed and approved by the BPU Executive Committee and the full BPU Board.

Preferences: Preference will be given to specialized prosecutors to reduce backlogs by supporting and enhancing prosecutorial services that focus on rapidly addressing specific violations of the law.

Final Decisions – All Projects: The Executive Director will consider BPU Board recommendations along with other factors and make all final funding decisions. Other factors may include cost effectiveness, overall funds availability, state government priorities and strategies, legislative directives, need, geographic distribution, or other relevant factors.

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

Contact Information

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