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**Agency Name:** Lubbock County  
**Grant/App:** 5403501 **Start Date:** 10/1/2025 **End Date:** 9/30/2026

**Project Title:** Mediation Services for Homeless Youth at-risk for Truancy  
**Status:** Application Pending Submission

### **Profile Information**

**Applicant Agency Name:** Lubbock County  
**Project Title:** Mediation Services for Homeless Youth at-risk for Truancy  
**Division or Unit to Administer the Project:** Office of Dispute Resolution  
**Address Line 1:** P.O. Box 10536  
**Address Line 2:**  
**City/State/Zip:** Lubbock Texas 79408  
**Start Date:** 10/1/2025  
**End Date:** 9/30/2026

**Regional Council of Governments(COG) within the Project's Impact Area:** South Plains Association of Governments

**Headquarter County:** Lubbock  
**Counties within Project's Impact Area:** Lubbock

### **Grant Officials:**

#### **Authorized Official**

**Name:** Curtis Parrish  
**Email:** CParrish@lubbockcounty.gov  
**Address 1:** 904 Broadway  
**Address 1:**  
**City:** Lubbock, Texas 79401  
**Phone:** 806-775-1679 Other Phone:  
**Fax:**  
**Title:** The Honorable  
**Salutation:** Judge  
**Position:** Lubbock County Judge

#### **Financial Official**

**Name:** Carter Staats  
**Email:** cstaats@lubbockcounty.gov  
**Address 1:** 916 Main Street  
**Address 1:**  
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**Fax:** 806-775-7917  
**Title:** Mr.  
**Salutation:** --- Select One ---  
**Position:** Grant Auditor

#### **Project Director**

**Name:** Gene Valentini  
**Email:** odr@lubbockcounty.gov  
**Address 1:** P.O. Box 10536  
**Address 1:**  
**City:** Lubbock, Texas 79408  
**Phone:** 806-775-1720 Other Phone:  
**Fax:** 806-775-1720  
**Title:** --- Select One ---  
**Salutation:** Mr.  
**Position:** Director

**Grant Writer**

**Name:** Gene Valentini

**Email:** odr@lubbockcounty.gov

**Address 1:** P.O. Box 10536

**Address 1:**

**City:** Lubbock, Texas 79408

**Phone:** 806-775-1720 Other Phone:

**Fax:** 806-775-1720

**Title:** --- Select One ---

**Salutation:** Mr.

**Position:** Director

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### **Narrative Information**

#### **Introduction**

The purpose of this funding is to support projects that prevent violence in and around schools; and to improve the juvenile justice system and develop effective education, training, prevention, diversion, treatment, and rehabilitation programs.

#### **Certifications**

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:

### **Constitutional Compliance**

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

### **Information Systems**

Applicant assures that any new criminal justice information systems will comply with data sharing standards for the Global Justice XML Data Model and the National Information Exchange Model.

### **Program Income**

Applicant agrees to comply with all federal and state rules and regulations for program income and agrees to report all program income that is generated as a result of the project's activities. Applicant agrees to report program income through a formal grant adjustment and to secure PSO approval prior to use of the program income. Applicant agrees to use program income for allowable costs and agrees to expend program income immediately after PSO's approval of a grant adjustment and prior to requesting reimbursement of funds.

Deduction Method - Program income shall be deducted from total allowable costs to determine the net allowable costs. Program income shall be used for current costs unless PSO authorizes otherwise. Program income which the grantee did not anticipate at the time of the award shall be used to reduce the PSO award and grantee match rather than to increase the funds committed to the project.

Asset Seizures and Forfeitures - Program income from asset seizures and forfeitures is considered earned when the property has been adjudicated to the benefit of the plaintiff (e.g., law enforcement entity).

### **Twelve-Step Programs**

Grant funds may not be used to support or directly fund programs such as the Twelve Step Program which courts have ruled are inherently religious. OOG grant funds cannot be used to support these programs, conduct meetings, or purchase related materials.

### **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 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 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.

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

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 [2026 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.

### **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.

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

### **Project Abstract :**

In collaboration with the local justice courts and school districts, the Office of Dispute Resolution (ODR) will provide problem-solving mediations to assist homeless youth, their families, and the schools in identifying resources for students to alleviate attendance issues. Problem-solving could focus on transportation issues, tutoring, conflicts with other students and/or school faculty/staff, issues within the family, etc. The problem-solving agreement will be monitored by ODR staff to ensure services are being sought and received as needed.

### **Problem Statement :**

According to Faulkner Law Review, the federal government statute defines homeless children as "individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. Examples of this include: Children who are sharing the housing of other persons; children who are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds; children living in emergency or transitional shelters; and children who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used, as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings. This typically includes children in homeless families, as well as those who have run away from home or institutional care. According to KXAN investigations, it was discovered that over 86,000 Texas teens have been sent to court for missing school since the 2015 reformation of truancy as a criminal matter to a civil one. (<https://www.kxan.com/investigations/12000-texas-kids-sent-to-court-for-missing-class-no-one-tracks-what-happens-next/?ipid=promo-link-block1>). Truancy remains a critical issue in

Texas largely because inconsistent tracking precludes identifying root causes, intervening early and providing families with the support they need. State agencies have not been tracking outcomes for tens of thousands of students.

### **Supporting Data :**

Texas is one of the states with the largest population of students experiencing homelessness. Its homeless youth population is more than six times the national average. According to a research study conducted by Desiree Viramontes, a researcher at the University of Texas at Austin, there is overrepresentation within the demographics of youth experiencing homelessness: 70% of those people are Black and Hispanic students, despite only accounting for 2% of students in the state. (2024). The Office of Court Administration recorded 12,144 truancy cases in the state of Texas, a steep and concerning increase, as it has doubled the number of cases in 2016, which was about 6200 cases. Lubbock County and Lubbock Independent School District provide little to no detail about the number of truancy cases that have taken place thus far. However, in January 2025, Justice of the Peace, Susan Rowley, was scheduled to hear 45 truancy cases, however only 18 families showed up. It is evident that the statewide struggle to battle truancy, parent-led contribution to noncompliance, and keep students in school has plagued Lubbock County.

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

The Office of Dispute Resolution (ODR) will receive referrals from School Districts and Justice Courts of students at-risk of being truant and/or already pending with the court due to non-attendance. Court referrals may include criminal cases filed against parents for contributing to non-attendance. Once referred, a mediation will be scheduled with the parent, student, and a neutral third-party to assist with problem-solving and creating a plan to get the student consistently back in class. Additional meetings/mediations may be scheduled with school officials or others who need to be in the problem-solving process. After mediation, ODR staff will follow up with families on their plan and assist with any hurdles that may arise. The plan will be in place for at least 90 days, but could be shortened or lengthened dependent on the student's needs.

### **Capacity & Capabilities:**

The Office of Dispute Resolution (ODR) has provided problem-solving services for youth in a variety of ways since the 1990s. We currently provide services to students and their families who are in the court system for attendance issues, as well as criminal activities. Additionally, we have trained Peer Mediators and assisted with Peer Mediations in two local high schools for approximately 10 years. The relationship with the schools and courts has been positive and collaborative.

### **Performance Management :**

The goal of this project is to decrease attendance issues for each family. Additionally, it is to provide resources to families that will allow for long-term success. Long-term success can be measured by reviewing attendance for referrals after completion of the plan created in mediation.

### **Target Group :**

Services will be targeted towards students who meet the federal definition of homeless children and/or have challenges attending school.

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

As mentioned, the Office of Dispute Resolution (ODR) has provided services for a variety of youth for many years. Thus far, services have been successful in connecting participants with resources. The goal is that this program will target the homeless population in reaching the same success.

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### 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.

#### Selected Project Activities:

ACTIVITY	PERCENTAGE:	DESCRIPTION
Truancy Prevention	100.00	Providing mediation to problem-solve and create a plan to overcome the issue causing the non-attendance.

#### 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 hours of service completed by program youth.	
Number of program youth served and considered truant prior to this period who have been referred to a truancy court as defined in Sec. 65.004 Texas Family Code	
Number of program youth served and considered truant prior to this period who have not been referred to a truancy court as defined in Sec. 65.004 Texas Family Code	
Number of program youth served who are no longer truant during this period	
Number of program youth served who were considered truant prior to this period	
Number of program youth served.	200

#### Objective Outcome Measures

OUTCOME MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
Number of program youth completing program requirements.	170



Custom Output Measures

CUSTOM OUTPUT MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
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Custom Outcome Measures

CUSTOM OUTCOME MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
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### Budget Details Information

#### Budget Information by Budget Line Item:

CATEGORY	SUB CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	GPI	TOTAL	UNIT/%
Contractual and Professional Services	Court Personnel (e.g., Advocate, Coordinator, Officer, Reporter)	Fees paid to mediators who provide services under Letters of Appointment and are paid at \$45 - \$55 per mediation session, with the typical number of sessions being one.	\$11,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,000.00	0

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