
From: Edwin Colfax
Sent: Friday, June 14, 2019 11:59 AM
To: Chris Hill
Cc: Linda Riggs; Judge Benjamin N. Smith; Eileen Prentice; Janna Benson-Caponera
Subject: TIDC Improvement Grant Award

Dear Judge Hill,

I am pleased to inform you that the Texas Indigent Defense Commission approved an FY2020 improvement grant of \$226,882 to Collin County in response to the county's application for a managed assigned counsel program. TIDC will prepare a statement of grant award in the next week or so. To accept the grant, you will need to sign and return the statement of grant award. The soonest you may start obligating funds for this grant is October 1. If the County is not ready to implement the program on October 1, TIDC policy is to provide the year-one funding level of 80% grant support for the first 12 months of the program.

I should note a few points that were raised in the course of the application review process. First, the funding recommendation included a grant condition to add defense attorneys to the oversight board. To avoid conflicts of interest, these should be defense attorneys who do not take appointments. Second, the recommendation was for TIDC to provide technical assistance to Collin County as you develop the detailed policies and procedures for the new program. TIDC has recently published a report on managed assigned counsel programs and has worked with all Texas counties currently implementing this model. Finally, several grant reviewers noted that the staffing that was included in the grant application may not be sufficient to effectively meet the goals of the program. Appropriate staffing levels will depend on a number of operational details still to be determined, but it was noted that the proposed model is very lean given the expanded duties of the program. I only note this feedback so that you may keep it in mind as the program details develop further. Should you determine that additional staff is required, you may request a grant amendment to add resources.

I am pleased to deliver this news, and all of us at TIDC look forward to the opportunity to assist you as you move forward with this project. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Thank you,

Edwin

Edwin Colfax

Grant Program Manager

Texas Indigent Defense Commission