

Agency Name: Collin County

Grant/App: 2896609 **Start Date:** 10/1/2025 **End Date:** 9/30/2026

Project Title: FY2026 District Attorney Victim Assistance Coordinator

Status: Application Pending Submission

Narrative Information

Introduction

The purpose of this program is to provide services and assistance directly to victims of crime to speed their recovery and aid them through the criminal justice process. Services may include the following:

- responding to the emotional and physical needs of crime victims;
- assisting victims in stabilizing their lives after a victimization;
- assisting victims to understand and participate in the criminal justice system; and
- providing victims with safety and security.

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 Collin County District Attorney is committed to providing for the unique needs of each individual citizen. It is the goal of our office to respond respectfully and effectively to people of all cultures, languages, classes, races, ethnic backgrounds, religions, gender, and other diversity factors in a manner that recognizes, affirms, and values the worth of individuals, families, and communities and protects and preserves the dignity of each. We acknowledge that variation exists among individuals and cultures, and that these variations may influence service needs. We endeavor to remain knowledgeable about the ever-changing demographics and the diverse populations residing in Collin County. The Victim Assistance Coordinator is required to participate in on-going continuing education for victim advocacy which frequently includes cultural competency. Additionally, our program continues to build formal and informal community partnerships, creating and strengthening our relationships with local organizations and resources that serve a variety of diverse populations. These relationships further our understanding of how client backgrounds affect perceptions of victimization, protection, and support. Based on experience and education, our Victim Assistance Coordinator builds a rapport with each client to recognize and understand how the victim's past history and background impacts their emotional and mental needs.

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'**.

NA

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.

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. Personally 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 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.

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.

Discrimination

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

Records

Applicant agrees to maintain daily time and attendance records specifying the time devoted to allowable victim services.

Volunteers

If awarded VOCA funds, applicant agrees to use volunteers to support either the project or other agency-wide services/activities, unless PSO determines that a compelling reason exists to waive this requirement.

Crime Victims' Compensation

Applicant agrees to assist crime victims in applying for crime victims' compensation benefits.

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.

Civil Rights Information

Applicant agrees to maintain statutorily required civil rights statistics on victims served by race, national origin, sex, age, and disability of victims served, within the timeframe established by PSO. This requirement is waived when providing services, such as telephone counseling, where soliciting the information may be inappropriate or offensive to the crime victim.

Victims of Federal Crime

Applicant agrees to provide equal services to victims of federal crime. (Note: Victim of federal crime is a victim of an offense that violates a federal criminal statute or regulation; federal crimes also include crimes that occur in an area where the federal government has jurisdiction, such as Indian reservations, some national parks, some federal buildings, and military installations.)

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 VOCA funds.

Effective Services

Applicants applying for funds to provide victim services must demonstrate a record of providing effective services to crime victims. (See "Eligible Organizations" in the Funding Announcement.)

College Campus Confidential Direct Services Providers

All personnel compensated through OOG or match funds are Confidential Direct Service Providers that maintain victim's confidentiality for all case information (written or oral) and share information only at the victim's request and with the victim's informed consent, except when release of information is required by law. Confidential Direct Service Providers compensated with grant funds shall not be required to disclose client or case information to any entity, including a campus Title IX officer or coordinator, except when release of information is required by law. A victim may not be coerced or required to file a report or disclose information regarding their victimization with any entity as a condition of receiving services from a Confidential Direct Service Provider.

Failure to comply with this certification may result in PSO, at its sole discretion, withholding reimbursement on personnel line items contained in the program budget until satisfactory evidence of compliance is provided.

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.

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.

Employment of Advocates for Sexual Assault

Will this project use grant funds to support the employment of Advocates for Sexual Assault as defined by Chapter 420, section 420.051 of the Texas Government Code?

☐ Yes

☒ No

If yes, have those advocates completed a sexual assault training program certified by the Attorney General?

☐ Yes

☒ No

☐ N/A

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:

Cynthia Jacobson

Enter the Address for the Civil Rights Liaison:

2300 Bloomdale Rd

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

972-548-4606

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 :

Violence against women is widespread throughout the world, Texas and Collin County. It invades upon the rights, privileges, and vital freedom of victims, of violence. Violence can have an overwhelming and shattering effect on the lives of victims. Violence against women remains devastatingly pervasive and persistent here in Collin County. Violence against women knows no boundaries. Following a violent crime, victims feel powerless, helpless, weak, and vulnerable. In the disarray which shields a crime victim during and immediately after the event, the criminal justice system can seem insensitive, intimidating, daunting, and frightening. Some victims even feel that they have been re-victimized by the courts and police that overlook their needs. It has shown that participation in the justice process aids victims in rebuilding their lives; therefore, it is crucial that they are provided with the proper support throughout the criminal justice process. The mission of the Collin County District Attorney's (CCDA) Victim Assistance Division is to facilitate victim recovery, reduce feelings of system re-victimization, and increase victim participation and satisfaction in the criminal justice process. The Victim Assistance Coordinator will serve as the contact person for victims of serious or violent crimes filed with the District Attorney as they move through the criminal justice process, providing an array of victim-centered services specific to the unique needs of each individual to help crime victims achieve restoration of full physical, mental, and emotional health. The program will help survivors stabilize their lives through empowerment, support and education. Providing crime victims' support in the early impact stage which will be a crucial component of recovery and program. Assisting victims is and will be priority for CCDA.

Problem Statement :

Crime effects people from every age, socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, religion, or gender. Whether a person lives in an affluent community or under a highway overpass, becoming a victim changes their life forever, often impacting future generations. From the moment a vicious/violent crime happens, the victim is forever changed. Regrettably, the victimization does not stop when the actual crime is over, with crime victims suffering a tremendous amount of physical and psychological trauma, especially for victims of serious, repeated, or long-term crimes, such as child and domestic abuse. For victims, the trauma of the crime itself is only the beginning of what can often be a lifelong struggle. Victims of crime can find their world in turmoil for years to come and feel firsthand the crime's impact on their physical, financial, and psychological wellbeing. Domestic violence comes in many forms. The following are some examples but not limited to domestic violence: • Physical assault • Sexual assault • Verbal abuse • Social abuse • Stalking • Strangulation • Threats to assault or do harm to someone close to that person • Forced isolation • Economic/financial abuse • Using children • Spiritual abuse • Cultural and religious practices • Technological violence Victims feel defenseless, vulnerable, and weak. The criminal justice system can seem insensitive, intimidating, and frightening to a victim during and immediately after the traumatic event. Many victims feel that the criminal justice system places them in a passive position, providing them with little information and seeing them as little more than just a witnesses for a crime committed against the law or the state itself, instead of against the person. Some victims even feel that they have been re-victimized by the police and courts that overlook their needs. Violence of abuse in any form has serious consequences for the victim (Institute of Criminology, Anthony Morgan, 2017). In order to re-establish balance and begin to recover from the emotional consequences of crime, victims have a need to be heard and see justice served. Lacking knowledge of the criminal justice system, victims often retreat to the background and their voices go unheard during investigation, prosecution, and sentencing. While our core mission is to pursue justice for criminal acts, which includes justice for the victims and witnesses of crime, how we treat those individuals has a huge impact on their confidence in the criminal justice system and their ability to heal and recover from crime. If a victim feels they are receiving inadequate or delayed services from the criminal justice system, they are less likely to participate in the process of prosecution, creating a higher level of victim attrition and reducing the rate of offender accountability. A victim's cooperation, assistance, and safety are not only essential to the effective detection, investigation, and prosecution of crimes, but also to their ability to recover from the crime. Most trials do not take place immediately after the crime. Law enforcement investigations can take anywhere from days to years before a case is filed with the Collin County District Attorney (CCDA). Once filed, the DA's office reviews the case with an additional delay of a month or more before charges are actually filed. Consequently, in most cases, the

victim does not hear from CCDA for months, or sometimes longer, after the crime was committed. The time delay between the offense being committed and the filing of charges often results in victims moving, losing interest in prosecution, signing an affidavit of non-prosecution, feeling unnecessary to the judicial process, or becoming hostile to DA contacts. The longer the delay between the crime and a victim being contacted, the less likely the victim is to participate in the adjudication process, resulting in less desirable outcomes for the victim's recovery, the offender's accountability, and the community as a whole. Grant funding will allow us to maintain a Victim Assistance Coordinator, which helps make contact with victims as quickly as possible after receiving the case from law enforcement. Earlier contact will lead to more victims receiving services and assistance, which will ultimately result in improved recovery and healing for victims. The process can be overwhelming. While the final decisions about how a case moves forward are not always in the control of the survivor, the Victim Assistance Coordinator involvement from reporting to sentencing can help to ensure that survivors' voice is heard and rights upheld through the process. Survivors deserve Coordinators that will help and support them through the legal system and that will defend as well as safeguard their interest.

Supporting Data :

Approximately 95% of assaults on spouses or ex-spouses are committed by men against women. (U.S. Department of Justice) In a national survey of over 6,000 American families, 55% of the men who frequently assaulted their wives also frequently abused their children. (Family Violence Protection Fund) There are over 4 million reported incidents of domestic violence against women every year. Violence against women has reached a devastating, disturbing and unsettling scale. Violence against women is widespread/rampant in every state, county and culture causing destruction to not only thousands but millions of women. Violence can be found in any home, anywhere. Domestic violence knows no economic, race, religious or geographic boundaries. Family violence is the number one cause of injury to adult women, more than car accidents, muggings, and rapes combined. (United States Department of Housing and Urban Development). The following are facts of domestic abuse but not limited to:

- On average, nearly 20 people per minute are victims of physical violence by an intimate partner in the United States. During one year, this equates to more than 10 million women (Project Sanctuary 2021).
- 48.4% of women have experienced at least one psychologically aggressive behavior by an intimate partner. (Intimate Partner Violence, CDC).
- On a single day in 2020, domestic violence hotlines received over 21,321 calls an average of almost 15 calls every minute (National Network to End Domestic Violence, 2021).
- In domestic violence homicides, women are six times more likely to be killed when there is a gun in the house (Project Sanctuary 2021).
- One in every three Texans is likely to be a victim of a family violence offense (Texas Council on Family Violence, 2021 (TCFV)).
- Two-thirds of victims of domestic violence go unreported to police (New Hope/Violence & Exploitation 2020).
- Women who are victims of intimate partner violence are most likely to be between the ages of 18 to 24 (Plan Street, 2021).
- Women who leave their batterers are at 75% greater risk of being killed by the batterer than for those who stay (National Coalition Against Domestic Violence).
- Women with disabilities have a higher risk of family violence (NCADV).
- 33.4% of the relationship between the offenders and victims were marital, either still married or divorced at the time of the incident's occurrence. Female partner/ex-partners were the victim of family violence in 13.1% of the reported incidents (TCFV, 2020).
- 40.1% of Texas women experience intimate partner physical violence, intimate partner rape and/or intimate partner stalking in their lifetimes (National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 2020).
- 1 in 15 children are exposed to intimate partner violence each year, 90% of these children are eyewitnesses to this violence (Apricot for Victims Services).
- 81% of women who have experienced stalking, rape, and physical violence suffer from long-term physical injuries and/or post-traumatic stress disorder (Plan Street, 2021).
- The National economic cost of domestic and family violence is estimated to be over 12 billion per year (Plan Street, 2022).
- HHSC estimates that funded agencies received 281,816 emergencies hotline calls in 2019.
- In 2021, 52% of victims seeking assistance were denied shelter due to lack of space, an increase over nine years of 31% (Texas Council on Family Violence).
- 75% of Texas 16-24 year olds have either experienced dating violence or know another young person who has (National Network to End Domestic Violence, 2021).
- On one day in 2020, domestic violence shelters in TX served 5,950 victims of domestic violence and received 1,563 hotline calls. 948 requests for services on this day were unmet due to lack of resources (National Network to End Domestic Violence, 2021).
- 1 in 3 women in the United States have experienced some form of physical violence by an intimate partner (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).
- 1 in 4 women have been victims of severe physical violence (ex. Beating, burning, strangling) by an intimate partner in their lifetime (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).
- 72% of all murder-suicides involve an intimate partner; 97% of the victims of these crimes are female (Trauma, Violence, & Abuse, 2021).
- In 2021, Texas saw the highest number of family violence related deaths in recent history (Texas Council on Family Violence).
- Having a gun in the home where domestic violence is taking place increases the likelihood of a homicide by 500%. In fact, 72% of all murder-suicides stem from intimate partner violence (Plan Street, 2021).
- Those who have been abused by an intimate partner are at a higher risk for mental health problems such as depression,, suicidal thoughts, anxiety, low self-esteem, isolation, fear of

intimacy, risk life behaviors, post-traumatic stress disorder, flashbacks, and poor physical health (CDC, 2021).

- Intimate partner violence results in more than 18.5 million mental health case visits each year (National Coalition Against Domestic Violence). Collin County is the 6th largest county in Texas. Since 2010 population has grown from 782,341 to an estimated 1,190,111 as stated in the U.S. Census Bureau. Domestic and family violence has grown with the population. Which also shows an increase based on the Texas Department of Public Safety Uniform Crime Report 2023 shows crime increasing in Collin County with that population growth. Collin County law enforcement agencies reported responding to the following types and number of cases for 2023: 4,338 family violence cases, 846 aggravated assaults, 352 sexual assaults, 25 murders, 180 robberies, 1,424 burglaries, 10,569 larceny/theft cases and 1,299 vehicle thefts. Not all of these investigations became cases filed with the CCDA. There were 2,473 family violence cases filed with the CCDA in 2023 and a similar number of family violence cases, 2,464, were filed with the CCDA in FY2024. In FY2024, the CCDA's Office Victim Assistance Coordinators sent out 2,931 victim impact packets to crime victims. This was the most victim impact packets that coordinators have ever sent out from this office in a single year. Victim Assistance Coordinators for the CCDA's Office during FY2024 also provided for victims in the following ways: (1) Sent out claims for Restitution; (2) Sent out Parole Protest Letters; (3) Assisted Victims who contacted or came by without an appointment "walk-ins"; (4) Made telephone or email contacts with victims; (5) Accompanied victims to court; (6) provided a safe place for victims waiting to go to court; (7) processed U-Visa Applications; (8) provided excuse letters; and (9) sat in on prosecutor interviews with victims. The Victim Assistance Coordinators serve victims of the following crimes: family violence, assault, child abuse, child sexual abuse, and survivors of homicide victims, burglary, robbery, theft/auto related crimes, stalking, harassment, child pornography, DUI / DWI incidents, elder abuse, human trafficking, identity theft, and kidnapping. They also assisted victims with 186 protective order applications.

Project Approach & Activities:

Being the victim of a crime can be a very traumatic experience. This is particularly true for victims of violent crimes. Victims are faced with financial difficulties and a confusing court system. Following the initial traumatic reactions to victimization, most victims begin the difficult task of rebuilding their lives. Unfortunately, the criminal justice system can be a complicated process, especially for victims who have experienced trauma. In many cases, victims will have to repeatedly tell and be questioned over their story in front of law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and/or while being cross-examined in a full courtroom. However, research has shown that participation in the justice process aids victims in rebuilding their lives; therefore, it is crucial that they are provided with the proper support throughout the criminal justice process. It is the goal of the Collin County District Attorney's (CCDA) Victim Assistance Division to facilitate victim recovery, reduce feelings of system re-victimization, and increase victim participation and satisfaction in the criminal justice process. Division staff provides an array of victim-centered services specific to the unique needs of each individual to help crime victims in achieving restoration of full physical, mental, and emotional health. The Victim Assistance Coordinator serves as a contact person for victims of serious or violent crimes filed with the District Attorney as they move through the criminal justice process. Each case is unique, and the nature and extent of services provided may vary based on each victim's response. The coordinator along with the team is dedicated to providing services useful and necessary to aid victims throughout the process. Some of the services include, but are not limited to the following: • Court Orientation • Helping victims understand their rights • Referrals (Counseling, Social Services, etc.) • Emergency Services • Escorting to Court • Assisting with request for compensation • Crisis Intervention • Intimidation Protection • Assisting with Victim Impact Statements • Public Education Following a crime, law enforcement investigates before filing a case with the District Attorney, which can take days to years. Once a case is filed, the CCDA becomes aware of the victim(s) and can make contact. Thus, the time from the crime occurring and the Coordinator making contact could be very quick or may be years. The level and types of services needed may be dependent on this time gap. For instance, if it has been a matter of days, the Coordinator may provide crisis intervention or counseling; assist with safety planning; assess basic needs such as clothing, food, and shelter; and make referrals for community resources, including counseling, legal aid, criminal justice support, criminal justice system information, referral to assigned detectives, status of case information or other needed services. However, if an extended amount of time has passed since the crime, the victim may be more stabilized and need less immediate support and assistance. Regardless of how much time has passed since the crime, the Coordinator comes along side to help victims understand what to expect in the criminal justice system, serve as emotional support, and ensure that victims know their rights and have the resources necessary to exercise these rights. All victims are provided with Crime Victims' Compensation (CVC) Fund information and application assistance, as needed, and are encouraged to complete victim impact statements. A victim impact statement is a voluntary opportunity to describe the physical, financial, and psychological affects the crime has had on the victim personally. They are one of the few opportunities that victims have to be heard - putting a face with the victim and addressing the offender in court - which many victims find helpful in the journey of victimization. Describing the psychological

and physical effects of the crime has been shown to be cathartic, benefitting the emotional wellbeing of victims, and promoting their recovery. In addition to helping foster healing, many victims report that making such statements improves their satisfaction with the criminal justice process. The Coordinator also provides notice of court-related case events, accompanies victims to interviews with prosecutors and/or court, and helps victims navigate multiple or rescheduled court dates. The Coordinator acts as liaison between the victims and a variety of justice system departments and personnel, recognizes the impact crime has had on victims, supports the victims while advocating for their needs and wishes within the system, works to ensure victims are treated fairly and respectfully, and seeks to remove all potential barriers (physical, psychological, cultural, etc.) to services. Following case disposition, the Coordinator may assist the victim with all other factors related to the case on file.

Capacity & Capabilities:

The Collin County District Attorney's Office has been providing direct, personal service to victims, witnesses, and their families since 1986. As an administrator of justice and advocate for the rule of law, the District Attorney employs those of the highest integrity, skill, and courage as well as specialized training and expertise and will be committed to handling victims with discretion and compassion. All staff members are committed to accomplishing our mission through professional excellence, fairness to the accused, compassion and respect for the victims and witness, and respect for the court and opposing counsel. The Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Article 56.04 mandates that every District Attorney's office have a Victim Assistance Coordinator to act as a liaison between the victim and the prosecutor handling the case and provide victims with information about their rights and the criminal justice system including ongoing information about the status of a case. Since 1986, the Collin County District Attorney's office has been providing direct, personal service to victims, witnesses, and their families. The Victim Assistance Coordinator plays a critical role in assisting victims by making contact as early as possible to assess the needs and concerns and to connect them with the various community resources. The District Attorney's Office works through partnerships with various community agencies to ensure a coordinated multi-agency response to domestic violence in order to provide victims with access to all possible services and resources. The department partners with community organizations and service providers including but not limited to: CASA, Turning Point Rape Crisis Center, Hope's Door, Children's Advocacy Center, Emily's Place, Family Watchdog, Frisco Family Services, Genesis Women's Shelter & Support, Guardians of the Children, MOSAIC Family Services, Restored Hope Ministries, Samaritan Inn, Stronger than Espresso, and Victim Relief Ministries. Additionally, the CCDA Victim Assistance Coordinator works with local law enforcement advocates. Collin County District Attorney Victim Assistance Coordinators generally possess a Bachelor's degree in Social Work, Behavioral Science, Counseling or a related field and have a minimum of two years' experience. Coordinators are expected to have knowledge of counseling practices, procedures, methods and techniques related to identification, interviewing, crisis intervention, and support of victims and/or witnesses of violence and criminal activities. The Victim Assistance Coordinator also possess specialized training and expertise in this area/field. In order to best serve our victims in this capacity, the Coordinator has specialized training and expertise, the coordinator is committed to handling them with discretion and compassion for victims. The team will also recognize that it is often difficult for victims to report intimate partner violence and they will be dedicated to ensuring that victims and their families will be protected and able to regain some control over their lives while their voices are heard in the criminal justice process. The coordinator will attend training provided by the TDCAA which is specific to legislative updates, training hosted by the Office of the Attorney General, and other local victim-based organizations. The District Attorney's Office will continue to develop formal and informal collaboration with other crime victim and social service providers to coordinate efforts in meeting crime victim needs. The following is a list of how it will be done: maintain a current list of community resources that provide victim-centered services; develop ongoing relationships with culturally specific program and resources to ensure access for victims; strategize together to leverage existing/available resources; establish and maintain a referral procedure in cooperation with other community agencies; collaborate to develop new ways of integrating and delivering victim-centered services; and participate in committees and work groups to increase effectiveness in a victim-centered response. Best Practice Guidelines: Crime Victim Services, Office of the Justice Program.

Performance Management :

Goal: Facilitate victim recovery, reduce feelings of system re-victimization, and increase victim participation in and satisfaction with the criminal justice process. Objectives: 1. Increase number of victims receiving information and referral services by 80%. 2. Increase number of victims accompanied to court by 90%. 3. Achieve minimum victim impact statement completion rate of 20%. Measures: 1. Provide casework/non-licensed; individual advocacy or other support. Hours: Coordinator: 2,080 hours 2. Provide victim assistance services to 1,000 victims / survivors. Baseline: 300 3. Provide referrals for 1,000 victims / survivors. Baseline: 250 4. Assist 200 victims with developing safety plans (non-residential). Baseline: 50 5. Accompany 500

victims / survivors to court and to prosecution interviews (through the legal process). Baseline: 50 6. Provide 400 victims / survivors with Crime Victims' Compensation assistance. Baseline: 60 Client outcome measurements are used to establish and evaluate the program's progress in achieving service goals. The Coordinator analyzes the outcomes and an action plan is developed and implemented as needed to ensure that objectives are met. A program success is partly defined by the outcomes, but it must also be defined by the victim, the goals for the program accomplished on behalf of the victim (National Network to End Domestic Violence, 2013). Questions to be considered, as suggested by the National Act for End Domestic Violence include but are not limited to the following: Did the victim get what they needed from the program? Did the victim have a positive experience? Did they feel respected and valued? Did the program do everything it could to help the victim reach their goals? Goals will be defined individually for each victim and their program experience. Data Management The Victim Assistance Division staff will collect and maintain victim assistance data in Collin County's criminal justice software system, Odyssey, maintained on the county's secure network and hard copy files. Additional case data is maintained in the Texas Office of Court Administration database. Data collected includes the number of visitors to the Victim Assistance Division; victim interactions via phone, email, and in-person contacts; number of victim impact statements completed; number of persons assisted with CVC applications; number of persons accompanied to court; program attended; type of service (individual or group therapy) and number of cases filed by crime type and disposition. The Victim Assistance Division analyzes the data. The data is used to produce reports on program outputs monthly, quarterly and annually to assess the success of the project. Any increase in needs or decrease in services are documented to review processes in order to better serve the needs of Collin County crime victims and assist them in their journey through the criminal justice system.

Target Group :

Victim Assistance Division staff will serve any victim / survivor of serious or violent crimes associated with a case filed by the Collin County District Attorney. "Victims" may also mean persons who, individually or collectively, have suffered harm, including physical or mental injury, emotional suffering, economic loss or substantial impairment of their fundamental rights, through acts or omissions that are in violation of criminal laws operative within the state, including those laws proscribing criminal abuse of power. (Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power, Human Rights Office of the Commission, Nov. 29, 2021). Per the Texas Department of Public Safety Texas Crime Reports for 2023, Texas Counties reported 247,896 Family Violence Cases, 480 Hate Crimes, 17,746 Sexual Assaults, 1,847 Murders, 20,965 Robberies, 85,628 Aggravated Assault, 92,131 Burglaries, 462,572 Larceny-Thefts, and 124,568 Motor Vehicle Theft.

Evidence-Based Practices:

The Collin County District Attorney recognizes the importance of incorporating current theory, best practices, and evidence-based service delivery for victims of various ages and from diverse backgrounds. As such, Victim Assistance Division staff maintains an updated knowledge base regarding effective skills and evidence-based practices (EBP) in a variety of subjects, such as counseling, advocacy, victims' rights, medical and mental health, and outreach and education. The program maintains a flexible approach to victim services and is willing to adapt practices to improve services and outreach. The Victim Assistance Division takes a victim-centered approach to services that is accessible and appropriate for every crime victim seeking assistance. While there are fundamental characteristics to the processes, services provided are driven by the needs of the individuals impacted by crime and violence. The Coordinator will continue to work with family violence victims. Providing to these victims the will and access to be able to empower women who have experienced intimate partner violence and link them to helpful services in the community utilizing the Advocacy Interventions for Women Who Experience Intimate Partner Violence EBP. This practice is rated "Effective" for reducing domestic/intimate partner violence by the National Institute of Justice CrimeSolutions.gov website. According to research, women who receive services through advocacy interventions experience significantly less physical abuse, compared with women in control groups, at 12- to 24-month follow-up periods. The presence of the advocate in court and in the magistrate office provides victims with emotional support, while also helping them understand and navigate the system. Collin County District Attorney supports and empowers individuals who have been impacted by a crime, having them restore their dignity and safety. Assisting/working with victims' inherent resiliency and self-determination, the Victim Advocate will encourage the victims to lead their path to restoring their personal power through many different avenues and venues. Making sure to support, identify and prioritize the needs of the victims at all times. Services, process, choices, rights, and safety will always be at the forefront. 1. Best Practice Guidelines: Crime Victim Services, Office of the Justice Program, Oct. 2022. 3. Best Practice in Criminal Justice, L. Martinez, 2020.

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Agency Name: Collin County

Grant/App: 2896609 **Start Date:** 10/1/2025 **End Date:** 9/30/2026

Project Title: FY2026 District Attorney Victim Assistance Coordinator

Status: Application Pending Submission

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
Legal Advocacy	100.00	The Collin County District Attorney's Victim Assistance Division provides assistance to all victims of violent crime and their family members with the goal of reducing re-victimization through communication, information, and advocacy. Services provided include: information regarding victim's rights and social service referrals, assistance completing Victim Impact Statement and Crime Victims' Compensation (CVC) applications, interview and court accompaniment, explanation of court process, advocacy with Texas Attorney General's CVC Program and Texas Department of Criminal Justice, and case status updates. The goal of the Victim Assistance Division is to provide the State mandated information and provide services that will help ease the victim's journey through the court process.

CJD Purpose Areas

PERCENT DEDICATED	PURPOSE AREA	PURPOSE AREA DESCRIPTION
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Agency Name: Collin County

Grant/App: 2896609 **Start Date:** 10/1/2025 **End Date:** 9/30/2026

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Measures Information

Objective Output Measures

OUTPUT MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
Number of survivors assisted through the legal process.	1000
Number of times survivors are accompanied to court.	650
Number of victims / survivors seeking services who were served.	1000
Number of victims seeking services who were not served.	0

Objective Outcome Measures

OUTCOME MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
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Custom Output Measures

CUSTOM OUTPUT MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
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Custom Outcome Measures

CUSTOM OUTCOME MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
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Agency Name: Collin County

Grant/App: 2896609 **Start Date:** 10/1/2025 **End Date:** 9/30/2026

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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/%
Personnel	Counselor and/or Therapist (non-licensed)	<p>The Victim Assistance Coordinator, full-time. The Victim Assistance Coordinator will provide services to victims of violent crimes filed with the District Attorney's Office. Position will provide information and assistance with victim impact statements, Crime Victims Compensation, and court process, social service referrals, interview and court accompaniment; and case status updates.</p> <p>Requirements: Bachelor's Degree and 2 yrs experience in Victim services. She will work 100% on grant. Annual salary: \$59,330.00 with fringe benefits at \$33,344.00</p> <p>Total:</p>	\$69,505.50	\$23,168.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$92,674.00	100

		\$92,674.00 for yr. Total: \$92,674.00 Match: \$23,168.50 and OOG paying: \$69,505.50.						
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Agency Name: Collin County

Grant/App: 2896609 **Start Date:** 10/1/2025 **End Date:** 9/30/2026

Project Title: FY2026 District Attorney Victim Assistance Coordinator

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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:

NA

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:

16171898

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

4246620

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.

NA

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

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