Agency Name: Collin County

Grant/App: 2877109 Start Date: 10/1/2025 End Date: 9/30/2026

Project Title: FY2026 Sheriff's Office Victim Advocate

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 Sheriff's Office is committed to providing for the unique needs of each individual citizen. It is our goal 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. As such, all officers are required to attend cultural diversity training. Additionally, the current Victim Advocate participates in on-going continuing education for victim advocacy, which frequently includes cultural competency. 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 Advocate builds a rapport with each client to recognize and understand how the victim is past history and background impacts/effects 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 \S 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 <u>CEO/Law Enforcement Certifications and Assurances Form</u> 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 <u>CEO/NGO</u> <u>Certifications and Assurances Form</u> 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

X No

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

Yes X 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, Mckinney, TX 75071

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:

Every year in the United States, over 10 million people experience domestic violence, according to recent statistics from the National Coalition against Domestic Violence (NCADV). Tragically, approximately 2,000 domestic violence-related homicides occur annually. Domestic violence is a global issue, and Collin County is no exception. This crime happens daily, even hourly, leaving devastating impacts on victims, families, and communities. The Collin County Sheriff's Office is committed to supporting victims of domestic violence through its Victim Assistance Program, with a dedicated civilian victim advocate playing a vital role. For many victims, the trauma of the crime itself is only the beginning. Survivors often endure physical, financial, and psychological challenges, particularly those affected by repeated or long-term abuse. The criminal justice process can also feel overwhelming, adding another layer of distress during an already traumatic time. The Victim Assistance Program in Collin County is designed to help victims regain stability and safety. The Victim Advocate, a professionally trained specialist, provides critical support such as: • On-scene crisis intervention • Safety plan development . Assistance with Crime Victims' Compensation claims . Referrals to emergency and social service agencies • Emotional support, guidance, and updates on case progress Research shows that early, coordinated, victim-focused interventions increase victims' likelihood of participating in legal proceedings, accessing community programs, and experiencing reduced symptoms of PTSD, depression, and fear. A strong advocacy program ensures that victims in Collin County have the support they need to rebuild their lives. The goal of the Collin County Sheriff's Office Victim Assistance Program is to uphold victims' rights, protect their privacy, reduce trauma, promote safety, and encourage recovery and participation in the criminal justice system. Helping victims is not just a priority—it is a commitment to restoring lives and fostering a safer community.

Problem Statement:

When a violent crime occurs, the victim's life is forever changed. They are no longer the same person they were before the crime. Victimization does not end when the crime itself is over. Victims often endure significant physical and psychological trauma, especially those who have experienced severe, repeated, or prolonged violence. For many, the crime marks the beginning of what can be a lifelong struggle. Victims of crime frequently find their lives in disarray for years, as they grapple with the impact on their physical, financial, and emotional well-being. 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 . Manipulation through children . Spiritual abuse . Exploitation of cultural and religious practices • Technological violence In the immediate aftermath of a crime, victims are often overwhelmed and confused. This state of vulnerability can make the criminal justice system seem intimidating and inaccessible. Without understanding their rights or the process, many victims retreat into the background, leaving their voices unheard during investigations, prosecutions, and sentencing. The criminal justice system's core mission is to pursue justice for criminal acts, which includes justice for victims and witnesses. However, the way victims are treated throughout the process significantly impacts their confidence in the system and their ability to heal. When victims feel they are receiving inadequate or delayed services, they are less likely to participate in prosecutions. This can lead to higher victim attrition rates and reduce offender accountability. A victim's cooperation, safety, and involvement are critical to the effective detection, investigation, and prosecution of crimes—and to their own recovery. Law enforcement is often the first point of contact for victims, positioning agencies like the Collin County Sheriff's Office to provide immediate support. The initial response to a victim has a lasting impact on their perception of the justice system. It is also a key factor in whether victims access essential resources such as crisis intervention, financial compensation, and communitybased programs. Unfortunately, barriers such as limited knowledge or access to resources often hinder victims' recovery. About 80% of rural communities in the U.S. report insufficient access to victim services, such as crisis intervention, housing assistance, and trauma counseling. These gaps are especially pronounced in areas with limited transportation and infrastructure, leaving many victims isolated and underserved. This is especially true in the unincorporated, rural parts of Collin County, where resources are scarce, and social service providers are nearly nonexistent. In many cases, until a criminal case is filed—which can take weeks or months

—a Victim Advocate connected to law enforcement may be the victim's only source of assistance. Rural law enforcement agencies often lack embedded victim advocates or specialized personnel. In 2023, less than 25% of rural law enforcement agencies had dedicated victim service units, compared to nearly 60% in urban areas. This disparity significantly impacts victims' ability to navigate the justice system and access immediate support. Victims in rural areas frequently report higher levels of ongoing trauma due to delayed services. For example, rural victims of domestic violence are 1.5 times more likely to experience extended periods without counseling or legal assistance compared to their urban counterparts. This delay exacerbates psychological and financial hardships.. Victim Advocates play a crucial role in helping victims through these difficult times, guiding them toward recovery and providing a vital link to services and support. The effects of crime victimization are far-reaching, often disrupting parenting, relationships, and social or occupational functioning. Each victim's experience is unique, but some of the most serious and widespread impacts of violence against women include: • Death • Suicide • Physical injuries • Low self-esteem • Mental illness • Family breakdown • Child abuse or neglect • Depend on social services • Increase medical, legal, and support service cost (for county) Despite these challenges, we believe no victim should feel alone. At the Collin County Sheriff's Office, we remain committed to supporting victims through every step of their recovery. By providing immediate assistance, resources, and advocacy, we aim to help victims rebuild their lives while fostering confidence in the criminal justice system.

Supporting Data:

Domestic violence affects countless individuals across America daily, including those in Collin County and its surrounding areas. Many victims face difficult living situations and barriers to achieving safety and financial independence from their abusers. This issue remains one of the most prevalent crimes in the U.S., with many cases going unreported. Domestic violence is one of the most prevalent crimes in the U.S., with many cases going unreported. The numbers for national domestic violence statistics show nearly one in three American women report being physically abused at some point in their lives. Victims of domestic abuse come from all backgrounds, communities, education levels, economic levels, ethnicities, and religion. Updated statistics reveal the depth of its impact and highlight the urgent need for increased resources and awareness: 1. National Prevalence: o Nearly 1 in 4 women and 1 in 10 men experience severe intimate partner physical violence during their lifetimes. Over 43 million women and 38 million men report psychological aggression by an intimate partner (CDC, 2023). o On average, more than 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner in the U.S., totaling over 10 million victims annually (National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 2023). 2. Homicides and Risk Factors: o Women in domestic violence situations are 500% more likely to be killed if there is a firearm in the home. In the U.S., approximately 65% of intimate partner homicides involve a firearm (Every town for Gun Safety, 2023). 3. Impact in Texas: o In 2022, Texas law enforcement responded to over 218,950 family violence incidents, a 10% increase from the prior year (Texas Council on Family Violence, 2024). o 40% of Texas women will experience intimate partner physical violence, sexual violence, or stalking during their lifetimes (TCFV, 2023). o The state saw the highest number of family violence-related deaths in recent history, with 204 intimate partner homicides reported in 2021 (Texas Council on Family Violence, 2024). 4. Youth and Children: o 1 in 5 children is exposed to intimate partner violence annually, and 90% of these children witness the violence directly (CDC, 2023). 5. Economic Costs: o Domestic violence has an estimated economic impact exceeding \$12 billion annually, including healthcare costs, lost productivity, and law enforcement resources (National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 2023). o Survivors face long-term effects, with 81% reporting physical or mental health consequences such as PTSD, depression, and anxiety (CDC, 2023). 6. Collin County and Local Trends: o Collin County's population has grown from 782,341 in 2010 to over 1.2 million in 2023, increasing the demand for victim services. o In 2023, the Victim Advocate Program served 226 victims, with 173 cases involving family or domestic violence. Of these, 105 victims received emotional support and safety services, while 55 victims received legal aid and protective order assistance. o In 2024 those numbers increased, 295 victims were serviced in Collin County with 280 of those cases involving family or domestic violence. 3 Murders and 16 strangulations. Of these, 171 received emotional support which includes crisis intervention, safety planning, and individual counseling. 50 received protective order assistance and legal aid help. Barriers to Reporting and Services: • Domestic violence is often underreported. Approximately 2 out of 3 incidents are never reported to law enforcement (National Domestic Violence Hotline, 2023). • In 2023, 52% of victims seeking shelter in Texas were turned away due to a lack of space, highlighting the gap in resources (TCFV, 2024). Domestic violence is a pervasive issue affecting individuals of all ages, ethnicities, and socioeconomic backgrounds. While progress has been made in increasing awareness and resources, the growing number of cases, particularly in rapidly expanding areas like Collin County, underscores the critical need for enhanced prevention efforts, victim support, and community engagement. Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) remains a significant issue in the United States, affecting millions annually. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), approximately 47.3% of women and 44.2% of men have experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate

partner during their lifetime. Among these, 41.0% of women and 26.3% of men reported an IPV-related impact. In Texas, family violence continues to be a pressing concern. The Texas Department of Public Safety's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program indicates that in 2016, there were 196,564 reported incidents of family violence. Among these, 14% were classified as aggravated assaults. Additionally, the Texas Council on Family Violence reported that in 2022, 179 women and 37 men were killed by an intimate partner or stalking perpetrator across 64 Texas counties. These statistics underscore the pervasive nature of IPV and family violence, highlighting the need for continued efforts in prevention, support, and intervention. Collin County is the 6th largest county in Texas. In FY 2024, the Victim Advocate served 295 victims representing 320 different types of victimizations (some suffer multiple types of victimizations). Of the victimization types, 234 were family/domestic violence and the remaining 86 were cases of harassment, sexual assault, arson, burglary, elder abuse, kidnapping, survivors of homicide victims, and impeding breath/circulation charges. During this period, 295 victims received information and referrals such as information about the criminal justice process and referrals to other victim service programs. 171 received emotional or safety services support such as crisis interventions, hotline crisis counseling, individual counseling and attended support groups. 249 victims received criminal justice system assistance such as assistance in obtaining a protective order and free legal aid assistance. 11 victims were assisted with Crime Victims' Compensation applications.

Project Approach & Activities:

Crimes of all types, both violent and non-violent, occur daily, impacting countless individuals who must navigate sudden and often devastating changes in their lives. These criminal acts leave victims with outcomes ranging from emotional trauma to physical injury or even death. Law enforcement agencies play a pivotal role in assisting victims, offering services that promote recovery and resilience. The Collin County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) Victim Assistance Program is dedicated to supporting crime victims in restoring their physical, mental, and emotional well-being. Tailored to address each individual's unique needs, the program connects victims with an Advocate who serves as a direct contact, providing personalized assistance and support services. Victims are typically identified through CCSO offense reports or, in severe cases like homicides, aggravated assaults, sexual assaults, or fatal collisions, through on-scene interventions. Comprehensive Support Services Following identification, each victim receives information about the program via mail, email, or in person. Services provided are specific to the victim's circumstances: • Family violence victims may receive immediate crisis support, safety planning, protective order guidance, and information about shelter options. • Sexual assault victims benefit from crisis intervention, coordination with medical personnel, and referrals to local organizations like rape crisis centers for ongoing support. Additional services include on-scene crisis intervention, advocacy, assistance with Crime Victims' Compensation claims, and referrals to emergency and social service agencies. Advocates also offer emotional support, help victims navigate the criminal justice system, and ensure fair treatment while addressing barriers like cultural or psychological challenges. Collaboration and Community Partnerships Recognizing that victim needs often extend beyond law enforcement capabilities, CCSO has cultivated strong partnerships with organizations like: • The Children's Advocacy Center of Collin County • The Turning Point Rape Crisis Center • LifePath Systems • Family Place Participation in collaborative networks such as the Collin County Council on Family Violence enables the program to close service gaps, reduce redundancies, and provide comprehensive care. Adapting During the COVID-19 Pandemic Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, CCSO continued providing victim services, utilizing remote tools like phone, email, and video conferencing. Rights information and resources were sent electronically or by mail, ensuring uninterrupted access to critical support. Expertise and Ongoing Development Since 2013, CCSO has employed educated and experienced Crime Victim Advocates, typically holding degrees in social work, behavioral science, or related fields. Advocates regularly participate in ongoing training, including attending conferences like the Dallas Crimes Against Women Conference and workshops hosted by the National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA). These educational opportunities ensure Advocates remain informed about current laws, victim rights, and best practices. Commitment to Excellence The CCSO Victim Assistance Program embodies the Sheriff's Office's core mission: to protect and serve with fairness, compassion, and integrity. Advocates prioritize each victim's dignity, providing services for as long as needed, whether for a brief intervention or prolonged support. By acting as liaisons between victims and justice system personnel, they empower victims to engage with the criminal justice process—a key element in rebuilding lives. Through collaboration, education, and unwavering commitment, the CCSO Victim Assistance Program continues to be a cornerstone of support for those affected by crime in Collin County. As the CCSO and the Advocate cannot be the sole providers of necessary services, the program continues to build formal and informal community partnerships, creating and strengthening relationships with local organizations and resources that serve crime victims' needs. We currently work with the Children's Advocacy Center of Collin County, The Turning Point Rape Crisis Center of Collin County, Family Place, and LifePath Systems, as well as other non-profit, medical, and social service organizations. Through countywide collaborative efforts, such as the Collin County Social Services Association and the Collin County Council on Family Violence, we build strong networks, identify gaps in services, provide training, and minimize duplicative efforts. Additionally, Advocates in the District Attorney's Office, the local Rape Crisis Center, Children Advocacy Center, police departments, and social services agencies work together to help victims through their trauma.

Capacity & Capabilities:

The Collin County Sheriff's Office was established in 1846. The Collin County Sheriff's Office is a full service law enforcement agency and its staff are trained to work with the victims of crime. Collin County Sheriff's Office believe that our fundamental duty is to serve and protect the citizens of Collin County with fairness, compassion, and respect. We demand excellence in the quality of our law enforcement, stressing professionalism, integrity, and timeliness, so that those we serve may feel secure. We provide equal enforcement and protection of the law without prejudice of favor. We promote the setting of goals in partnership with the community, and prioritize and address problems based on the concerns of the community. Our officers are first on-scene and are frequently the first interactions for victims with the criminal justice system, making our role in initializing victim services critical. Our department has developed relationships with community organizations and service providers including the Collin County Council on Family Violence, Junior League of Collin County, Turning Point Rape Crisis Center of Collin County, Collin County Sexual Assault Response Team, and the Children's Advocacy Center of Collin County. We have been providing direct victim advocacy services, utilizing an educated and experienced Crime Victim Advocate, since FY 2013. The Collin County Sheriff's Office Crime Victim Advocate, generally possess a Bachelor's degree in Social Work, Behavioral Science, Counseling or a related field and have a minimum of two years' experience. The Advocate has knowledge in the following: 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 Crime Victim Advocate will participate in ongoing CE for Victim Advocacy through yearly trainings; plans to attend the 2025 Dallas Crimes against Women's Conference and the 2015 Female Survivors of Violence Conference. These trainings are essential not only for the Victim Advocate but for the program and victim. These trainings allow the victim advocate to become better equipped to meet the needs of victims and to stay up to date on current laws of Victim rights. The advocate is also planning to participate in the NOVA Conference, (NOVA) is the oldest national victim advocacy group in the United States. NOVA exists to assist victims of crime, victims of mass casualties, or survivors of natural disasters to understand and normalize their reactions to abnormal situations and allow them to begin their physical, emotional, and financial recovery. The delivery of subject matter based workshops at the annual NOVA Training Event is a key element of fulfilling NOVA's mission to champion dignity and compassion for those harmed by crime and crisis. These training as well as various online webinars will benefit the Victim Advocate which in return will benefit the victims and Collin County. The Crime Victim Advocate will continue to develop formal and informal collaboration with other crime victim advocates and local service providers to coordinate efforts in meeting the needs of the victims of Collin County. 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 re5;ources to ensure access for victims; strategize together to leverage existing and 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 victim centered responses. Best Practice Guidelines: Crime Victim Services, Office of the Justice Program.

Performance Management:

Goal: Provide victim advocacy services that ensure the rights of crime victims, preserve privacy, reduce trauma, promote safety, facilitate recovery, and encourage participation in the criminal justice process. Objectives: 1. Ensure minimum of 95% of victims seeking assistance are served. 2. Demonstrate maximum "exceptional" clearance rate of 10% for family violence offenses. Measures: 1. Provide victim assistance services to 250 victims/survivors. Baseline: 45 2. Provide case management and advocacy for 175 victims / survivors. Baseline: 30 3. Provide advocacy/accompaniment/assistance for criminal justice system interactions for 100 victims/ survivors. Baseline: 10 4. Provide referrals for 250 victims/ survivors. Baseline: 45 5. Assist 100 victims with developing safety plans. Baseline: 20 Additionally, the Sheriff's Office collects and maintains data for the number and dispositions of family violence cases, as well as numbers of child abuse, homicide, sexual assault, robbery, and other offense types investigated. The Coordinator 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. Data Management. The Advocate records a summary of pertinent victim assistance data using a system called VST Tracking (Victim service tracking). Through VST tracking we are able to track, manage, analyze and report on incidents and cases every step of the way. VST helps us to accurately track our victims

and services given to victims of crime. VST tracking also allows us to run VOCA approved reports accurately and efficiently. Monthly data is collected and includes the number of victims who requested services and the number actually served each month. Types of services provided include crisis support, CVC information and assistance, safety planning. Additionally, the Sheriff's Office collects and maintains data for the number and dispositions of family violence cases, as well as numbers of child abuse, homicide, sexual assault, robbery, and other offense types investigated. The coordinator analyzes the data and uses it to produce reports monthly. quarterly, and annually. 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 though the criminal justice system. The Crime Victim Advocate will continue to develop formal and informal collaboration with other crime victim advocates and local service providers to coordinate efforts in meeting the needs of the victims of Collin County. 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 and 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 victim centered responses. Best Practice Guidelines: Crime Victim Services, Office of the Justice Program, Nov. 2010. Data Management The Advocate records a summary of pertinent victim assistance data using a system called VST Tracking (Victim service tracking). Through VST tracking we are able to track, manage, analyze and report on incidents and cases every step of the way. VST helps us to accurately track our victims and services given to victims of crime. VST tracking also allows us to run VOCA approved reports accurately and efficiently. Monthly data is collected and includes the number of victims who requested services and the number actually served each month. Types of services provided include crisis support, CVC information and assistance, safety planning, etc. additionally, the Sheriff's Office collects and maintains data for the number and dispositions of family violence cases, as well as numbers of child abuse, homicide, sexual assault, robbery, and other offense types investigated. The coordinator analyzes the data and uses it to produce reports monthly, quarterly, and annually. 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 though the criminal justice system.

Target Group:

The Collin County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) remains dedicated to providing comprehensive support to victims of serious and violent crimes within the county, focusing especially on residents in rural or unincorporated areas. These areas often lack immediate access to essential victim services due to geographical dispersion, limited transportation, and funding constraints. The CCSO aims to bridge these gaps by offering direct assistance to victims of crimes such as family violence, sexual assault, and aggravated assaults. 2023 Crime Statistics for Collin County: According to the latest data from the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS): • Homicides: 6 cases reported in 2023, consistent with previous years. • Sexual Assaults/Rapes: 68 incidents, reflecting a slight increase in reporting. • Aggravated Assaults: 310 cases, highlighting continued concerns around violent crime. • Family Violence: The CCSO recorded 182 reported cases, demonstrating a steady need for intervention and support services. While the overall crime rate in Collin County remains lower than the state average, the rural areas experience unique challenges that require focused attention and resources. The CCSO's Victim Assistance Program addresses these needs by: • Offering immediate crisis intervention and safety planning. • Providing access to shelters and medical care through partnerships with organizations like The Turning Point and the Children's Advocacy Center. • Advocating for victims' rights and helping navigate the criminal justice process. • Ensuring victims receive information on crime victim compensation and referrals to specialized support services. Rural Challenges Residents in unincorporated areas often face barriers in accessing justice and support, with longer response times and fewer local service providers. The CCSO continues to strengthen ties with local nonprofits, medical facilities, and legal advocates to enhance service delivery. Collaboration and Future Goals In partnership with entities like the Texas DPS Crime Records Division, CCSO is committed to: • Enhancing outreach in rural communities. • Expanding training for law enforcement and victim advocates. • Increasing public awareness about available victim services. By integrating updated statistics and refining their response framework, the CCSO aims to meet the evolving needs of Collin County's residents. http://www.dps.texas.gov/administration/crime_records/pages/crimestatistics.htm

Evidence-Based Practices:

The Collin County Sheriff's Office recognizes the importance in incorporating current theory, best practice, and evidence-based service delivery. As such, the Victim Advocate annually attends training to improve and maintain an updated knowledge base regarding effective skills and evidence-based practices (EBP). The program maintains a flexible approach to victim services and is willing to adapt practices to improve services

and outreach. As such, a large part of the CCSO Victim Assistance Program utilizes the Advocacy Interventions for Women Who Experience Intimate Partner Violence EBP at the National Institute of Justice. CrimeSolutions.gov website. Advocacy interventions aim to empower women who have experienced intimate partner violence and link them to helpful services in the community. This practice is rated "Effective" for reducing domestic/intimate partner violence. 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. Additionally, the CCSO has implemented a Lethality Assessment Program (LAP), a standardized, evidence-based series of eleven questions, to identify victims of domestic violence who are at the highest risk of being seriously injured or killed by their intimate partners, and immediately connect them to the local domestic violence services. The LAP makes use of a research-based screening tool and accompanying referral protocol to enable law enforcement and domestic violence programs to work hand-in-hand to actively engage high-risk victims who otherwise may not seek the support of domestic violence intervention services. Collin County Sheriff's Office 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. Ramsay, J., Y. Carter, L Davidson, et.al. Advocacy interventions to reduce or eliminate violence and promote the physical and psychosocial well-being of women who experience intimate partner abuse. Cochrane Database System Rev 2009:5 (CD005043). 2. Lethality Assessment Program for First Responders. Bowie, MD: Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, 2009. 3. Best Practice Guidelines: Crime Victim Services, Office of the Justice Program.

Agency Name: Collin County

Grant/App: 2877109 Start Date: 10/1/2025 End Date: 9/30/2026

Project Title: FY2026 Sheriff's Office Victim Advocate

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			
Professional Therapy and Counseling	100.00	The Crime Victim Advocate program will assist victims of crime and their and family members with the goal of lessening the short and long-term trauma experienced as a direct result of their victimization. Victims are provided services including on-scene advocacy, Crime Victims' Rights and Compensation information, CVC claim assistance, reassurance, emotional support, case status information, safety planning, and referrals to emergency and social service agencies to provide additional support. Additionally, the Victim Advocate will, on behalf of victims, act as a liaison between victims and a variety of justice system departments and personnel; advocate for victims' needs and wishes within the system; recognize the impact crime has had on victims and support the important role victims play in criminal justice processes; work to ensure victims are treated fairly and respectfully and provide services that lessen the impact of the crime and restore victims' losses; and seek to remove all potential barriers (physical, psychological, and cultural) to services.			

CJD Purpose Areas

PERCENT DEDICATED	PURPOSE AREA	PURPOSE AREA DESCRIPTION
PERCENT DEDICATED	PORPOSE AREA	FORFOSE AREA DESCRIPTION

Agency Name: Collin County

Grant/App: 2877109 Start Date: 10/1/2025 End Date: 9/30/2026

Project Title: FY2026 Sheriff's Office Victim Advocate

Status: Application Pending Submission

Measures Information

Objective Output Measures

OUTPUT MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
Number of counseling hours provided to survivors.	500
Number of survivors receiving counseling / therapy.	250
Number of victims / survivors seeking services who were served.	250

Objective Outcome Measures

1		1-1-11-11-11	-	
	OUTCOME MEASU	IRE	TARGET	LEVEL

Custom Output Measures

-	CUSTOM OUTPUT MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL	

Custom Outcome Measures

CUSTOM OUTCOME MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
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Agency Name: Collin County

Grant/App: 2877109 Start Date: 10/1/2025 End Date: 9/30/2026

Project Title: FY2026 Sheriff's Office Victim Advocate

Status: Application Pending Submission

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)	Victim Advocate (employee: Celina Peters). The position provides crisis services for victims of violent crimes investigated by the Collin County Sheriff's Office. Services include on-scene advocacy, CVC claim assistance, emotional support, case status information, safety planning, and referrals for emergency and social service agencies. Position is full-time, 40 hours/week and located in the Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigation Section. Base Pay: \$64,622.00 with fringe \$34,309.00. Total: \$98,931.00 Match at \$24,732.75 which is 20 percent and	\$74,198.25	\$24,732.75	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$98,931.00	100

	OOG paying \$74,198.25 which is 80 percent which equals to 100	,	The state of the s	ed devidences		1999 Vo. British Sterry Connect Publishin Activity of philosophysical particular contractions
	percent.				- seedalay	The and designation of the

Agency Name: Collin County

Grant/App: 2877109 Start Date: 10/1/2025 End Date: 9/30/2026

Project Title: FY2026 Sheriff's Office Victim Advocate

Status: Application Pending Submission

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 <u>approved</u> 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

X 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

X 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 **X** 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:

X 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:

X 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 **X** 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?

X 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 (\$):