



El Paso County

Memorandum of Understanding

WHEREAS, **El Paso County**, and **Center Against Sexual & Family Violence** have come together to collaborate and to make an application for the 2025 Justice for Families grant; and

WHEREAS, the partner listed below have agreed to enter into a collaborative agreement in which El Paso County will be the lead agency and named applicant and the other agencies will be partners in this application; and

WHEREAS, the partners herein desire to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding setting forth the services to be provided by the collaborative; and

WHEREAS, the application prepared and approved by the collaborative through its partners is to be submitted to the Office on Violence Against Women on or before January 22, 2025.

I) Description of Partner Agency

Since 1977, the Center Against Sexual and Family Violence has been a vital resource for the El Paso Community. Originally established as a hotline, the organization expanded in 1983 with the opening of the CASFV Center. Since then, CASFV started the Bettering Intervention & Prevention Program, established a transitional living center, and participates in community outreach and fundraisers to further assist individuals impacted by domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking. Through comprehensive guidance and essential resources, CASFV empowers survivors on their journey to recovery and a healthier future.

II) History of Relationship

The collaboration between our organization and the partners has been ongoing for over 15 years, grounded in a shared commitment to supporting victims of domestic violence and fostering community safety.

The relationship began through our joint efforts with the Protective Orders Unit, where we worked closely to provide essential services and resources to victims. Over time, this collaboration expanded to include:

- Providing trainings to various county staff members to enhance their understanding of domestic violence and the needs of survivors.*
- Working with the District Attorney's Office as part of the 24-hour victim contact initiative, ensuring timely support and communication for individuals in crisis.*
- Making referrals to the Domestic Relations Department to connect survivors with necessary legal and support services.*





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III) Development of Application

- The development of this application began in response to a gap in service in providing safe, supervised visitation for domestic violence victims. Recognizing the increasing demand for supervised visitation for families impacted by domestic violence, El Paso County sought to address this issue through a strengthened community partnership with CASFV.
- Recent collaboration played an essential role in creating the Justice for Families application. By working closely with CASFV, we will now be able to expand and create a coordinated, community-wide approach to addressing domestic violence cases.

IV) Roles and Responsibilities

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby agreed by and between the partners as follows:

- 1) El Paso County will provide supportive supervised visits to victims of domestic violence.
- 2) Center Against Sexual & Family Violence agrees to conduct quarterly training sessions (please confirm if this frequency is appropriate), with each session lasting 4.5 hours.

The training sessions will cover a comprehensive range of topics, designed to equip participants with the necessary understanding and strategies to support survivors. These topics include, but are not limited to:

Trauma-Informed Care (1 hour): Understanding the principles and practices of trauma-informed care, with a focus on providing sensitive services and support for survivors.

Interviewing vs. Integration (1 hour) : Exploring the nuances between interviewing techniques and integration strategies when interacting with survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence.

Neurobiology of the Brain (1 hour): Examining the neurobiological impacts of trauma on the brain and how this knowledge can inform approaches to supporting survivors and promoting healing.

Dynamics of Domestic Violence (45 minutes): Analyzing the complex dynamics of domestic violence, including power imbalances, the cycle of abuse, and societal factors that influence these behaviors.

Dynamics of Sexual Assault (45 minutes): Analyzing the complex dynamics of sexual assault, including power imbalances, the cycle of abuse, and societal factors that influence these behaviors.

Sessions: 5 total (\$125 per session = \$625) capped at 20 individuals per session.





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- 3) El Paso County and CASFV will collaborate in this project by providing staff time and ensuring a secure environment for victims and their children.
- 4) CASFV will collaborate by allocating staff time specifically for delivering comprehensive training, leveraging their expertise to enhance the effectiveness of the program.
- 5) DRO and CASFV will actively explore alternative funding opportunities, leverage community partnerships, and streamline operations to secure the project's sustainability. DRO is committed to maintaining a strong partnership with CASFV to ensure the project's continuation beyond the availability of grant funds. CASFV is committed to working with the County by offering expertise, resources, and support to help the project achieve long-term success.

V) *Timeline*

The roles and responsibilities described above are contingent on El Paso County receiving funds requested for the project described in the OVW grant application. Responsibilities under this Memorandum of Understanding would coincide with the grant period, anticipated to be October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2027.

VI) *Commitment to Partnership*

- 1) The collaboration service area includes El Paso County Texas
- 2) The partners agree to collaborate and provide supportive supervised visits to victims of domestic violence pursuant to the program narrative of the grant application attached to this agreement.
- 3) Compensation for Center Against Sexual & Family Violence partners' contribution to this project will be provided as outlined in the attached OVW budget detail worksheet.
- 4) We, the undersigned have read and agree with this MOU. Further, we have reviewed the proposed project and approve it.

By _____
Ricardo A. Samaniego
County Judge

By Sandra N. Garcia
Sandra N. Garcia,
Center Against Sexual & Family Violence

Date _____

Date 1/4/25

