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**El Paso County  
Agenda Item Details**

**Item Title:** FY26 Specialty Courts Grant Program - DWI Drug Program/MERIT

**Submitted By:** Robert Anchondo, Judge

**Department:** County Criminal Court at Law No. 2

**Department Phone Number:** 915-546-2162

**Subject:** GRANT APPLICATION - Approve and authorize the County Judge to submit the FY26 Specialty Court Program grant on behalf of the Driving Intervention and Treatment/MERIT Program from September 1, 2025, through August 31, 2026, in the amount of \$283,115.50. No County match required. Further, authorize the County Judge to sign the accompanying Resolution. (Contract No. 2025-0137)

**Background:** The DWI MERIT Program has received funding for this program for the past two years. The purpose of the program is to provide treatment services to the participants of the program who have DWI offenses. This is the second year the program has been the recipient of this grant funding.

**Fiscal Impact:** Fiscal Impact Historical  
2024-0761 \$274,153; 9/23/2024 Item 4-AJ  
2023-0907 \$249,230; 11/16/2023 Item 15

Fiscal Impact Projected  
Grant Application \$283,115.50  
Match – None required

Long Account Number: Amount:

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**Budget or Unbudgeted Match:**

**Recommendation:** GRANT APPLICATION - Approve and authorize the County Judge to submit the FY26 Specialty Court Program grant on behalf of the Driving Intervention and Treatment/MERIT Program from September 1, 2025, through August 31, 2026, in the amount of \$283,115.50. No County match required. Further, authorize the County Judge to sign the accompanying Resolution. (Contract

No. 2025-0137)

**Prior Action:**

Grant Award- – 2024-0761 \$274,153; 9/23/2024 Item 4-AJ

**Strategic Plan:**

Goal:

null

Objective:

**Strategic Plan Information:**

**Estimated Time Needed**

**For This Item:**



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Goal:

null

Objective:

**Strategic Plan Information:**

**Estimated Time Needed**

**For This Item:**

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The El Paso County Commissioners Court finds it in the best interest of the citizens of El Paso County that the Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) Intervention and Treatment/MERIT Program be operated for the 2026 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, The County Commissioners of El Paso understand no County match is required and agree that in the event of loss or misuse of the Criminal Justice Division funds, The County Commissioners of El Paso assures that the funds will be returned to the Criminal Justice Division in full; and

WHEREAS, The County Commissioners of El Paso designated the County Judge, as the grantee's authorized official. The authorized official is given the power to apply for, accept, reject, alter or terminate the grant on behalf of the applicant agency.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The County Commissioners of El Paso approves submission of the grant application for the Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) Intervention and Treatment/MERIT Program to the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division.

Signed by:

Passed and approved this 10th (Day) of February (Month), 2025 (Year)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ricardo A. Samaniego, County Judge

Grant application confirmation number: 4741803

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Grant application confirmation number: 4741803

*Leticia Vizcaino*

BUDGET AND FISCAL POLICY DEPARTMENT  
GRANTS ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

## FY25 GRANT APPLICATION SUBMISSION APPROVAL FORM

DEPARTMENT INFORMATION	
Date:	1/24/2025
Requesting Department/Division:	CC2 DWI/MERIT Specialty Court
Department/Division Contact:	Leticia Medina
Anticipated Commissioners Court Meeting Grant Approval Date:	2/3/2025
Who from your department/division will speak on the agenda item?	Judge Robert Anchondo
Please list accompanying grant documents requiring the County Judge's signature.	Resolution
GRANT OPPORTUNITY INFORMATION	
Grant Opportunity Title (as provided by Grantor):	FY26 Specialty Court Program – DWI/MERIT Court
Grantor Agency:	Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Department
Type of Grant (State, Federal, Private, Local, Other):	State
Is this a continuation or a new grant?	Continuation
Is this grant for a new program?	No
CobbleStone Number for Most Recent Grant Award:	2024-0761
Grant Due Date:	February 13, 2025
Grant Period: (start date to end date)	September 1, 2025 through August 31, 2026

<p><b>Grant Proposal Summary (one paragraph or less):</b></p>	<p>The DWI Intervention and Prevention/MERIT Specialty Court. The goal of the program is to improve public safety, strive to reduce recidivism for alcohol and drug offenders through cost effective integrated continuum of care through a judicially supervised regime of treatment and mental health services for chemically addicted offenders in El Paso County. The Program's mandatory treatment services, coupled with intensified monitoring and the immediacy of addressing a client's progress or regress, is expected to allow the program to meet the stated objectives outlined in the proposal.</p>
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<b>GRANT FINANCES</b>
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A. Grant Funding to be Requested:	\$293,114.50
B. Total Match Contribution (if applicable):	
<p>I. Cash Match Amount and Description (i.e. County employee salaries, anticipated operating expenses, third-party monetary donations, etc.):</p>	<b>None</b>
<p>a. Match Source Account(s) (if applicable):</p>	<p>Please reach out to your assigned Grant Analyst to confirm match accounts if match is needed. Accounts (short and long) should be placed in this box.</p> <p>NOTE: Accounts must also be placed in the applicable Commissioners Court agenda item (Fiscal Impact section).</p>
<p>b. What fiscal year(s) will County match funding be needed? Please indicate the fiscal years and the match needed per fiscal year.</p>	
<p>II. In-kind Match Amount and Description (i.e. donated supplies/equipment, volunteer hours, donated professional services, etc.):</p>	
C. Anticipated Program Income (if applicable):	

D. Total Project Amount (A + B + C):	\$293,114.50
<b>FINANCIAL ASSESSMENT</b>	
<p>1) What are the staffing requirements or needs for this grant? Please include salary and benefit amounts and anticipated salary and benefit increases for multi-year grants. Have Job Descriptions and Impact forms been created for personnel?</p>	
<p>Licensed Masters Social Worker. Salary \$76,752, fringes \$39,728 = \$116,480  Over time for LMSW to provide additional treatment services = \$22,840.50  Surveillance Officer: Salary \$68,550, fringes \$36,988 = \$100,512  Overtime for Specialty Court Administrative Assistant to provide Cognitive Behavioral Therapy - \$21,736</p>	
<p>2) Has this grant has been awarded in the past? If so, please provide the financial results of the most recently completed grant award cycle to include the award amount and the balance at the closing of the grant.</p>	
<p>2023-0095 Grant Award \$249,230.00; \$204,188.46 expended.</p>	
<p>3) What is the sustainability plan for this grant and the services being provided if this funding is significantly reduced or is not awarded in future?</p>	
<p>The program is proactive in seeking funding all year long; from Federal, State and in-kind donations. The program also collects program fees from participants.</p>	
<b>PROGRAMMATIC ASSESSMENT</b>	
<p>1) How is this grant and its purpose(s) aligned with the County strategic plan?  2) How will this grant benefit your department/division and the El Paso County community?</p>	
<p>This grant is in line with the public safety section of the County's strategic plan; providing a safer community. The County Criminal Court at Law No. 2 of El Paso County, Texas, is designated to conduct the DWI Drug Court Intervention and Treatment Program of El Paso County as a drug court program. The Grant Administration Division is experienced in administering grants to include budgets, programmatic reporting.</p>	
<p>3) Please explain the capacity of your department/division to administer this grant and complete all programmatic reporting requirements during the grant period.</p>	
<p>The program has received both State and Federal funding for almost 20 years and the staff has been able to manage the grant with the assistance of the grant department and auditor personnel.</p>	
<p>4) Will this grant require the use of contractual services? <i>If so, please contact the Purchasing Department, upon award acceptance to ensure your department follows applicable procurement policies and procedures.</i></p>	
<p>No.</p>	

*Leticia Vizcaino*

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<p>No.</p>	

[Print This Page](#)

**Agency Name:** El Paso County  
**Grant/App:** 4741803 **Start Date:** 9/1/2025 **End Date:** 8/31/2026

**Project Title:** DWI/RISE Tier I Drug Court Program  
**Status:** Application Pending Submission

### Eligibility Information

**Your organization's Texas Payee/Taxpayer ID Number:**  
17460007622006

### Application Eligibility Certify:

Created on: 1/6/2025 7:52:41 PM By: Ricardo Samaniego

### Profile Information

**Applicant Agency Name:** El Paso County  
**Project Title:** DWI/RISE Tier I Drug Court Program  
**Division or Unit to Administer the Project:** County Court at Law 2  
**Address Line 1:** 500 E. San Antonio  
**Address Line 2:**  
**City/State/Zip:** El Paso Texas 79901-2424  
**Start Date:** 9/1/2025  
**End Date:** 8/31/2026

**Regional Council of Governments(COG) within the Project's Impact Area:** Rio Grande Council of Governments

**Headquarter County:** El Paso

**Counties within Project's Impact Area:** El Paso

### Grant Officials:

#### Authorized Official

**Name:** Ricardo Samaniego  
**Email:** cjdjudge@epcounty.com  
**Address 1:** 500 E San Antonio, st. 301  
**Address 1:**  
**City:** El Paso, Texas 79901  
**Phone:** 915-546-2098 Other Phone: 915-546-2175  
**Fax:**  
**Title:** The Honorable  
**Salutation:** Judge  
**Position:** County Judge

#### Financial Official

**Name:** Barbara Parker  
**Email:** b.parker@epcountytexas.gov  
**Address 1:** 320 S. Campbell  
**Address 1:** Suite 140  
**City:** El Paso, Texas 79901  
**Phone:** 915-273-3262 Other Phone: 915-887-1044  
**Fax:** 915-273-3266  
**Title:** Ms.  
**Salutation:** Ms.  
**Position:** County Auditor

#### Project Director

**Name:** Ana Dominguez  
**Email:** an.dominguez@epcounty.com

**Address 1:** 500 E. San Antonio

**Address 1:**

**City:** El Paso, Texas 79901

**Phone:** 915-834-8232 Other Phone: 915-203-0383

**Fax:** 915-834-8212

**Title:** Ms.

**Salutation:** Ms.

**Position:** Specialty Court Case Manager

### **Grant Writer**

**Name:** Leticia Vizcaino

**Email:** lvizcaino@epcounty.com

**Address 1:** 500 E. San Antonio

**Address 1:**

**City:** El Paso, Texas 79901

**Phone:** 915-546-2098 Other Phone:

**Fax:** 915-543-3888

**Title:** Ms.

**Salutation:** Ms.

**Position:** Grant Writer

### **Grant Vendor Information**

**Organization Type:** County

**Organization Option:** applying to provide services to all others

**Applicant Agency's State Payee Identification Number (e.g., Federal Employer's Identification (FEI) Number or Vendor ID):** 17460007622006

**Unique Entity Identifier (UEI):** GJJHZSZVQWR6

### **Narrative Information**

#### **Introduction**

The purpose of this funding is to support specialty court programs as defined in Chapter 121-126 and Chapter 129-130 of the Texas Government Code.

#### **Program-Specific Questions**

##### **Court Name and Number**

Court name and number as registered with the Office of Court Administration (OCA).

El Paso County DWI Drug Court Intervention and Treatment Program #86

##### **Participant Fees**

Does this specialty court collect participant fees pursuant to Sec. 123.004 of the Texas Government Code?

Yes

No

If yes, what is the current dollar amount charged to participants?

500

In the last fiscal year, how many participants were charged a fee?

0

Of those participants charged, how many paid the fee?

0

##### **Risk Assessment Tools**

List the risk assessment tool(s) and clinical assessment tools(s) that are utilized by this specialty court? Please provide: 1) The name of each assessment tools used; 2) Why the assessment tools were selected for this specific program and the role it plays in this specialty court's case management process; and 3) The position title(s) of the team member(s) responsible for conducting each assessment. If there are any factors limiting the use of additional assessment tools such as the cost associated with an assessment, familiarity with available assessments, etc., please make note of these factors.

TRAS is done by probation officer on all new participants at the initial interview/entry to program and with a follow-up one done in a year after the entrance of the program.

##### **Certifications**

In addition to the requirements found in existing statute, regulation, and the funding announcement, this program requires applicant organizations to certify compliance with the following:

### **Constitutional Compliance**

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

### **Information Systems**

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

### **Program Income**

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

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

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

### **Twelve-Step Programs**

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

### **Specialty Court Certifications**

If the applicant is a specialty court operated under Ch. 121 of the Texas Government Code, the following certifications apply:

1. The specialty court will develop and maintain written policies and procedures for the operation of the program.
2. The applicant will submit a copy of any project evaluations, evaluation plans, recidivism studies, or related reports that are completed during the grant period to PSO.

### **Adoption of Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards**

Applicants operating an adult drug court certify that they are working towards full compliance with and adoption of Vol. I & II of the Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards.

### **Adoption of Family Drug Court Best Practice Standards**

Applicants operating a family drug court certify that they are working towards full compliance with and adoption of the Family Treatment Court Best Practice Standards.

### **Veterans Treatment Programs**

Applicants providing mental health services to veterans or veterans' families must demonstrate a) prior history of successful execution of a grant from the Office of the Governor; and b) that the entity provides training to agency personnel on military informed care or military cultural competency or requires those personnel to complete military competency training provided by any of the following: the Texas Veterans Commission; the Texas Health and Human Services Commission; the Military Veteran Peer Network; the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; the U.S. Department of Defense; the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; or a nonprofit organization that is exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(a), Internal Revenue Code of 1986, by being listed as an exempt entity under Section 501 (c) (3) of that code, with experience in providing training or technical assistance to entities that provide mental health services to veterans or veterans' families.

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### **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 percent 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 [Sexual Assault Evidence Tracking Program](#) website for more information or to set up an account to begin participating. Additionally, per Section 420.042 "A law enforcement agency that receives evidence of a sexual assault or other sex offense...shall submit that evidence to a public accredited crime laboratory for analysis no later than the 30th day after the date on which that evidence was received." A law enforcement agency in possession of a significant number of Sexual Assault Evidence Kits (SAEK) where the 30-day window has passed may be considered noncompliant.

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

Local units of government, including cities, counties and other general purpose political subdivisions, as appropriate, and institutions of higher education that operate a law enforcement agency, must comply with all aspects of the programs and procedures utilized by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security ("DHS") to: (1) notify DHS of all information requested by DHS related to illegal aliens in Agency's custody; and (2) detain such illegal aliens in accordance with requests by DHS. Additionally, counties and municipalities may NOT have in effect, purport to have in effect, or make themselves subject to or bound by, any law, rule, policy, or practice (written or unwritten) that would: (1) require or authorize the public disclosure of federal law enforcement information in order to conceal, harbor, or shield from detection fugitives from justice or aliens illegally in the United States; or (2) impede federal officers from exercising authority under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a), § 1226(c), § 1231(a), § 1357(a), § 1366(1), or § 1366(3). Lastly, eligible applicants must comply with all provisions, policies, and penalties found in Chapter 752, Subchapter C of the Texas Government Code.

Each local unit of government, and institution of higher education that operates a law enforcement agency, must download, complete and then upload into eGrants the [CEO/Law Enforcement Certifications and Assurances Form](#) certifying compliance with federal and state immigration enforcement requirements. This Form is required for each application submitted to PSO and is active until August 31, 2026 or the end of the grant period, whichever is later.

## Overall Certification

Each applicant agency must certify to the specific requirements detailed above as well as to comply with all requirements within the PSO Funding Announcement, the *Guide to Grants*, the *Grantee Conditions and Responsibilities*, any authorizing or applicable state and federal statutes and regulations to be eligible for this program.

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

## Project Abstract :

The DWI Intervention and Prevention/MERIT Specialty Court was created to merge the DWI Intervention and Prevention Program and the Mentoring, Encouraging, Recovery, Intervention, Treatment (MERIT Program). Initially these were two separate programs; with the DWI Program being the principal program offenders would enter when being charged with a DWI offense. The Program consisted of an 18-month intensive treatment program with five phases participants must complete in order to successfully graduate the program. Many participants graduating the Program were still under the supervision of the El Paso County Community Supervision and Corrections Department (CSCD); serving lengthy probation sentences. These individuals, under the CSCD supervision; were not receiving continuum of care, not receiving much needed treatment to transition from the program while still under probation. Judge Anchondo, sitting Judge for this program; recognized the need to continue providing care for the longer-serving probation participants and created the MERIT Program. This was a separate program the participants entered for an up to two years of continuum care. In an effort to improve the programs and be more successful at securing competitive funding, the Judge merged the Programs; the DWI Intervention and Prevention/MERIT Specialty Court. The goal of the program is to improve public safety, strive to reduce recidivism for alcohol and drug offenders through cost effective integrated continuum of care through a judicially supervised regime of treatment and mental health services for chemically addicted offenders in El Paso County. The program accepts non-violent offenders with a history of alcohol use, substance use, mental health disorders, trauma histories to include participants who have served in the military and participants who have been charged with DWI on federal reservations. Upon entering the program, participants are clinically assessed to determine their treatment needs and assigned to the appropriate treatment provider (i.e. outpatient substance abuse treatment, inpatient treatment, and mental health provider). While participants are receiving treatment services, participants are randomly tested weekly by Community Supervision/Surveillance Officers to monitor abstinence. In addition to ongoing drug testing, the Community Supervision Officers and Surveillance Officer monitor client activity in the community and report regularly to the Team to assure client accountability. Each phase of the program is set up with specific objectives to assist the client in being successful in the community. Phase I of the program is designed to assess and refer the client for substance abuse treatment and other services deemed necessary by the team. Phase II transitions the client from substance abuse treatment to employment or vocational training. Phase III will prepare the participant to make the transition from intensive supervision to less intensive supervision of the aftercare component. Phase IV is adaptive habilitation and Phase V is continuing care. It is here that most participants graduate from the program. Participants of the program that have been identified with severe needs for more services and supervision, will continue with the MERIT up to an additional 2 years. The MERIT Program will continue to provide recovery capital, monthly supervision, home visits, and referrals to community services. This is a crucial first step to help participants initiate abstinence and achieve other symptom remission, but an equally or more important goal is to link them to peer recovery networks and lengthen treatment gains. Recovery capital will target family needs, stability, education, and financial responsibilities. The Program's mandatory treatment services, coupled with intensified monitoring and the immediacy of addressing a client's progress or regress, is expected to allow the program to meet the stated objectives outlined in the proposal. In the absence of the Program, El Paso would continue to have a high number of non-violent offenders forced to wait before receiving access to the limited services and supervision available.

## Problem Statement :

El Paso County initiated the DWI Drug Intervention and Prevention Court due to the high volume of DWI arrests. According to the El Paso Sheriff's office, there have been 1016 DWI arrests from 2020 to 2022. DWI arrest includes DWI 1st, DWI 2nd, DWI 3rd or more, DWI BAC  $\geq$  0.15, DWI w/child under 15 yoa, DWI open container. Jails in El Paso are inundated with first, second, third and repeat offenders. These individuals are lacking the education and resources needed to break this vicious cycle. It is the intent of this program to provide treatment through medication, assessment, education, counseling, recovery management, and family reunification. There will also be supervision through probation officers and surveillance officers. The purpose of the MERIT Tier was based on studies showing that persons with chronic or compulsive substance disorders

remain vulnerable to a recurrence of substance use and substance related dysfunction after completing treatment and recovery management. It also assists participants to become clinically stable and experience greater confidence in their recovery, thus assuming an increasingly central role in setting their own goals, recognizing signs of symptom recurrence, taking action to avoid setbacks and even provide support to other persons in recovery. Studies confirm that recovery management services extend treatment gains, reduce criminal recidivism, and enhance other recovery-oriented goals. This is to allow the participants to become healthy individuals and have the opportunity to become successful citizens and ultimately make our community a safer place to live and raise our families.

### **Supporting Data :**

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 841,286 people live in the El Paso County area as of July 2020. Approximately, 92% of this population is of Hispanic origin and bilingual. Local statistics clearly substantiate the problem of Driving While Intoxicated, the dangers associated and the trend established with repeat offenders. The jails in El Paso are inundated with first, second, third and repeat offenders. These individuals are lacking the education and resources needed to break this vicious cycle. It is the intent of this program to provide treatment through medication, assessment, education, counseling and family reunification to allow participants to become healthy individuals and can become successful citizens. This ultimately will make our communities a safer place to live and raise our families. The Program does not discriminate and does not target any race or ethnicity. Due to the El Paso County bordering one of the largest cities in Mexico; Juarez, Chihuahua. It is not unusual for most of the clients to be of Hispanic origin. In addition, many clients, participating in the program, have immediate family residing in Juarez. In accordance with Best Practices, the program ensures "Citizens who have historically experienced sustained discrimination or reduced social opportunities because of their race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, sexual identity, physical or mental disability, religion, or socioeconomic status receive the same opportunities as other citizens". Our program implements treatment court policies, procedures and practices that enable and empower our team to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services to our culturally complex clientele. In addition, the 10 Guiding Principles for DWI Courts utilizes objective eligibility criteria and conducts validated clinical assessments for this DWI population. The DWI Intervention and Treatment Program is an intense 18-month-long program, focusing on the hardcore repeat offenders, the MERIT Program is a 2-year-long program focusing on long-term sobriety, with 2 phases. Participants that have more than two years left on probation after completing the DWI Program will transition to the MERIT Program, to continue to receive recovery capital services, (employment, housing, medical services, education, family counseling, peer support) as well as continued monitoring from the court. We have gathered data on approximately 31 graduates from the MERIT program who have maintained sobriety for a minimum of 5 years and have not reoffended. Studies have shown that by extending recovery services, it helps achieve long-term sobriety, reduce criminal recidivism, or law enforcement contacts, and enhance other recovery-oriented goals. At least three studies have reported that drug courts or post-prison reentry programs delivering enhanced recovery support services had significantly better outcomes in terms of longer treatment retention, lower symptom recurrence, higher employment rates, and reduced criminal recidivism (Lucenko et al., 2014; Mangrum, 2008; Ray et al., 2015). Treatment courts that embrace a recovery management framework are likely to achieve sustained improvements in participant outcomes, whereas those that continue to follow a discredited acute care model may find that their benefits are discouragingly short-lived (Heaps et al., 2009; Taylor, 2014).

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

The El Paso Community Planning Alliance is comprised of agencies and/or organizations that collectively work to reduce the substance abuse issues of the El Paso region. Illicit use and sale of drugs, and crimes committed under the influence of drugs or alcohol are a high priority for adults in El Paso County. The Program will address the problem of alcohol abuse, mental health issues and history of trauma, by offering intensive outpatient treatment as well as residential services, to include intense supervision from community supervision and law enforcement aspects, which will then continue through the RISE tier for those participants that have been identified to need further care to address their severe needs. Our team monitors participants' progress and sobriety throughout their program participation. Participants report for court status hearings and to their community supervision officer, depending on what phase they are in the program; a participant may be required to report more often if ordered by the judge. Participants are subject to random drug and alcohol testing and random home and work visits conducted by law enforcement officers, community supervision officers, and case manager/compliance officer. All drug and alcohol urine analysis (UA) testing is observed by a Program representative of the same sex to prevent contamination, adulteration, dilution, or a change of specimen. Drug testing results are reported during weekly team meetings and are entered in the Management Information System and case file. Violations are discussed during team staffing and include appropriate treatment approaches and/or sanctions. The judge makes all final decisions on what approach to take

concerning the participants' progress. The project would need the assistance of a case manager and to be a liaison to all agencies. The case manager would help the participants remove obstacles to client recovery, compliance with the court requirements, and overall well-being. The case manager would use a designated tool to assess each new participant to set goals for their overall physical, mental, family life, and spiritual health. The current areas of assistance include: GED prep and testing assistance. Our team monitors participants' progress and sobriety throughout their program participation. Participants report for court status hearings and to their community supervision officer, depending on what phase they are in the program; a participant may be required to report more often if ordered by the judge. Participants are subject to random drug and alcohol testing and random home and work visits conducted by law enforcement officers, community supervision officers, and case manager/compliance officer. All drug and alcohol urine analysis (UA) testing is observed by a Program representative of the same sex to prevent contamination, adulteration, dilution, or a change of specimen. Drug testing results are reported during weekly team meetings and are entered in the Management Information System and case file. Violations are discussed during team staffing and include appropriate treatment approaches and/or sanctions. The judge makes all final decisions on what approach to take concerning the participants' progress. The project would need the assistance of a case manager and to be a liaison to all agencies. The case manager would help the participants remove obstacles to client recovery, compliance with the court requirements, and overall well-being. The case manager would use a designated tool to assess each new participant to set goals for their overall physical, mental, family life, and spiritual health. The current areas of assistance include: GED prep and testing assistance, return to school, financial assistance for career training / technical schools, access to the Community College, resume writing, finding appropriate employment, career transitions, sexual safety and health including STIs and HIV, emergency shelter, rental assistance, utility assistance, reduced cost dental assistance, literacy, transportation options, SNAP (Food Stamps assistance), TANF (One time Federal grants assistance), free Government phones, finding appropriate 12 Step meetings and peer support meetings, calendar review and organization, presence at Recovery groups to gain insight and context for additional needs of all clients, whatever need the client, the court, or the team identifies. There is an extensive amount of resource agencies such as the Texas workforce-job search training, Project Amistad-transportation for the disabled elderly, Project Vida, University Medical Center, San Vicente clinic and Texas Tech medical center-medical services, Housing Authority-housing services, Rescue mission, Salvation Army, Opportunity Center-shelter services, El Paso Food bank-food, El Paso General assistance-assistance with paying rent and utility bills. Our program has established a Memorandum of Understanding between these agencies and others in the community.

### **Capacity & Capabilities:**

Judge Robert Anchondo started the first DWI Specialty Court Program in 2004 in the State of Texas. The mission of the DWI Specialty Court Program is designed to reduce recidivism of alcohol and drug offenders and to enhance public safety through a cost-effective integrated continuum of care and a judicially supervised regime of treatment and innovative case management. The El Paso DWI Court Program works with offenders with a history of alcohol use, substance use, mental health disorders, trauma histories to include participants who have served in the military and participants who have been charged with DWI on federal reservations. The program has built invaluable partnerships within the community, which include local law enforcement, Texas Workforce, the University of Texas at El Paso and Texas Tech, local hospitals and medical professionals such as Aliviane Treatment Counseling Center, community family counseling services and Emergency Health Network mental health services. The multidisciplinary team embraces the region's diverse population and has taken strides to engage participants' family members to assist and help ensure a more successful prolonged recovery. In March 2023, the fourth consecutive National Academy Court designation was awarded to the El Paso DWI Intervention and Treatment Court. The Program has a capacity of 125 participants. Since its inception in 2004, the program has screened approximately 1,210 potential clients and has enrolled 960 of those screened for the program. The program currently has 111 active participants in the Program and 39 in the MERIT Program and has successfully graduated a total of 883 graduates. The program continues to grow as it is evident in the number of participants and the graduates from year-to-year and the continuum referrals from Misdemeanor, Felony and Federal Courts. Each participant is assessed, utilizing the Clinical Management for Behavioral Health Services (CMBHS), CARS, ASI which covers questions about the participant's education, employment, family, social, legal, mental health, medical, and substance use history. Client's level of treatment is determined and a diagnosis of abuse or dependency for alcohol and/or drugs is identified. A treatment plan is created, which includes goals for the client and the means by which they can achieve those goals. Also included: the frequency that each participant receives treatment, e.g., supportive outpatient and group sessions three times a week, an individual session weekly (or intensive outpatient), mental health counseling, case management services, peer support services or residential services; between 30 days to 6 months, depending on the facility. During the aftercare program, clients are seen once per month for group and individual sessions for continued support in their recovery and to prepare for discharge from the program. Clients who met trauma criteria are given an extensive bio-psychosocial assessment, which includes a mental status exam to identify needs and/or mental health diagnosis done by a Psychiatrist and License Professional Counselor. Treatment is then tailored to the

participant's needs, which includes type, length, and frequency of services. Participants must then attend recovery support groups as determined by the treatment provider and are also offered case manager services, peer support meetings at least once a week as well as individual, couples, families, peer support and/or recovery support. We link participants with outside community service agencies for assistance depending on their needs. Providers generate a person-centered plan based on the outcomes of the initial assessment with participant. Goals and objectives, based on participant's specific needs, are developed, and include strategies that provide insight into the problem and needed steps to reach their goals. Assessment also exposes issues that need to be addressed in order to facilitate the participant's success in the program and in their recovery. Transportation is a major issue with participants because the participant's driver's license is suspended as a result of their conviction. The Public Defender can assist with obtaining an occupational driver's license. Housing is also addressed at this time. If the participant is not in a safe environment, they are ordered to move. Alternate housing is then sought (with family, friends, or temporary shelters like The Rescue Mission, The Opportunity Center, etc.) Other services provided include marital/family counseling and/or parenting skills classes. The DWI Intervention and Treatment Program is an intense 18-month-long program, focusing on the hardcore repeat offenders, with 5 phases and the MERIT Program is a 2-year-long program focusing on long-term sobriety, with 2 phases. Participants that have more than two years left on probation after completing the DWI Program will transition to the MERIT Program, to continue to receive recovery capital services, (employment, housing, medical services, education, family counseling, peer support) as well as continued monitoring from the court. HB3474 took effect in September 2023 and reads as follows: SECTION 2.009. Section 25.0732, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows: (c) The County Criminal Court at Law No. 2 of El Paso County, Texas, is designated to conduct the DWI Drug Court Intervention and Treatment Program of El Paso County as a drug court program under Chapter 123 for persons arrested for, charged with, or convicted of an offense involving the operation of a motor vehicle while intoxicated.

### **Performance Management :**

The Program is a specialized court designated to handle adults placed on community supervision for DWI offenses. The mission of the program is to enhance public safety and strive to reduce recidivism of alcohol and drug offenders through a cost-effective integrated continuum of care and a judicially supervised regime of treatment and innovative case management. Eligible individuals are males and females 17 years or older, with DWI offenses; misdemeanor and/or felony who reside within El Paso County. The program's goals and objectives are to reduce recidivism among adult DWI/Drug offenders in El Paso County. The program uses a multi-faceted approach whose objectives include: reduce alcoholism and drug abuse and dependency among offenders, reduce overcrowded prisons, offender to attend mandatory alcohol/drug treatment counseling, attend life skills counseling, attend recovery support groups, complete community service hours and provide intense supervision by Community Supervision Officers and Surveillance Officers and the monitoring of random alcohol/drug testing. The program utilizes the Household Data Base System (HDDBS) to collect data on its program. Data collected for each participant includes: urine analysis and breath samples collected and results, court settings, home visits, phase advancements, treatment reports, and violations or re-arrests. HDDBS collects basic information helpful for tracking the participants' progress through the drug court process. The Program was able to work with El Paso County's Information Technology Department on software that allows team members to input information on the participants into a central database, Household, available to all team members. This software allows the team to evaluate the participants' history and progress. This year, two professors from UTEP (University of Texas at El Paso), will be evaluating the program data to determine outcomes.

### **Target Group :**

Adults, 17 and over, convicted for a DWI offense (s) to include military/veterans and individuals with mental health needs. The DWI Drug Court Program has met the stated objectives/goals for over 18 years of its program existence.

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

The Evidence Based Practices that has been effective for the program is what we have acquired through training that was offered through the National Association of Drug Court Professionals. This training and the experience that we have gathered has helped provide the structure and guidance to participants for which we are able to hold them accountable through the program. Our program exit survey that is completed by participants that are ready to graduate have indicated that being monitored on a regular basis has kept them on track with program goals. This also includes the constant random alcohol and drug testing, unannounced home visits from the officers, reporting weekly to treatment, and weekly reporting to drug court review

hearings, this has proven highly effective on all participants. The program has been recently awarded with Federal funding; some funding will be used to evaluate the program in performance measures such as retention, sobriety, in-program recidivism and units of service. In 2018, the El Paso County Budget analytic department evaluated our past graduates to determine recidivism rate (graduates 2013-2014) with results of outcome being 5.67% compared to regular probation group which results of outcome were at 11.67% recidivism rate. We link participants with outside community service agencies for assistance depending on their needs. There is an extensive amount of resource agencies, such as the Texas workforce-job search training, Project Amistad-transportation for the disabled elderly, Project Vida, University Medical Center, San Vicente clinic and Texas Tech medical center-medical services, Housing Authority-housing services, Rescue mission, Salvation Army, Opportunity Center-shelter services, El Paso Food bank-food, El Paso General assistance-assistance with paying rent and utility bills. Our program has established a Memorandum of Understanding between these agencies and others in the community. Studies that have determined persons with chronic or compulsive substance disorders remain vulnerable to a recurrence of substance use and severe substance-related dysfunction after completing treatment and remaining abstinent for 3 to 5 years, and some persons may remain at a heightened risk for symptom recurrence after more than 10 to 15 years. Due to this research, participants of the DWI Specialty Court Program that have been identified with severe needs for more services and supervision, will transition to the newly created MERIT program ( Mentoring, Encouraging, Recovery, Intervention, Treatment) for up to an additional 2 years. The MERIT program will continue to provide recovery capital, monthly supervision, home visits, and referrals to community services. This is a crucial first step to encourage participants to continue with their sober living and continue in the road of recovery.

## 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
Specialty Court - Adult	100.00	The DWI and Tier I program will provide treatment services to approximately 100 participants, non-violent offenders with a history of alcohol use, substance use, mental health disorders, trauma histories to include participants who have served in the military and participants who have been charged with DWI on federal reservations.

### CJD Purpose Areas

PERCENT DEDICATED	PURPOSE AREA	PURPOSE AREA DESCRIPTION
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## Measures Information

### Objective Output Measures

OUTPUT MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
Number of carry-over individuals participating.	71
Number of individuals NEWLY participating.	81

## Objective Outcome Measures

OUTCOME MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
Number of individuals who will successfully complete the program.	67

## Custom Output Measures

CUSTOM OUTPUT MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
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## Custom Outcome Measures

CUSTOM OUTCOME MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
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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:

### 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]:

10/1/2024

Enter the End Date [mm/dd/yyyy]:

9/30/2025

### 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:

44622835

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

10168498

### 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:

9/16/2024

## 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.

## Fiscal Capability Information

### Section 1: Organizational Information

\*\*\* FOR PROFIT CORPORATIONS ONLY \*\*\*

Enter the following values in order to submit the application

Enter the Year in which the Corporation was Founded: 0

Enter the Date that the IRS Letter Granted 501(c)(3) Tax Exemption Status: 01/01/1900

Enter the Employer Identification Number Assigned by the IRS: 0

Enter the Charter Number assigned by the Texas Secretary of State: 0

Enter the Year in which the Corporation was Founded:

Enter the Date that the IRS Letter Granted 501(c)(3) Tax Exemption Status:

Enter the Employer Identification Number Assigned by the IRS:

Enter the Charter Number assigned by the Texas Secretary of State:

### Section 2: Accounting System

The grantee organization must incorporate an accounting system that will track direct and indirect costs for the organization (general ledger) as well as direct and indirect costs by project (project ledger). The grantee must establish a time and effort system to track personnel costs by project. This should be reported on an hourly basis, or in increments of an hour.

Is there a list of your organization's accounts identified by a specific number (i.e., a general ledger of accounts)?

Select the appropriate response:

Yes

No

Does the accounting system include a project ledger to record expenditures for each Program by required budget cost categories?

Select the appropriate response:

Yes

No

Is there a timekeeping system that allows for grant personnel to identify activity and requires signatures by the employee and his or her supervisor?

Select the appropriate response:

- Yes  
 No

If you answered 'No' to any question above in the Accounting System section, in the space provided below explain what action will be taken to ensure accountability.

Enter your explanation:

### **Section 3: Financial Capability**

Grant agencies should prepare annual financial statements. At a minimum, current internal balance sheet and income statements are required. A balance sheet is a statement of financial position for a grant agency disclosing assets, liabilities, and retained earnings at a given point in time. An income statement is a summary of revenue and expenses for a grant agency during a fiscal year.

Has the grant agency undergone an independent audit?

Select the appropriate response:

- Yes  
 No

Does the organization prepare financial statements at least annually?

Select the appropriate response:

- Yes  
 No

According to the organization's most recent Audit or Balance Sheet, are the current total assets greater than the liabilities?

Select the appropriate response:

- Yes  
 No

If you selected 'No' to any question above under the Financial Capability section, in the space provided below explain what action will be taken to ensure accountability.

Enter your explanation:

### **Section 4: Budgetary Controls**

Grant agencies should establish a system to track expenditures against budget and / or funded amounts. Are there budgetary controls in effect (e.g., comparison of budget with actual expenditures on a monthly basis) to include drawing down grant funds in excess of:

a) Total funds authorized on the Statement of Grant Award?

- Yes  
 No

b) Total funds available for any budget category as stipulated on the Statement of Grant Award?

- Yes  
 No

If you selected 'No' to any question above under the Budgetary Controls section, in the space provided below please explain what action will be taken to ensure accountability.

Enter your explanation:

### **Section 5: Internal Controls**

Grant agencies must safeguard cash receipts, disbursements, and ensure a segregation of duties exist. For example, one person should not have authorization to sign checks and make deposits.

Are accounting entries supported by appropriate documentation (e.g., purchase orders, vouchers, receipts, invoices)?

Select the appropriate response:

- Yes
- No

Is there separation of responsibility in the receipt, payment, and recording of costs?

Select the appropriate response:

- Yes
- No

If you selected 'No' to any question above under the Internal Controls section, in the space provided below please explain what action will be taken to ensure accountability.

Enter your explanation:

**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 (licensed)	Licensed Masters Social Worker (BG) will work to provide mental health and trauma counseling and case management directly to the participants of the program. This individual will work full-time with the participants and the program. Salary \$76,752, fringes \$39,728 = \$116,480. For the overtime of this position: the program's LMSW is going to provide additional services to the participants of the program. As part of family therapy, LMSW will be conducting a	\$139,320.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$139,320.50	100

		comprehensive assessment of the families to identify problems, needs, and goals they would like to resolve. The different modalities to be implementing depending on the families needs include Solution-Focused, Narrative, Bowenian, and Psychoanalytic. The LMSW will provide additional 10 hours per week at 55.35/hour = \$553.50 X 35 weeks = \$19,372 salary plus \$3,468 fringes for a total cost of \$22,840.50						
Personnel	Counselor and/or Therapist (licensed)	Surveillance Officer position (MS) will work directly with the DWI Drug Court program by supervising participants out in the field (homes). The role of this position will include, but is not limited to, attendance at all program staffing and court proceedings, conducting home visits, monitoring abstinence (i.e. drug testing and/or breathalyzer testing), complying with	\$105,538.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$105,538.00	100

		specific requests from the Team for additional monitoring or supervision. Salary \$68,550; fringes \$36,988. = \$105,538							
Personnel	Overtime for All Other Personnel	Group sessions will be provided twice a week with a Cognitive Behavioral Facilitator. These are some topics: Engaging members with their goals ABCs of Emotions Rational Questions 26 Mental Mistakes Rational Action Planner Techniques of Practice Ending Therapy	\$21,736.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$21,736.00	100	
Travel and Training	Out-of-State Registration Fees, Training, and/or Travel	The program will send two staff members to attend the FY26 National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) Conference; location to be determined in early 2026. Travel cost will include conference registration, airfare, lodging, per diem and parking. Cost is approximately \$5,500 based on FY25 travel cost.	\$5,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,500.00	0	

Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Office Supplies (e.g., paper, postage, calculator)	The program is requesting to purchase basic office supplies. Not to exceed \$500 for the grant period.	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	0
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Project Supplies (e.g., binocular, battery, flexicuff, drug testing kit)	Alcohol testing, FFUP Panel 01 EtG500 3,507 tests @ \$3 each = \$10,521	\$10,521.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,521.00	0

**Source of Match Information**

**Detail Source of Match/GPI:**

DESCRIPTION	MATCH TYPE	AMOUNT
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**Summary Source of Match/GPI:**

Total Report	Cash Match	In Kind	GPI Federal Share	GPI State Share
\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

**Budget Summary Information**

**Budget Summary Information by Budget Category:**

CATEGORY	OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	GPI	TOTAL
Personnel	\$266,594.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$266,594.50
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	\$11,021.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,021.00
Travel and Training	\$5,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,500.00

**Budget Grand Total Information:**

OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	GPI	TOTAL
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\$283,115.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$283,115.50
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### Condition Of Fundings Information

Condition of Funding / Project Requirement	Date Created	Date Met	Hold Funds	Hold Line Item Funds
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You are logged in as **User Name:** cjdjudge

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**Agency Name:** El Paso County  
**Grant/App:** 4741803 **Start Date:** 9/1/2025 **End Date:** 8/31/2026

**Project Title:** DWI/RISE Tier I Drug Court Program  
**Status:** Application Pending Submission

### Eligibility Information

**Your organization's Texas Payee/Taxpayer ID Number:**  
17460007622006

### Application Eligibility Certify:

Created on: 1/6/2025 7:52:41 PM By: Ricardo Samaniego

### Profile Information

**Applicant Agency Name:** El Paso County  
**Project Title:** DWI/RISE Tier I Drug Court Program  
**Division or Unit to Administer the Project:** County Court at Law 2  
**Address Line 1:** 500 E. San Antonio  
**Address Line 2:**  
**City/State/Zip:** El Paso Texas 79901-2424  
**Start Date:** 9/1/2025  
**End Date:** 8/31/2026

**Regional Council of Governments(COG) within the Project's Impact Area:** Rio Grande Council of Governments

**Headquarter County:** El Paso

**Counties within Project's Impact Area:** El Paso

### Grant Officials:

#### Authorized Official

**Name:** Ricardo Samaniego  
**Email:** cjdjudge@epcounty.com  
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**Address 1:**  
**City:** El Paso, Texas 79901  
**Phone:** 915-546-2098 Other Phone: 915-546-2175  
**Fax:**  
**Title:** The Honorable  
**Salutation:** Judge  
**Position:** County Judge

#### Financial Official

**Name:** Barbara Parker  
**Email:** b.parker@epcountytexas.gov  
**Address 1:** 320 S. Campbell  
**Address 1:** Suite 140  
**City:** El Paso, Texas 79901  
**Phone:** 915-273-3262 Other Phone: 915-887-1044  
**Fax:** 915-273-3266  
**Title:** Ms.  
**Salutation:** Ms.  
**Position:** County Auditor

#### Project Director

**Name:** Ana Dominguez  
**Email:** an.dominguez@epcounty.com

**Address 1:** 500 E. San Antonio

**Address 1:**

**City:** El Paso, Texas 79901

**Phone:** 915-834-8232 Other Phone: 915-203-0383

**Fax:** 915-834-8212

**Title:** Ms.

**Salutation:** Ms.

**Position:** Specialty Court Case Manager

### **Grant Writer**

**Name:** Leticia Vizcaino

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**City:** El Paso, Texas 79901

**Phone:** 915-546-2098 Other Phone:

**Fax:** 915-543-3888

**Title:** Ms.

**Salutation:** Ms.

**Position:** Grant Writer

### **Grant Vendor Information**

**Organization Type:** County

**Organization Option:** applying to provide services to all others

**Applicant Agency's State Payee Identification Number (e.g., Federal Employer's Identification (FEI) Number or Vendor ID):** 17460007622006

**Unique Entity Identifier (UEI):** GJJHZSZVQWR6

### **Narrative Information**

#### **Introduction**

The purpose of this funding is to support specialty court programs as defined in Chapter 121-126 and Chapter 129-130 of the Texas Government Code.

#### **Program-Specific Questions**

##### **Court Name and Number**

Court name and number as registered with the Office of Court Administration (OCA).

El Paso County DWI Drug Court Intervention and Treatment Program #86

##### **Participant Fees**

Does this specialty court collect participant fees pursuant to Sec. 123.004 of the Texas Government Code?

Yes

No

If yes, what is the current dollar amount charged to participants?

500

In the last fiscal year, how many participants were charged a fee?

0

Of those participants charged, how many paid the fee?

0

##### **Risk Assessment Tools**

List the risk assessment tool(s) and clinical assessment tools(s) that are utilized by this specialty court? Please provide: 1) The name of each assessment tools used; 2) Why the assessment tools were selected for this specific program and the role it plays in this specialty court's case management process; and 3) The position title(s) of the team member(s) responsible for conducting each assessment. If there are any factors limiting the use of additional assessment tools such as the cost associated with an assessment, familiarity with available assessments, etc., please make note of these factors.

TRAS is done by probation officer on all new participants at the initial interview/entry to program and with a follow-up one done in a year after the entrance of the program.

##### **Certifications**

In addition to the requirements found in existing statute, regulation, and the funding announcement, this program requires applicant organizations to certify compliance with the following:

### **Constitutional Compliance**

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

### **Information Systems**

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

### **Program Income**

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

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

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

### **Twelve-Step Programs**

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

### **Specialty Court Certifications**

If the applicant is a specialty court operated under Ch. 121 of the Texas Government Code, the following certifications apply:

1. The specialty court will develop and maintain written policies and procedures for the operation of the program.
2. The applicant will submit a copy of any project evaluations, evaluation plans, recidivism studies, or related reports that are completed during the grant period to PSO.

### **Adoption of Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards**

Applicants operating an adult drug court certify that they are working towards full compliance with and adoption of Vol. I & II of the Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards.

### **Adoption of Family Drug Court Best Practice Standards**

Applicants operating a family drug court certify that they are working towards full compliance with and adoption of the Family Treatment Court Best Practice Standards.

### **Veterans Treatment Programs**

Applicants providing mental health services to veterans or veterans' families must demonstrate a) prior history of successful execution of a grant from the Office of the Governor; and b) that the entity provides training to agency personnel on military informed care or military cultural competency or requires those personnel to complete military competency training provided by any of the following: the Texas Veterans Commission; the Texas Health and Human Services Commission; the Military Veteran Peer Network; the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; the U.S. Department of Defense; the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; or a nonprofit organization that is exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(a), Internal Revenue Code of 1986, by being listed as an exempt entity under Section 501 (c) (3) of that code, with experience in providing training or technical assistance to entities that provide mental health services to veterans or veterans' families.

assistance to entities that provide mental health services to veterans or veterans' families.

### **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 percent 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 [Sexual Assault Evidence Tracking Program](#) website for more information or to set up an account to begin participating. Additionally, per Section 420.042 "A law enforcement agency that receives evidence of a sexual assault or other sex offense...shall submit that evidence to a public accredited crime laboratory for analysis no later than the 30th day after the date on which that evidence was received." A law enforcement agency in possession of a significant number of Sexual Assault Evidence Kits (SAEK) where the 30-day window has passed may be considered noncompliant.

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

Local units of government, including cities, counties and other general purpose political subdivisions, as appropriate, and institutions of higher education that operate a law enforcement agency, must comply with all aspects of the programs and procedures utilized by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security ("DHS") to: (1) notify DHS of all information requested by DHS related to illegal aliens in Agency's custody; and (2) detain such illegal aliens in accordance with requests by DHS. Additionally, counties and municipalities may NOT have in effect, purport to have in effect, or make themselves subject to or bound by, any law, rule, policy, or practice (written or unwritten) that would: (1) require or authorize the public disclosure of federal law enforcement information in order to conceal, harbor, or shield from detection fugitives from justice or aliens illegally in the United States; or (2) impede federal officers from exercising authority under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a), § 1226(c), § 1231(a), § 1357(a), § 1366(1), or § 1366(3). Lastly, eligible applicants must comply with all provisions, policies, and penalties found in Chapter 752, Subchapter C of the Texas Government Code.

Each local unit of government, and institution of higher education that operates a law enforcement agency, must download, complete and then upload into eGrants the [CEO/Law Enforcement Certifications and Assurances Form](#) certifying compliance with federal and state immigration enforcement requirements. This Form is required for each application submitted to PSO and is active until August 31, 2026 or the end of the grant period, whichever is later.

## Overall Certification

Each applicant agency must certify to the specific requirements detailed above as well as to comply with all requirements within the PSO Funding Announcement, the *Guide to Grants*, the *Grantee Conditions and Responsibilities*, any authorizing or applicable state and federal statutes and regulations to be eligible for this program.

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

## Project Abstract :

The DWI Intervention and Prevention/MERIT Specialty Court was created to merge the DWI Intervention and Prevention Program and the Mentoring, Encouraging, Recovery, Intervention, Treatment (MERIT Program). Initially these were two separate programs; with the DWI Program being the principal program offenders would enter when being charged with a DWI offense. The Program consisted of an 18-month intensive treatment program with five phases participants must complete in order to successfully graduate the program. Many participants graduating the Program were still under the supervision of the El Paso County Community Supervision and Corrections Department (CSCD); serving lengthy probation sentences. These individuals, under the CSCD supervision; were not receiving continuum of care, not receiving much needed treatment to transition from the program while still under probation. Judge Anchondo, sitting Judge for this program; recognized the need to continue providing care for the longer-serving probation participants and created the MERIT Program. This was a separate program the participants entered for an up to two years of continuum care. In an effort to improve the programs and be more successful at securing competitive funding, the Judge merged the Programs; the DWI Intervention and Prevention/MERIT Specialty Court. The goal of the program is to improve public safety, strive to reduce recidivism for alcohol and drug offenders through cost effective integrated continuum of care through a judicially supervised regime of treatment and mental health services for chemically addicted offenders in El Paso County. The program accepts non-violent offenders with a history of alcohol use, substance use, mental health disorders, trauma histories to include participants who have served in the military and participants who have been charged with DWI on federal reservations. Upon entering the program, participants are clinically assessed to determine their treatment needs and assigned to the appropriate treatment provider (i.e. outpatient substance abuse treatment, inpatient treatment, and mental health provider). While participants are receiving treatment services, participants are randomly tested weekly by Community Supervision/Surveillance Officers to monitor abstinence. In addition to ongoing drug testing, the Community Supervision Officers and Surveillance Officer monitor client activity in the community and report regularly to the Team to assure client accountability. Each phase of the program is set up with specific objectives to assist the client in being successful in the community. Phase I of the program is designed to assess and refer the client for substance abuse treatment and other services deemed necessary by the team. Phase II transitions the client from substance abuse treatment to employment or vocational training. Phase III will prepare the participant to make the transition from intensive supervision to less intensive supervision of the aftercare component. Phase IV is adaptive habilitation and Phase V is continuing care. It is here that most participants graduate from the program. Participants of the program that have been identified with severe needs for more services and supervision, will continue with the MERIT up to an additional 2 years. The MERIT Program will continue to provide recovery capital, monthly supervision, home visits, and referrals to community services. This is a crucial first step to help participants initiate abstinence and achieve other symptom remission, but an equally or more important goal is to link them to peer recovery networks and lengthen treatment gains. Recovery capital will target family needs, stability, education, and financial responsibilities. The Program's mandatory treatment services, coupled with intensified monitoring and the immediacy of addressing a client's progress or regress, is expected to allow the program to meet the stated objectives outlined in the proposal. In the absence of the Program, El Paso would continue to have a high number of non-violent offenders forced to wait before receiving access to the limited services and supervision available.

## Problem Statement :

El Paso County initiated the DWI Drug Intervention and Prevention Court due to the high volume of DWI arrests. According to the El Paso Sheriff's office, there have been 1016 DWI arrests from 2020 to 2022. DWI arrest includes DWI 1st, DWI 2nd, DWI 3rd or more, DWI BAC  $\geq$  0.15, DWI w/child under 15 yoa, DWI open container. Jails in El Paso are inundated with first, second, third and repeat offenders. These individuals are lacking the education and resources needed to break this vicious cycle. It is the intent of this program to provide treatment through medication, assessment, education, counseling, recovery management, and family reunification. There will also be supervision through probation officers and surveillance officers. The purpose of the MERIT Tier was based on studies showing that persons with chronic or compulsive substance disorders

remain vulnerable to a recurrence of substance use and substance related dysfunction after completing treatment and recovery management. It also assists participants to become clinically stable and experience greater confidence in their recovery, thus assuming an increasingly central role in setting their own goals, recognizing signs of symptom recurrence, taking action to avoid setbacks and even provide support to other persons in recovery. Studies confirm that recovery management services extend treatment gains, reduce criminal recidivism, and enhance other recovery-oriented goals. This is to allow the participants to become healthy individuals and have the opportunity to become successful citizens and ultimately make our community a safer place to live and raise our families.

### **Supporting Data :**

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 841,286 people live in the El Paso County area as of July 2020. Approximately, 92% of this population is of Hispanic origin and bilingual. Local statistics clearly substantiate the problem of Driving While Intoxicated, the dangers associated and the trend established with repeat offenders. The jails in El Paso are inundated with first, second, third and repeat offenders. These individuals are lacking the education and resources needed to break this vicious cycle. It is the intent of this program to provide treatment through medication, assessment, education, counseling and family reunification to allow participants to become healthy individuals and can become successful citizens. This ultimately will make our communities a safer place to live and raise our families. The Program does not discriminate and does not target any race or ethnicity. Due to the El Paso County bordering one of the largest cities in Mexico; Juarez, Chihuahua. It is not unusual for most of the clients to be of Hispanic origin. In addition, many clients, participating in the program, have immediate family residing in Juarez. In accordance with Best Practices, the program ensures "Citizens who have historically experienced sustained discrimination or reduced social opportunities because of their race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, sexual identity, physical or mental disability, religion, or socioeconomic status receive the same opportunities as other citizens". Our program implements treatment court policies, procedures and practices that enable and empower our team to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services to our culturally complex clientele. In addition, the 10 Guiding Principles for DWI Courts utilizes objective eligibility criteria and conducts validated clinical assessments for this DWI population. The DWI Intervention and Treatment Program is an intense 18-month-long program, focusing on the hardcore repeat offenders, the MERIT Program is a 2-year-long program focusing on long-term sobriety, with 2 phases. Participants that have more than two years left on probation after completing the DWI Program will transition to the MERIT Program, to continue to receive recovery capital services, (employment, housing, medical services, education, family counseling, peer support) as well as continued monitoring from the court. We have gathered data on approximately 31 graduates from the MERIT program who have maintained sobriety for a minimum of 5 years and have not reoffended. Studies have shown that by extending recovery services, it helps achieve long-term sobriety, reduce criminal recidivism, or law enforcement contacts, and enhance other recovery-oriented goals. At least three studies have reported that drug courts or post-prison reentry programs delivering enhanced recovery support services had significantly better outcomes in terms of longer treatment retention, lower symptom recurrence, higher employment rates, and reduced criminal recidivism (Lucenko et al., 2014; Mangrum, 2008; Ray et al., 2015). Treatment courts that embrace a recovery management framework are likely to achieve sustained improvements in participant outcomes, whereas those that continue to follow a discredited acute care model may find that their benefits are discouragingly short-lived (Heaps et al., 2009; Taylor, 2014).

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

The El Paso Community Planning Alliance is comprised of agencies and/or organizations that collectively work to reduce the substance abuse issues of the El Paso region. Illicit use and sale of drugs, and crimes committed under the influence of drugs or alcohol are a high priority for adults in El Paso County. The Program will address the problem of alcohol abuse, mental health issues and history of trauma, by offering intensive outpatient treatment as well as residential services, to include intense supervision from community supervision and law enforcement aspects, which will then continue through the RISE tier for those participants that have been identified to need further care to address their severe needs. Our team monitors participants' progress and sobriety throughout their program participation. Participants report for court status hearings and to their community supervision officer, depending on what phase they are in the program; a participant may be required to report more often if ordered by the judge. Participants are subject to random drug and alcohol testing and random home and work visits conducted by law enforcement officers, community supervision officers, and case manager/compliance officer. All drug and alcohol urine analysis (UA) testing is observed by a Program representative of the same sex to prevent contamination, adulteration, dilution, or a change of specimen. Drug testing results are reported during weekly team meetings and are entered in the Management Information System and case file. Violations are discussed during team staffing and include appropriate treatment approaches and/or sanctions. The judge makes all final decisions on what approach to take

concerning the participants' progress. The project would need the assistance of a case manager and to be a liaison to all agencies. The case manager would help the participants remove obstacles to client recovery, compliance with the court requirements, and overall well-being. The case manager would use a designated tool to assess each new participant to set goals for their overall physical, mental, family life, and spiritual health. The current areas of assistance include: GED prep and testing assistance. Our team monitors participants' progress and sobriety throughout their program participation. Participants report for court status hearings and to their community supervision officer, depending on what phase they are in the program; a participant may be required to report more often if ordered by the judge. Participants are subject to random drug and alcohol testing and random home and work visits conducted by law enforcement officers, community supervision officers, and case manager/compliance officer. All drug and alcohol urine analysis (UA) testing is observed by a Program representative of the same sex to prevent contamination, adulteration, dilution, or a change of specimen. Drug testing results are reported during weekly team meetings and are entered in the Management Information System and case file. Violations are discussed during team staffing and include appropriate treatment approaches and/or sanctions. The judge makes all final decisions on what approach to take concerning the participants' progress. The project would need the assistance of a case manager and to be a liaison to all agencies. The case manager would help the participants remove obstacles to client recovery, compliance with the court requirements, and overall well-being. The case manager would use a designated tool to assess each new participant to set goals for their overall physical, mental, family life, and spiritual health. The current areas of assistance include: GED prep and testing assistance, return to school, financial assistance for career training / technical schools, access to the Community College, resume writing, finding appropriate employment, career transitions, sexual safety and health including STIs and HIV, emergency shelter, rental assistance, utility assistance, reduced cost dental assistance, literacy, transportation options, SNAP (Food Stamps assistance), TANF (One time Federal grants assistance), free Government phones, finding appropriate 12 Step meetings and peer support meetings, calendar review and organization, presence at Recovery groups to gain insight and context for additional needs of all clients, whatever need the client, the court, or the team identifies. There is an extensive amount of resource agencies such as the Texas workforce-job search training, Project Amistad-transportation for the disabled elderly, Project Vida, University Medical Center, San Vicente clinic and Texas Tech medical center-medical services, Housing Authority-housing services, Rescue mission, Salvation Army, Opportunity Center-shelter services, El Paso Food bank-food, El Paso General assistance-assistance with paying rent and utility bills. Our program has established a Memorandum of Understanding between these agencies and others in the community.

### **Capacity & Capabilities:**

Judge Robert Anchondo started the first DWI Specialty Court Program in 2004 in the State of Texas. The mission of the DWI Specialty Court Program is designed to reduce recidivism of alcohol and drug offenders and to enhance public safety through a cost-effective integrated continuum of care and a judicially supervised regime of treatment and innovative case management. The El Paso DWI Court Program works with offenders with a history of alcohol use, substance use, mental health disorders, trauma histories to include participants who have served in the military and participants who have been charged with DWI on federal reservations. The program has built invaluable partnerships within the community, which include local law enforcement, Texas Workforce, the University of Texas at El Paso and Texas Tech, local hospitals and medical professionals such as Aliviane Treatment Counseling Center, community family counseling services and Emergency Health Network mental health services. The multidisciplinary team embraces the region's diverse population and has taken strides to engage participants' family members to assist and help ensure a more successful prolonged recovery. In March 2023, the fourth consecutive National Academy Court designation was awarded to the El Paso DWI Intervention and Treatment Court. The Program has a capacity of 125 participants. Since its inception in 2004, the program has screened approximately 1,210 potential clients and has enrolled 960 of those screened for the program. The program currently has 111 active participants in the Program and 39 in the MERIT Program and has successfully graduated a total of 883 graduates. The program continues to grow as it is evident in the number of participants and the graduates from year-to-year and the continuum referrals from Misdemeanor, Felony and Federal Courts. Each participant is assessed, utilizing the Clinical Management for Behavioral Health Services (CMBHS), CARS, ASI which covers questions about the participant's education, employment, family, social, legal, mental health, medical, and substance use history. Client's level of treatment is determined and a diagnosis of abuse or dependency for alcohol and/or drugs is identified. A treatment plan is created, which includes goals for the client and the means by which they can achieve those goals. Also included: the frequency that each participant receives treatment, e.g., supportive outpatient and group sessions three times a week, an individual session weekly (or intensive outpatient), mental health counseling, case management services, peer support services or residential services; between 30 days to 6 months, depending on the facility. During the aftercare program, clients are seen once per month for group and individual sessions for continued support in their recovery and to prepare for discharge from the program. Clients who met trauma criteria are given an extensive bio-psychosocial assessment, which includes a mental status exam to identify needs and/or mental health diagnosis done by a Psychiatrist and License Professional Counselor. Treatment is then tailored to the

participant's needs, which includes type, length, and frequency of services. Participants must then attend recovery support groups as determined by the treatment provider and are also offered case manager services, peer support meetings at least once a week as well as individual, couples, families, peer support and/or recovery support. We link participants with outside community service agencies for assistance depending on their needs. Providers generate a person-centered plan based on the outcomes of the initial assessment with participant. Goals and objectives, based on participant's specific needs, are developed, and include strategies that provide insight into the problem and needed steps to reach their goals. Assessment also exposes issues that need to be addressed in order to facilitate the participant's success in the program and in their recovery. Transportation is a major issue with participants because the participant's driver's license is suspended as a result of their conviction. The Public Defender can assist with obtaining an occupational driver's license. Housing is also addressed at this time. If the participant is not in a safe environment, they are ordered to move. Alternate housing is then sought (with family, friends, or temporary shelters like The Rescue Mission, The Opportunity Center, etc.) Other services provided include marital/family counseling and/or parenting skills classes. The DWI Intervention and Treatment Program is an intense 18-month-long program, focusing on the hardcore repeat offenders, with 5 phases and the MERIT Program is a 2-year-long program focusing on long-term sobriety, with 2 phases. Participants that have more than two years left on probation after completing the DWI Program will transition to the MERIT Program, to continue to receive recovery capital services, (employment, housing, medical services, education, family counseling, peer support) as well as continued monitoring from the court. HB3474 took effect in September 2023 and reads as follows: SECTION 2.009. Section 25.0732, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows: (c) The County Criminal Court at Law No. 2 of El Paso County, Texas, is designated to conduct the DWI Drug Court Intervention and Treatment Program of El Paso County as a drug court program under Chapter 123 for persons arrested for, charged with, or convicted of an offense involving the operation of a motor vehicle while intoxicated.

### **Performance Management :**

The Program is a specialized court designated to handle adults placed on community supervision for DWI offenses. The mission of the program is to enhance public safety and strive to reduce recidivism of alcohol and drug offenders through a cost-effective integrated continuum of care and a judicially supervised regime of treatment and innovative case management. Eligible individuals are males and females 17 years or older, with DWI offenses; misdemeanor and/or felony who reside within El Paso County. The program's goals and objectives are to reduce recidivism among adult DWI/Drug offenders in El Paso County. The program uses a multi-faceted approach whose objectives include: reduce alcoholism and drug abuse and dependency among offenders, reduce overcrowded prisons, offender to attend mandatory alcohol/drug treatment counseling, attend life skills counseling, attend recovery support groups, complete community service hours and provide intense supervision by Community Supervision Officers and Surveillance Officers and the monitoring of random alcohol/drug testing. The program utilizes the Household Data Base System (HDDBS) to collect data on its program. Data collected for each participant includes: urine analysis and breath samples collected and results, court settings, home visits, phase advancements, treatment reports, and violations or re-arrests. HDDBS collects basic information helpful for tracking the participants' progress through the drug court process. The Program was able to work with El Paso County's Information Technology Department on software that allows team members to input information on the participants into a central database, Household, available to all team members. This software allows the team to evaluate the participants' history and progress. This year, two professors from UTEP (University of Texas at El Paso), will be evaluating the program data to determine outcomes.

### **Target Group :**

Adults, 17 and over, convicted for a DWI offense (s) to include military/veterans and individuals with mental health needs. The DWI Drug Court Program has met the stated objectives/goals for over 18 years of its program existence.

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

The Evidence Based Practices that has been effective for the program is what we have acquired through training that was offered through the National Association of Drug Court Professionals. This training and the experience that we have gathered has helped provide the structure and guidance to participants for which we are able to hold them accountable through the program. Our program exit survey that is completed by participants that are ready to graduate have indicated that being monitored on a regular basis has kept them on track with program goals. This also includes the constant random alcohol and drug testing, unannounced home visits from the officers, reporting weekly to treatment, and weekly reporting to drug court review

hearings, this has proven highly effective on all participants. The program has been recently awarded with Federal funding; some funding will be used to evaluate the program in performance measures such as retention, sobriety, in-program recidivism and units of service. In 2018, the El Paso County Budget analytic department evaluated our past graduates to determine recidivism rate (graduates 2013-2014) with results of outcome being 5.67% compared to regular probation group which results of outcome were at 11.67% recidivism rate. We link participants with outside community service agencies for assistance depending on their needs. There is an extensive amount of resource agencies, such as the Texas workforce-job search training, Project Amistad-transportation for the disabled elderly, Project Vida, University Medical Center, San Vicente clinic and Texas Tech medical center-medical services, Housing Authority-housing services, Rescue mission, Salvation Army, Opportunity Center-shelter services, El Paso Food bank-food, El Paso General assistance-assistance with paying rent and utility bills. Our program has established a Memorandum of Understanding between these agencies and others in the community. Studies that have determined persons with chronic or compulsive substance disorders remain vulnerable to a recurrence of substance use and severe substance-related dysfunction after completing treatment and remaining abstinent for 3 to 5 years, and some persons may remain at a heightened risk for symptom recurrence after more than 10 to 15 years. Due to this research, participants of the DWI Specialty Court Program that have been identified with severe needs for more services and supervision, will transition to the newly created MERIT program ( Mentoring, Encouraging, Recovery, Intervention, Treatment) for up to an additional 2 years. The MERIT program will continue to provide recovery capital, monthly supervision, home visits, and referrals to community services. This is a crucial first step to encourage participants to continue with their sober living and continue in the road of recovery.

## 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
Specialty Court - Adult	100.00	The DWI and Tier I program will provide treatment services to approximately 100 participants, non-violent offenders with a history of alcohol use, substance use, mental health disorders, trauma histories to include participants who have served in the military and participants who have been charged with DWI on federal reservations.

### CJD Purpose Areas

PERCENT DEDICATED	PURPOSE AREA	PURPOSE AREA DESCRIPTION
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## Measures Information

### Objective Output Measures

OUTPUT MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
Number of carry-over individuals participating.	71
Number of individuals NEWLY participating.	81

## Objective Outcome Measures

OUTCOME MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
Number of individuals who will successfully complete the program.	67

## Custom Output Measures

CUSTOM OUTPUT MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
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## Custom Outcome Measures

CUSTOM OUTCOME MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
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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:

### 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]:

10/1/2024

Enter the End Date [mm/dd/yyyy]:

9/30/2025

### 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:

44622835

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

10168498

### 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:

9/16/2024

## 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.

## Fiscal Capability Information

### Section 1: Organizational Information

\*\*\* FOR PROFIT CORPORATIONS ONLY \*\*\*

Enter the following values in order to submit the application

Enter the Year in which the Corporation was Founded: 0

Enter the Date that the IRS Letter Granted 501(c)(3) Tax Exemption Status: 01/01/1900

Enter the Employer Identification Number Assigned by the IRS: 0

Enter the Charter Number assigned by the Texas Secretary of State: 0

Enter the Year in which the Corporation was Founded:

Enter the Date that the IRS Letter Granted 501(c)(3) Tax Exemption Status:

Enter the Employer Identification Number Assigned by the IRS:

Enter the Charter Number assigned by the Texas Secretary of State:

### Section 2: Accounting System

The grantee organization must incorporate an accounting system that will track direct and indirect costs for the organization (general ledger) as well as direct and indirect costs by project (project ledger). The grantee must establish a time and effort system to track personnel costs by project. This should be reported on an hourly basis, or in increments of an hour.

Is there a list of your organization's accounts identified by a specific number (i.e., a general ledger of accounts)?

Select the appropriate response:

Yes

No

Does the accounting system include a project ledger to record expenditures for each Program by required budget cost categories?

Select the appropriate response:

Yes

No

Is there a timekeeping system that allows for grant personnel to identify activity and requires signatures by the employee and his or her supervisor?

Select the appropriate response:

- Yes
- No

If you answered 'No' to any question above in the Accounting System section, in the space provided below explain what action will be taken to ensure accountability.

Enter your explanation:

### **Section 3: Financial Capability**

Grant agencies should prepare annual financial statements. At a minimum, current internal balance sheet and income statements are required. A balance sheet is a statement of financial position for a grant agency disclosing assets, liabilities, and retained earnings at a given point in time. An income statement is a summary of revenue and expenses for a grant agency during a fiscal year.

Has the grant agency undergone an independent audit?

Select the appropriate response:

- Yes
- No

Does the organization prepare financial statements at least annually?

Select the appropriate response:

- Yes
- No

According to the organization's most recent Audit or Balance Sheet, are the current total assets greater than the liabilities?

Select the appropriate response:

- Yes
- No

If you selected 'No' to any question above under the Financial Capability section, in the space provided below explain what action will be taken to ensure accountability.

Enter your explanation:

### **Section 4: Budgetary Controls**

Grant agencies should establish a system to track expenditures against budget and / or funded amounts. Are there budgetary controls in effect (e.g., comparison of budget with actual expenditures on a monthly basis) to include drawing down grant funds in excess of:

a) Total funds authorized on the Statement of Grant Award?

- Yes
- No

b) Total funds available for any budget category as stipulated on the Statement of Grant Award?

- Yes
- No

If you selected 'No' to any question above under the Budgetary Controls section, in the space provided below please explain what action will be taken to ensure accountability.

Enter your explanation:

### **Section 5: Internal Controls**

Grant agencies must safeguard cash receipts, disbursements, and ensure a segregation of duties exist. For example, one person should not have authorization to sign checks and make deposits.

Are accounting entries supported by appropriate documentation (e.g., purchase orders, vouchers, receipts, invoices)?

Select the appropriate response:

- Yes
- No

Is there separation of responsibility in the receipt, payment, and recording of costs?

Select the appropriate response:

- Yes
- No

If you selected 'No' to any question above under the Internal Controls section, in the space provided below please explain what action will be taken to ensure accountability.

Enter your explanation:

**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 (licensed)	Licensed Masters Social Worker (BG) will work to provide mental health and trauma counseling and case management directly to the participants of the program. This individual will work full-time with the participants and the program. Salary \$76,752, fringes \$39,728 = \$116,480. For the overtime of this position: the program's LMSW is going to provide additional services to the participants of the program. As part of family therapy, LMSW will be conducting a	\$139,320.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$139,320.50	100

		comprehensive assessment of the families to identify problems, needs, and goals they would like to resolve. The different modalities to be implementing depending on the families needs include Solution-Focused, Narrative, Bowenian, and Psychoanalytic. The LMSW will provide additional 10 hours per week at 55.35/hour = \$553.50 X 35 weeks = \$19,372 salary plus \$3,468 fringes for a total cost of \$22,840.50						
Personnel	Counselor and/or Therapist (licensed)	Surveillance Officer position (MS) will work directly with the DWI Drug Court program by supervising participants out in the field (homes). The role of this position will include, but is not limited to, attendance at all program staffing and court proceedings, conducting home visits, monitoring abstinence (i.e. drug testing and/or breathalyzer testing), complying with	\$105,538.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$105,538.00	100

		specific requests from the Team for additional monitoring or supervision. Salary \$68,550; fringes \$36,988. = \$105,538							
Personnel	Overtime for All Other Personnel	Group sessions will be provided twice a week with a Cognitive Behavioral Facilitator. These are some topics: Engaging members with their goals ABCs of Emotions Rational Questions 26 Mental Mistakes Rational Action Planner Techniques of Practice Ending Therapy	\$21,736.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$21,736.00	100	
Travel and Training	Out-of-State Registration Fees, Training, and/or Travel	The program will send two staff members to attend the FY26 National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) Conference; location to be determined in early 2026. Travel cost will include conference registration, airfare, lodging, per diem and parking. Cost is approximately \$5,500 based on FY25 travel cost.	\$5,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,500.00	0	

Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Office Supplies (e.g., paper, postage, calculator)	The program is requesting to purchase basic office supplies. Not to exceed \$500 for the grant period.	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	0
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Project Supplies (e.g., binocular, battery, flexicuff, drug testing kit)	Alcohol testing, FFUP Panel 01 EtG500 3,507 tests @ \$3 each = \$10,521	\$10,521.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,521.00	0

**Source of Match Information**

**Detail Source of Match/GPI:**

DESCRIPTION	MATCH TYPE	AMOUNT
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**Summary Source of Match/GPI:**

Total Report	Cash Match	In Kind	GPI Federal Share	GPI State Share
\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

**Budget Summary Information**

**Budget Summary Information by Budget Category:**

CATEGORY	OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	GPI	TOTAL
Personnel	\$266,594.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$266,594.50
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	\$11,021.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,021.00
Travel and Training	\$5,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,500.00

**Budget Grand Total Information:**

OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	GPI	TOTAL
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\$283,115.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$283,115.50
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### Condition Of Fundings Information

Condition of Funding / Project Requirement	Date Created	Date Met	Hold Funds	Hold Line Item Funds
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