



Public Safety Office
Office of the Governor

Public Safety Office

Federal Justice Grant Programs

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Federal Justice Programs Administrator

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Public Safety Office

Organization Overview

Designated Role: The Office of the Governor's Public Safety Office (PSO) serves as Texas' designated State Administering Agency (SAA) for state appropriated funds and federal criminal justice and homeland security grants awarded to Texas intended to improve public safety.

The Public Safety Office is composed of the following divisions:

- Victim Services
- State and Federal Justice Programs
- Homeland Security Terrorism Preparedness
- Border Security
- Crime Stoppers
- Child Sex Trafficking Team
- Sexual Assault Survivors' Task Force
- Grant Administration Division



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Public Safety Office

Application Process – Cycle

- More than 2,000 individual applications are received annually.
- All applications go through an internal multi-layer review process.
- Most also receive an external peer review.

The typical grant cycle for **most programs** is as follows:



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Public Safety Office

Application Process – eGrants

eGrants link:

<https://egrants.gov.texas.gov/Default.aspx>

- Used to administer all grants made by the PSO.
- Owned and maintained by the OOG.
- Includes links to various forms, guides, FAQs, instructional videos on how to make budget revisions, complete financial status reports, and more!

The screenshot shows the eGrants website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Home', 'Contact Us', and 'Login'. Below this is a banner for the Public Safety Office, featuring the text 'Public Safety Office' and 'The Office of the Governor plays a key role in shaping the future of the Lone Star State.' The banner also includes the eGrants logo and the Texas state seal. Below the banner, there is a section titled 'About eGrants Online Grant Management' which describes the system as an online grant management system used by Public Safety Office programs. It includes a graphic with the text 'Over \$586M Awarded'.

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Federal Justice Grant Programs

Funding Opportunities for Medical Examiner's Offices

Paul Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement Grant Program

Criminal Justice Grant Program

Paul Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement Grant Program

Overview – General Information

Purpose

To solicit applications for projects that improve the quality and timeliness of forensic science or medical examiners services as well as projects seeking to address emerging forensic science. Specific funding has been reserved for projects that support responses to the opioid epidemic.

Key Information

- FY 2026 Grant Cycle: Projects must begin on or after 10/01/2025 and may not exceed a 12-month project period.
- Funding Level: ~\$2M
- Minimum Request: \$10,000
- Maximum Request: No maximum
- Match Requirement: None
- PSO will review all applications and make all final funding decisions.

Eligible Organizations

- State Agencies
- Units of local government that operate an accredited crime laboratory or medical examiner's or coroner's office in Texas

Paul Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement Grant Program

Overview – Program-Specific Requirements

Program-Specific Requirements

- **Accreditation.** (1) Must comply with state regulations and rules for accreditation promulgated by the Texas Forensic Science Commission in the Texas Administrative Code, Title 37, Part 15, Chapter 651. (2) Must operate a laboratory or medical examiner office that is accredited through the Laboratory Accreditation Board of the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors, the National Association of Medical Examiners, or other recognized accrediting body. Must meet all registration requirements in the Texas Government Code, Section 121.002.
- **Misconduct.** Applicants should comply with state regulations for reporting misconduct or professional negligence to the Texas Forensic Science Commission, Code of Criminal Procedure, Article 38.01; or to the Texas Medical Board, Occupations Code, Chapter 164.
- **Laboratory Practices.** Applicants must use generally accepted laboratory practices and procedures established by accrediting organizations or appropriate certifying bodies.
- **National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUS).** Applicants must certify to the NamUS requirements.
- **National Environmental Policy Act Checklist (NEPA).** Required by the federal government for all applicants under this program. (Link to the form is provided on the funding announcement.)



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Paul Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement Grant Program

Overview – Eligible Activities and Costs

Eligible Activities and Costs

Funds may only be used to carry out the following activities:

- To improve the quality and timeliness of forensic science or medical examiner's/coroner's office services in the state, including those services provided by laboratories operated by the state and those operated by units of local government;
- Eliminate a backlog in the analysis of forensic science evidence, including, among other things, a backlog with respect to firearms examination, latent prints, impression evidence, toxicology, digital evidence, fire evidence, controlled substances, forensic pathology, questioned documents, and trace evidence;
- Train, assist, and employ forensic laboratory personnel and medicolegal death investigators, as needed to eliminate such a backlog;
- Address emerging forensic science issues (such as statistics, contextual bias, and uncertainty of measurement) and emerging forensic science technology (such as high throughput automation, statistical software, and new types of instrumentation);
- Educate and train forensic pathologists; or
- Fund medicolegal death investigation systems to facilitate accreditation of medical examiner and coroner offices and certification of medicolegal death investigators.



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Criminal Justice Grant Program

Overview – General Information

Purpose

To solicit applications for projects that promote public safety, reduce crime, and improve the criminal justice system.

Key Information

- FY 2026 Grant Cycle: Projects must begin on or after 10/01/2025 and may not exceed a 12-month project period.
- Funding Level: TBD
- Minimum Request: \$10,000
- Maximum Request: No maximum
- Match Requirement: None
- The COG's criminal justice advisory committee will prioritize all eligible applications. PSO will make all final funding decisions.

Eligible Organizations

- State Agencies
- Public/Private Institutions of Higher Education
- Independent School Districts
- Native American tribes
- Councils of Governments
- Non-profit Corporations
- Units of local government

Each of Texas' 24 COGs holds its own application planning workshops, workgroups, and/or subcommittees and facilitates application prioritization for certain programs within its region. Applicants must contact their applicable regional council of governments (COG) regarding their application.



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Criminal Justice Grant Program

Overview – Eligible Activities and Costs

Eligible Activities and Costs

- Personnel, equipment, supplies, contractual support, training, technical assistance, and information systems for **criminal justice purposes**, including for any one or more of the following:
 - Law enforcement;
 - Prosecution and Courts;
 - Crime Prevention and Education;
 - Reentry Programs; and
 - Assessment and Evaluation Programs.

“Criminal Justice Purposes” is defined as activities pertaining to crime prevention, control, or reduction, or the enforcement of the criminal law, including, but not limited to, police efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or to apprehend criminals (including juveniles), activities of courts having criminal jurisdiction, and related agencies (including but not limited to prosecutorial and defender services, juvenile delinquency agencies and pretrial service or release agencies), activities of corrections, probation, or parole authorities and related agencies assisting in the rehabilitation, supervision, and care of criminal offenders, and programs relating to the prevention, control, or reduction of narcotic addiction and juvenile delinquency.



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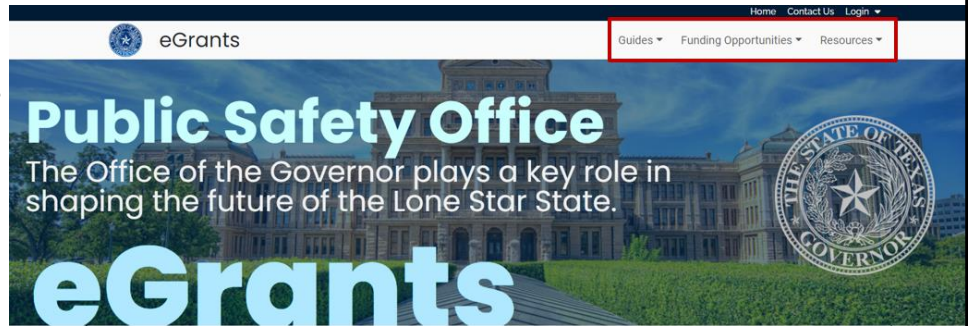
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Available Resources

eGrants

- eGrants User Guide to Creating an Application
- Developing a Good Project Narrative
- Regional Councils of Government (COG)
- Guide to Grants
- General FAQs
- PSO General FAQs



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