



Public Safety Office
Office of the Governor

Regional Training Conference

Public Safety Office Programs



February 2025

Grant Program & State Office Presentations & Training

RBEs and the Prioritization Process – Kim Hild

VOCA Updates – Hillary England, Don Stout, Janet Kasper

Federal Justice Program Updates – Alyssa Smith

State Justice Program Updates – Robert Cottle

HSGP Updates – Will Ogletree, Robert Cottle

RBEs and the Prioritization Process

Kim Hild, Contract Manager



Reasonable Budget Estimate (RBE)



- Regions can generally expect to receive the RBEs around mid-March.
- RBEs are not provided for homeland security; regions may generally estimate based on the previous year's allocation.
- Purpose is to assist with regional planning. RBE amount is NOT a guarantee; the final allocation to your region may be more or less than the RBE amount.
- RBE formula considers crime and population trends; however, PSO may cap increases or decreases to limit large regional fluctuations.
- When prioritizing applications, the focus should be on the **quality** of the project rather than the RBE amount. The PSO needs to know what projects your region feels are worthwhile. The PSO's job is to make the funding go as far as possible.
- Regions **cannot** recommend agencies for more funding than what the agency applied for.

eGrants - Prioritization Process

- Log in with Peer Review Account (**Coord or Admin**).
- From the dropdown, select a fund source and then click “View Outstanding”.
- Click on the pencil icon to begin.

The screenshot displays the Peer Review interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with tabs: Peer.Review.Home, Peer.Review.History, Technical.Assistance, Upload.Files, My.Password, and Logout. A red arrow points to the Peer.Review.Home tab. Below the navigation bar, there are two sections: "General Information and Instructions" with links for "View Introduction" and "View Instructions", and "Prioritize Projects by Fund Source". In the "Prioritize Projects by Fund Source" section, there is a dropdown menu showing "WF-Violence Against Women Formula Grants" and a "View Outstanding" button, which is highlighted with a red box and a red arrow. Below this, there is a "10 Items Per Page" dropdown and a label "Select the number of records to display per page." The main part of the interface is a table with the following columns: Rank Number, Score, Grant, Name, Project Title, Subfund ID, Requested Org. Amount, Requested Amount, Peer Review Recommended Amount, Peer Review Note, and Print Peer Review Snapshot. The first row of the table is highlighted with a red box, and a red arrow points to the pencil icon in the Rank Number column of that row. The table contains three rows of data, all with a Rank Number of 0 and a Requested Amount of \$70,951.96. The "Print Peer Review Snapshot" column contains checkboxes.

Rank Number	Score	Grant	Name	Project Title	Subfund ID	Requested Org. Amount	Requested Amount	Peer Review Recommended Amount	Peer Review Note	Print Peer Review Snapshot
0					WF21X61037A	\$67,465.14	\$67,465.14	\$0.00		<input type="checkbox"/>
0					WF21X61037A	\$70,031.06	\$70,031.06	\$0.00		<input type="checkbox"/>
0					WF21X61037A	\$70,951.96	\$70,951.96	\$0.00		<input type="checkbox"/>

Page 1

eGrants - Prioritization Process

- **Rank** - Starting with number 1, rank the projects to the end of list; no zeros.
- **Score** - If you score applications, you must provide a score; if you don't score, enter "0".
- **Recommended Amount** - Enter "0.00" if **not recommended** for funding.
- **Note** - Enter any additional information you feel important for PSO to know. Notes are especially important when you want to fund the project at a lesser amount. If a note isn't included, should there be additional funds available for your region, PSO staff may not have a clear idea of what the COG wants.

Prioritize Projects by Fund Source

Select the Fund Source to View / Process a Batch:
WF-Violence Against Women Formula Grants View Outstanding

10 Items Per Page Select the number of records to display per page.

	Rank Number	Score	Grant	Name	Project Title	Subfund ID	Requested Org. Amount	Requested Amount	Peer Review Recommended Amount	Peer Review Note	Print Peer Review Snapshot
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text"/>				WF21X61037A	\$67,465.14	\$67,465.14	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>					WF21X61037A	\$70,031.06	\$70,031.06	\$0.00		<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>					WF21X61037A	\$70,951.96	\$70,951.96	\$0.00		<input type="checkbox"/>

Page 1

Enter applicable notes here

Click the save icon once all info has been entered

eGrants - Prioritization Process

Must submit the **approved** priority listings by the date required in the contract.

CJ priority lists are due by **May 9** (CJ5.4)

HS priority list is due **14 days from date of batch** (HS4.4)

This is the official priority list which PSO will use in the fund plans.

COG may be sanctioned if the lists are:

- not submitted by due date.
- not approved by the Executive Committee prior to submission.



Prioritize Projects by Fund Source

Select the Fund Source to View / Process a Batch:
WF-Violence Against Women For [View Outstanding]

10 Items Per Page [display per page.]

Rank Number	Score	Grant	Name	Project Title	Subfund ID	Requested Org. Amount	Requested Amount	Peer Review Recommended Amount	Peer Review Note	Print Peer Review Snapshot
1	98.00000				WF21X61037A	\$67,465.14	\$67,465.14	\$67,465.14		<input type="checkbox"/>
2	85.00000				WF21X61037A	\$70,951.96	\$70,951.96	\$70,951.96		<input type="checkbox"/>
3	40.00000				WF21X61037A	\$70,031.06	\$70,031.06	\$0.00	Agency did not attend mandatory workshop; not recommended for funding.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Page 1

View the Details for the Selected Project:

Project's Progress by Status

Project's Issues and Uploaded Files

Finalize a Batch By Fund Source

Enter the Final Prioritization Date for this Batch:
[Submit Final Priority List](#)

Print Peer Review Snapshot

[Print Snapshot](#) [Select All Snapshots](#) [Clear All Snapshots](#)

Notes by Peer Reviewer to OOG:

Note from Peer Reviewer to OOG

[Save Note from Peer Reviewer to OOG](#)



Notification of Prioritization Results

On or before the 14th calendar day after the COG's decision, the COG shall notify all applicants in writing of the region's **approved** prioritization results. The notice **must** state:

“After the [HSAC/CJAC] prioritizes the grant applications and the COG's governing body approves the priority listing, the COG submits the priority listing to the PSO. Based upon the COG's priority listing, the PSO will verify the eligibility, reasonableness, and cost-effectiveness strategy of the proposed project, and the availability of funding, and will render final funding decisions on these grant applications. The COG will notify applicants of any changes in the funding recommendations.”



Conflict of Interest

The COG shall ensure that members of the COG's governing body, the HSAC/CJAC, and COG staff abstain from scoring and voting on any grant application, other than a grant application submitted by a COG during the prioritization process if the member or an individual related to the member within the third degree by consanguinity or within the second degree by affinity:

- a. Is employed by the applicant agency and works for the unit or division that would administer the grant, if awarded;
- b. Serves on any governing board that oversees the unit or division that would administer the grant, if awarded;
- b. Owns or controls any interest in a business entity or other non-governmental organization that benefits, directly or indirectly, from activities with the applicant agency; or
- c. Receives any funds, or a substantial amount of tangible goods or services, from the applicant agency as a result of the grant, if awarded.

If a HSAC/CJAC member has a conflict of interest regarding a particular grant application, the COG will ensure that the committee member abstains from voting, commenting, or otherwise influencing the prioritization process for that application.

If the COG learns that any applicant, HSAC/CJAC member, COG personnel, or other individual has reason to believe that favoritism or inappropriate actions occurred during the scoring or prioritization of PSO homeland security/criminal justice projects, the COG shall notify the PSO of the concerns as soon as possible.



Conflict of Interest

Example 1: A local non-profit (NP) agency is applying for VOCA funding. One of the NP agency's board members is also a member of the CJAC. Would s/he need to abstain from scoring and voting on the NP agency's application?

Yes. The CJAC member serves on a governing board that would oversee the unit or division that would administer the grant, if awarded.

Would s/he need to abstain from scoring and voting on **all** VOCA applications? ***Maybe. Depends on COG policies.***

May the CJAC member stay in the room during the prioritization process?

Maybe. Depends on COG policies. The current OOG-COG Contract does not require those with a conflict of interest to leave the room.

Conflict of Interest

Example 2: The COG's Regional Law Enforcement Academy is interested in applying for a JAG grant and the COG ED/Authorized Official is a member of the governing board that approves the priority lists. Would this be a conflict of interest?

No. COG staff and/or members of the COG's governing body are not required to abstain from scoring and voting on a grant application submitted by a COG.

Example 4: An HSAC member's sister-in-law is listed in the budget of an application and a portion of her salary would be paid by the grant, if awarded. Is this a conflict of interest and would the HSAC member need to abstain from scoring and voting on the application?

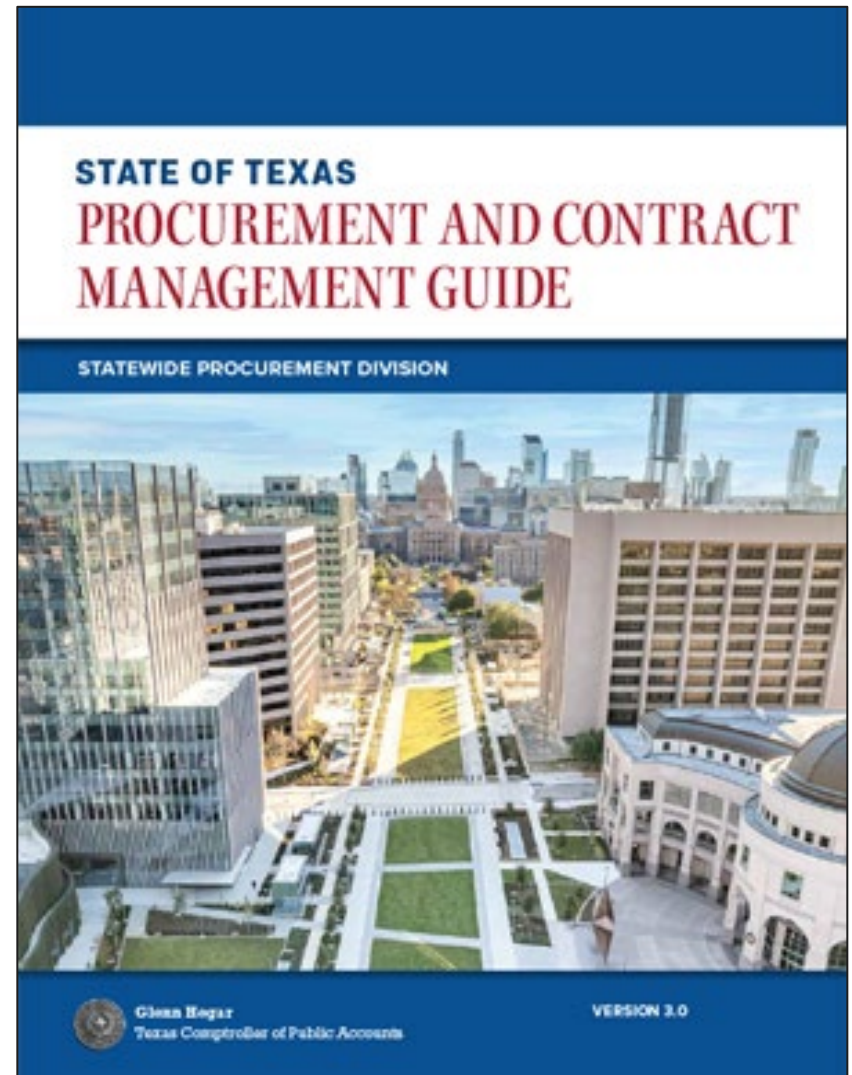
Yes. The HSAC member is related to someone (by second degree of affinity) who would receive funds from the applicant agency as a result of the grant, if awarded.

Conflict of Interest

Guidance found in the *Procurement and Contract Management Guide*

Clear, well-written policies

- help mitigate complaints.
- support your actions/decisions in the event of a complaint.





Kim Hild

Compliance and Operations Administrator

kimberly.hild@gov.texas.gov

512-463-8570

Public Safety Office (PSO) Programs – Victim Services

Texas' annual VOCA award has decreased by >75% since 2018 due to the pandemic and minimal collections into the federal Crime Victims Fund. In 2018 Texas' VOCA award was at \$284M compared to the 2024 award at \$68M.

To help make up for this substantial decline, the Texas Legislature has supplemented our VOCA funding with appropriated State funds since 2022.

Legislative Assistance :

2022 – Appropriated \$160M in ARPA to maintain level funding

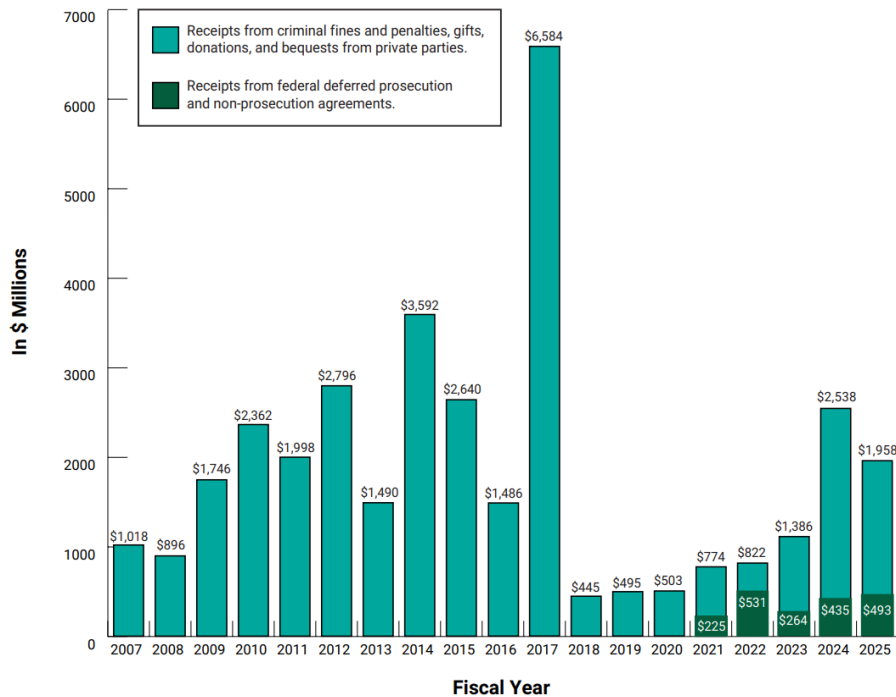
2024 – Appropriated \$115M in GR to maintain level funding

2026 – Requesting an additional \$115M

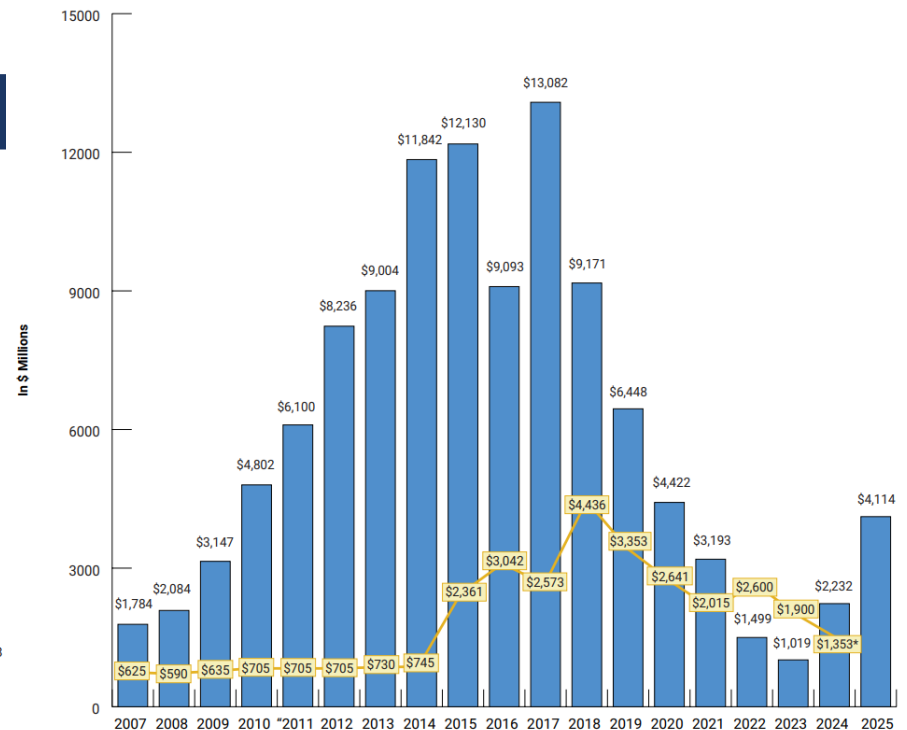
PSO Programs – Victim Services

Federal Crime Victims Fund Charts

FY 2007 – FY 2025 Crime Victims Fund Annual Receipts (\$ Millions)
(as of 11/30/2024)



FY 2007 – FY 2025 Crime Victims Fund End of Year Balance (\$ millions)
(as of 11/30/24)



VOCA Updates

CSEY Activities Transitioned to General Victim Application Process

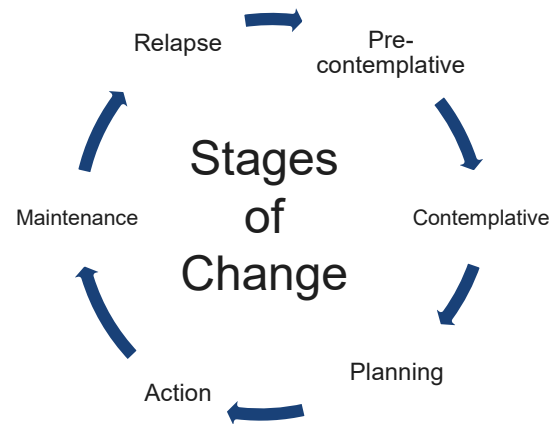
- Applicants seeking to apply for one of the following CSEY activities should select the Funding Opportunity titled “Victim Assistance, Residential and Community-Based Services for Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth” in eGrants.
 - Drop-In Centers for Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth
 - Short-Term Residential Programs for Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth
 - Long-Term Residential Programs for Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth
- Previously, applications for these funding opportunities were scored by the Child Sex Trafficking Team.
- For FY24, Long-Term Residential Programs were moved to the General Victim Assistance program for scoring and prioritization by the COGs.
- For FY26, Drop-In Center Programs and Short-Term Residential Programs will also be scored and prioritized by COGs.



VOCA Updates

The Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth (CSEY) Continuum of Care

- The CSEY Continuum of Care consists of necessary programs to help commercially exploited youth, and those at high risk of commercial sexual exploitation, move through the stages of change to support prevention of and healing from exploitation/trafficking.



- In addition to Care Coordination and CSEY Advocacy, Best Practice CSEY Continuum of Care consists of the following programs.





VOCA Updates

Drop-In Centers for Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth (CSEY)

“Drop-In Center” means a resource center for transition age youth (ages twenty-four (24) years and under), who are experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness and whose main purpose is:

- to prevent or minimize the duration of youth homelessness by addressing the needs of these youth and providing information and access to other resources;
- providing a range of services to help adolescents and young adults regain stability and get their lives back on track; and
- aiding families to enable them to better support their children.





VOCA Updates

Drop-In Centers for Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth (CSEY)

Development, expansion, or enhancement of a drop-in center, including street outreach programs, for children or transition-age youth who have experienced CSE or are victims of crime that place them at high risk for CSE.

The project must provide:

- tangible and felt-safety,
- safety planning,
- individualized and immediate trauma-responsive assessment,
- case management including connecting the survivor to needed medical and behavioral health care, legal and other resources, counseling, support groups,
- relationship building opportunities in a non-judgmental environment, and
- assistance with securing emergency and long-term residential services.

Center must reflect days and times survivors are most vulnerable to trafficking, and when LE would refer youth.

Applicant must accept survivor walk-in self-referrals and be accessible, either on-site or through an on-call response, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.





VOCA Updates

The importance of Drop-In Centers in the CSEY Continuum of Care

Drop-in Centers for Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth

- Support youth at the pre-contemplative stage of change, as youth may not feel safe and/or comfortable residing in a residential program.
- Drop-In Center staff/services utilize evidenced based modalities, such as motivational interviewing and trust-based relationships, to assist youth in resolving their ambivalence which prevents them from utilizing services to remain safe.
- Provide life-saving services as youth experiencing homelessness are at risk for great harm, including trafficking and even death.
- These vital services are expensive, as they require specialized staff and crisis programs that operate 24/7 hours 365 days.





VOCA Updates

Short-Term Residential Programs for Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth

- **Development, expansion, or enhancement of a program** that provides emergency placement for community children, children in the care of DFPS, and/or Juvenile Justice, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.
- **The program must provide** physical safety, safety planning, individualized and immediate trauma-responsive behavioral healthcare, legal, educational, vocational, and housing resources, community and relationship-building opportunities in an empowering, non-judgmental environment, and re-engagement after runaway episodes or other disruptions in placement or services.
- **Programs must identify strategies to** promote survivor's tangible safety and felt safety. Clinical, behavioral milieu, and service planning approaches must follow recognized promising practices or evidence-based programs. Stabilization and Assessment Centers providing brief placements for highly dis-regulated survivors are included in this category.





VOCA Updates

Long-Term Residential Programs for Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth

- **Development, expansion or enhancement of a program that provides long-term residential treatment** for Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth (CSEY), and residential care for adult survivors.
- **Programs must provide** access to intensive case management and wraparound facilitation, 24-hour clinical and behavioral crisis services, safety planning, individualized and immediate trauma-responsive case management (including connecting survivors to needed medical and behavioral healthcare, legal, educational, and vocational resources), community and relationship building opportunities in an empowering, non-judgmental environment, and re-engagement after runaway episodes or other disruptions in placement or services. (Residential programs for adults must empower survivors through services that engage survivors in vocational and educational opportunities in the community.
- **Programs must identify strategies employed in** clinical, behavioral, milieu, and all other service planning must follow recognized promising practices or evidence-based programs.





VOCA Updates

The importance of Short-Term and Long-Term Residential Programs in the CSEY Continuum of Care

Short and Long-Term Residential Programs for Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth

- Support youth at all stages of change, as victims of commercial sexual exploitation work to break free from the strong hold of trauma bonds created by their exploiter.
- CSEY victims/survivors are greatly underserved through the necessary specialized residential programs that provide safety, support their healing, and strive to prevent their revictimization by exploiters.
- Texas needs residential programs that serve children, transition age youth and adults who are victims of sex trafficking.
- Commercial Sexual Exploitation/Sex Trafficking is a crime that necessitates residential programs that support a small number of victims/survivors at a time.
- These vital services are expensive, as they require specialized staff and crisis programs that operate 24/7 hours 365 days.





Janet Kasper

Administrator, Child Sex Trafficking Team

janet.kasper@gov.texas.gov

Donald Stout

Administrator, Victim Services Team

donald.stout@gov.texas.gov

Hillary England

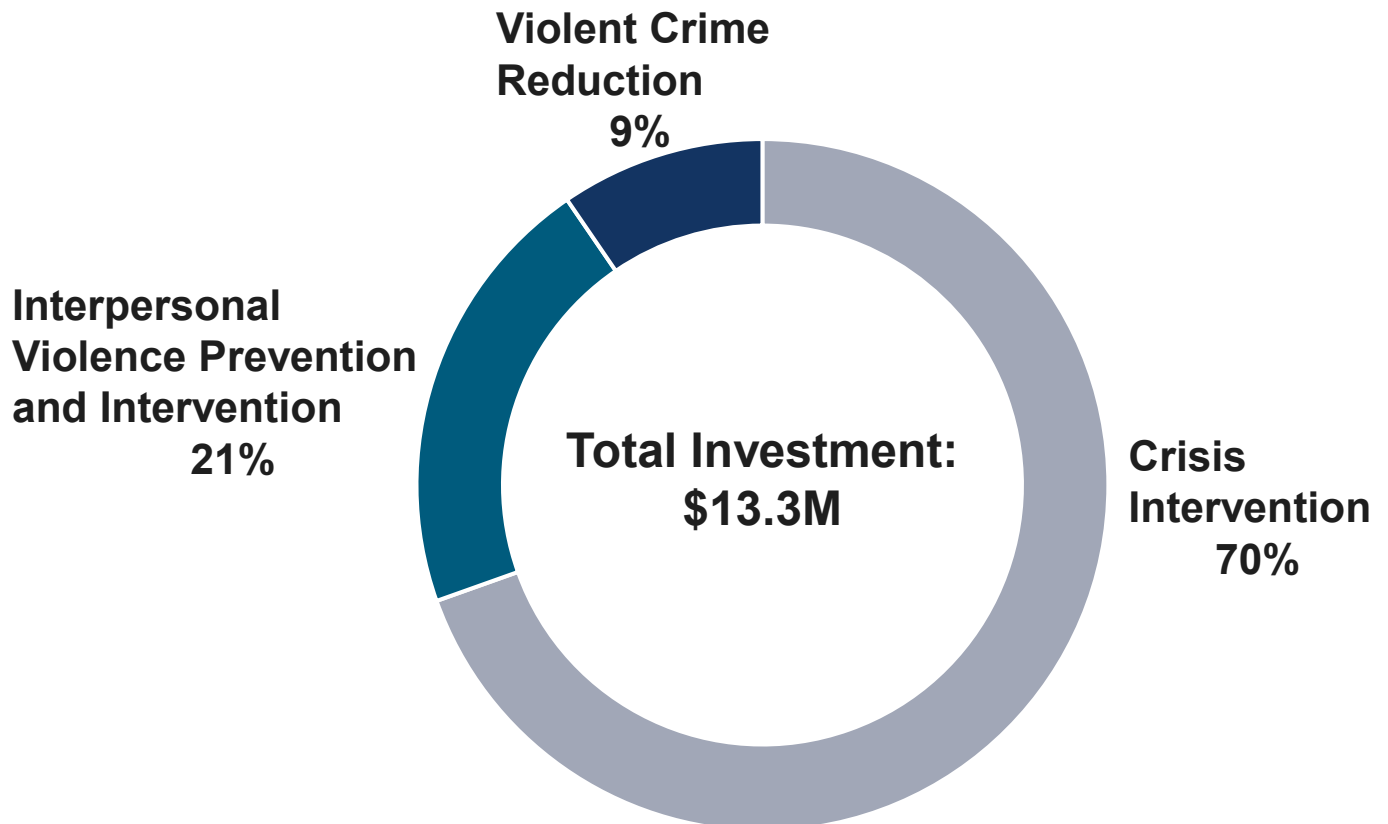
Deputy Director, Victim Services & Prevention Programs

hillary.england@gov.texas.gov

Federal Justice Updates

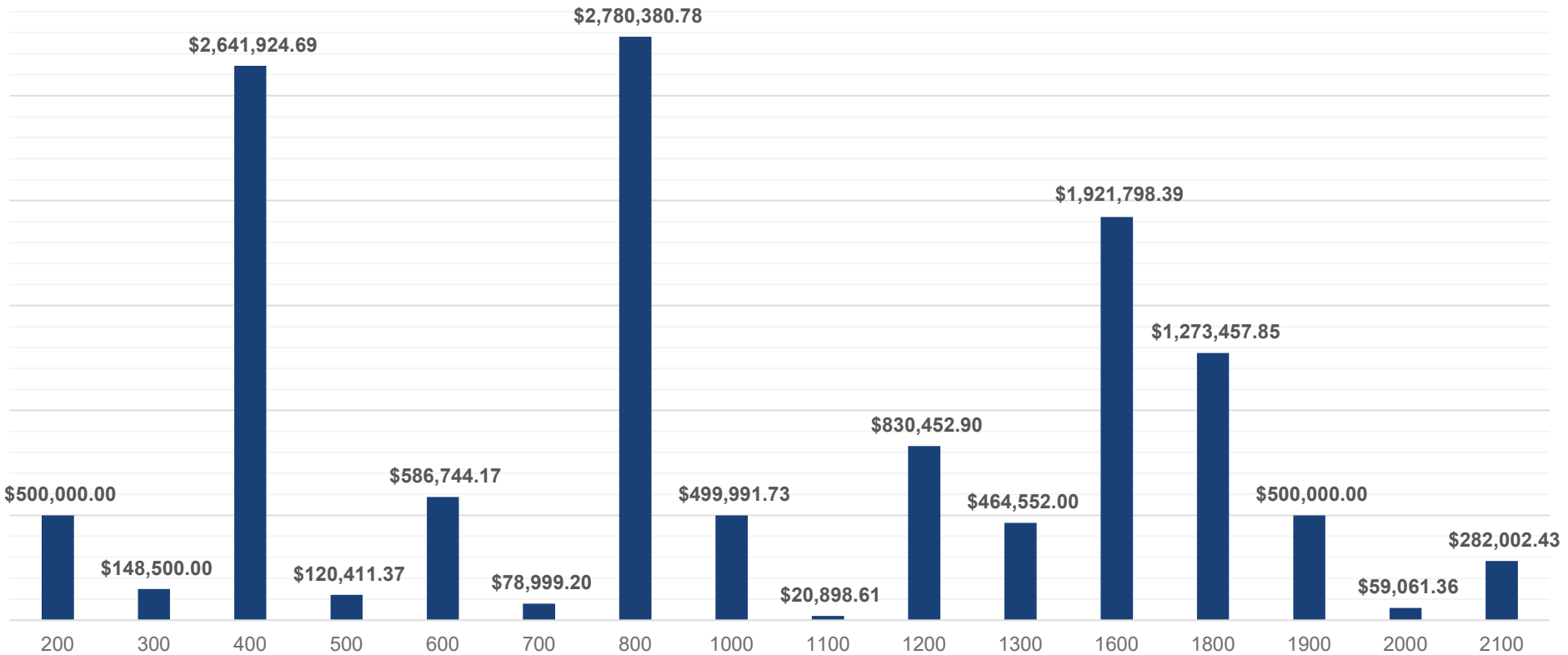
SCIP Updates

- 66 eligible projects submitted
- 50 projects funded
- 10% Administrative costs limit



Federal Justice Updates

SCIP Totals by Region



Federal Justice Updates

SLCGP Updates

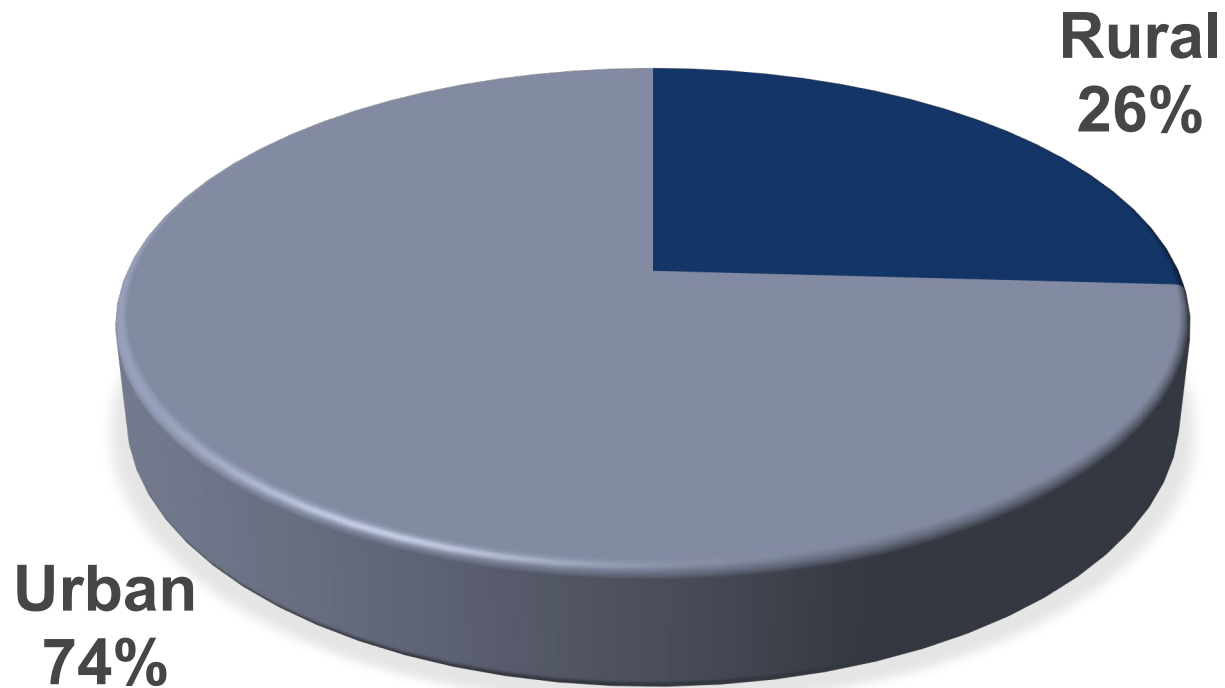
- 198 eligible projects submitted
- 125 projects funded; Total Investment: \$8.07M
- FY 2026 - \$16.5 M for projects, match increased to 20%
- Projects start dates must be after FEMA/CISA approval
- Multiple applications can be submitted by a single agency under one or more RFA



Federal Justice Updates

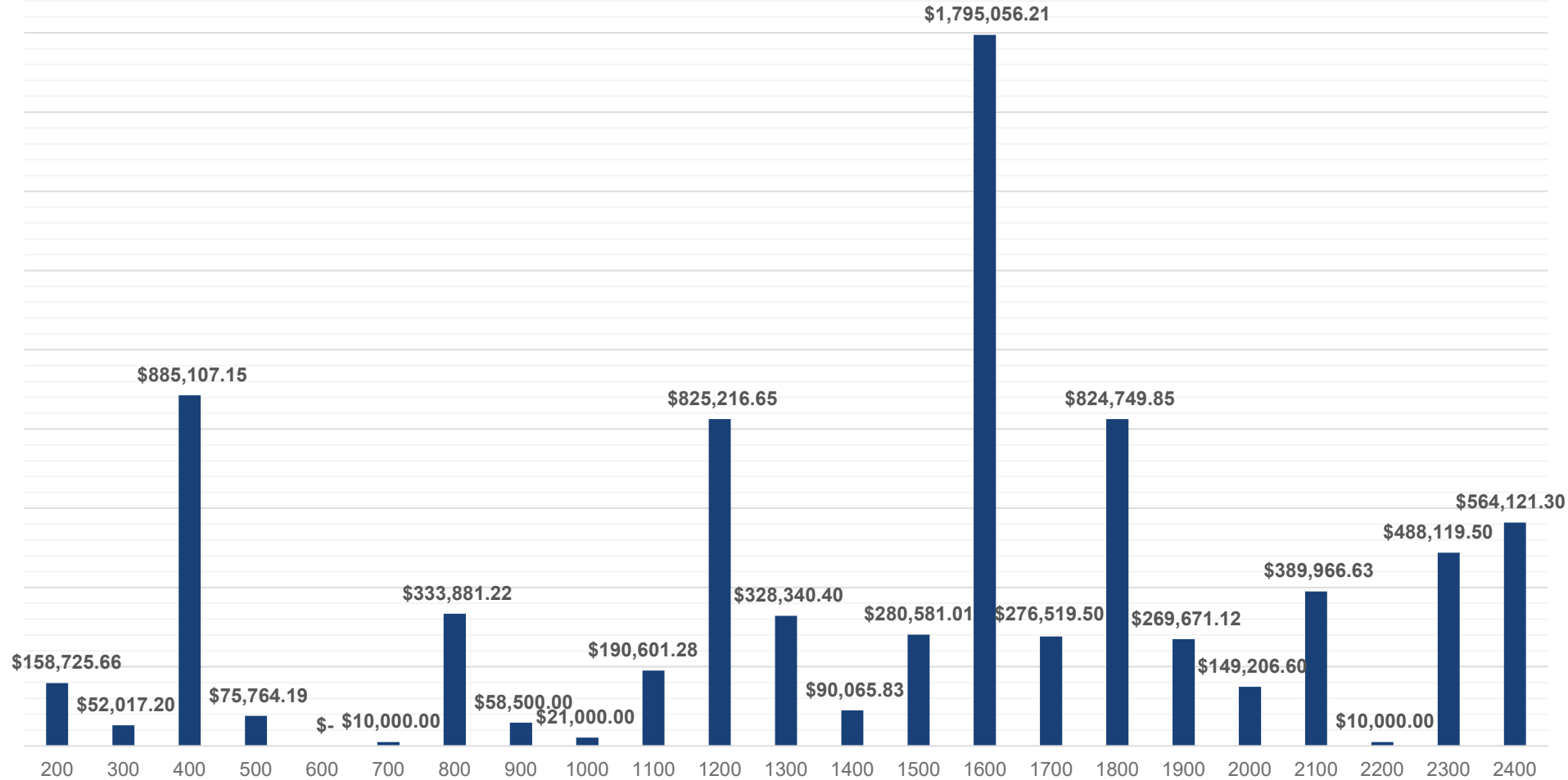
SLCGP Updates

SLCGP FUNDING



Federal Justice Updates

SLCGP Funding by Region





Alyssa Smith

Administrator, Federal Justice Programs Team

alyssa.smith@gov.texas.gov

512-463-8409

State Justice Updates

421 Account Funding

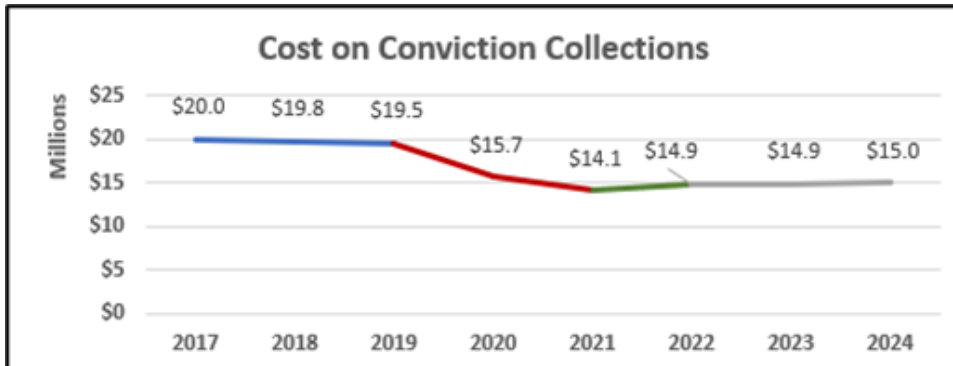


State of Texas Cash Activity (Cash Drilldown) Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

[Main Menu](#) | [Back to Activity by Object - FY 2025](#)

Activity for Object 3704 - Court Costs
Fund 0421 - Criminal Justice Planning
Agency 300 - Governor - Fiscal
 Fiscal Year 2025 activity September 1, 2024 - January 31, 2025
 Prior fiscal years September 1 - August 31

[Download to Excel](#)



Fiscal Year	Revenue	Expenditures	Net Activity
2025	4,300,566.17	0.00	4,300,566.17
2024	15,060,783.58	0.00	15,060,783.58
2023	14,906,259.52	0.00	14,906,259.52
2022	14,917,096.16	0.00	14,917,096.16
2021	14,193,978.92	0.00	14,193,978.92
2020	15,721,910.27	0.00	15,721,910.27
2019	19,560,350.83	0.00	19,560,350.83
2018	19,871,549.31	0.00	19,871,549.31
2017	20,085,155.43	0.00	20,085,155.43
2016	21,225,146.72	0.00	21,225,146.72
2015	21,681,734.61	0.00	21,681,734.61
2014	22,960,769.26	0.00	22,960,769.26
2013	23,657,725.16	0.00	23,657,725.16
2012	23,460,410.82	0.00	23,460,410.82
2011	166,833.77	0.00	166,833.77
2010	126,330.20	0.00	126,330.20
2009	110,480.50	0.00	110,480.50
2008	113,513.56	0.00	113,513.56
2007	112,150.49	0.00	112,150.49
2006	93,902.59	0.00	93,902.59
2005	75,857.95	0.00	75,857.95
2004	54,342.47	0.00	54,342.47
2003	29,754.82	0.00	29,754.82
2002	6,958.61	0.00	6,958.61



State Justice Updates

421 Account Funding

**Activity for Object 3704 - Court Costs
Fund 0421 - Criminal Justice Planning
Agency 300 - Governor - Fiscal**
Fiscal Year 2024 - By Month

[Download to Excel](#)

Month	Revenue	Expenditures	Net Activity
September	14.15	0.00	14.15
October	16.15	0.00	16.15
November	3,517,423.75	0.00	3,517,423.75
December	3,812,616.30	0.00	3,812,616.30
January	3,906,490.13	0.00	3,906,490.13
February	7,190,808.53	0.00	7,190,808.53
March	7,215,077.00	0.00	7,215,077.00
April	7,280,381.32	0.00	7,280,381.32
May	11,160,520.25	0.00	11,160,520.25
June	11,227,305.07	0.00	11,227,305.07
July	11,384,753.26	0.00	11,384,753.26
August	15,060,783.58	0.00	15,060,783.58

**Activity for Object 3704 - Court Costs
Fund 0421 - Criminal Justice Planning
Agency 300 - Governor - Fiscal**
Fiscal Year 2025 - By Month

[Download to Excel](#)

Month	Revenue	Expenditures	Net Activity
September	114,395.96	0.00	114,395.96
October	450,915.96	0.00	450,915.96
November	4,046,160.08	0.00	4,046,160.08
December	4,151,421.56	0.00	4,151,421.56
January	4,300,566.17	0.00	4,300,566.17

- Total collections for 2024 ~ \$15M
- 2025 collections on track to meet similar 2024 amounts ~ \$15M



State Justice Updates

LE Academies Funding Cap

	2024	2025	Totals
Sub Awards	\$18.6M	\$7.1M	\$25.7M
Internal Set Asides	\$3M	\$3.4M	\$6.4M
	\$21.6M	\$10.5M	\$32.1M

- Collection totals ~ \$30M in the 2024-2025 biennium.
- Assuming collections remain around \$30M for the 2026-2027 biennium, LE Academy funding cap will need to remain.





Chelssie Lopez

Administrator, State Justice Programs Team

chelssie.lopez@gov.texas.gov

512-463-8398

HSGP Updates

General Updates

- FEMA has not released any updates for the FY 2025 HSGP.
- New DHS and FEMA leadership will be the decision makers on any changes.
- No decisions on National Priority Areas. FEMA GPD will be presenting new FEMA/DHS leadership on feedback and recommendation from SAAs.
- No appropriation for the FY 2025 programs have been made. Continuing resolution runs to March 14th.
- FEMA cannot release a NOFO until an appropriation is signed.
- The PSO will make consideration of regional prioritizations if FEMA make changes to NPA and LETPA guidance for FY 2025 if needed.
- Any details on programmatic changes will be shared as they are made known to the PSO.



Questions?

Thank You!