



# Office of the Governor, Public Safety Office Criminal Justice Division Funding Announcement: *Crime Stoppers Assistance Fund, FY2021*

## **Purpose**

The Office of the Governor's Criminal Justice Division (CJD) seeks to strategically support, expand, and fund local certified Texas Crime Stoppers organizations that help protect our communities.

## **Available Funding**

State funding is authorized for these projects under Article 102.013, Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, which designates CJD as the administering agency. The source of funding is a biennial appropriation by the Texas Legislature from funds collected through court costs and fees. It is anticipated that up to \$500,000 will be funded in this announcement.

## **Eligible Organizations**

Applications may be submitted by organizations defined in Section 414.001(2) of the Texas Government Code as certified by the Texas Crime Stoppers Council. These organizations are certified to receive repayments under Articles 37.073 and 42.152 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, or payments from a defendant under Article 42.12 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure. Section 414.001(2) of the Texas Government Code defines a "crime stoppers organization" as:

- 1) a private, nonprofit organization that is operated on a local or statewide level, that accepts donations and expends funds for rewards to persons who submit tips under Section 414.0015(a), and that forwards the information received from tips to the appropriate law enforcement agency, school district, or open-enrollment charter school; or
- 2) a public organization that is operated on a local or statewide level, that pays rewards to persons who submit tips under Section 414.0015(a), and that forwards the information received from tips to the appropriate law enforcement agency, school district, or open-enrollment charter school.

Priority will be given to state agencies, conference and training hosts, local organizations, campus organizations, and organizations that support or seek to initiate campus programs.

## **Application Process**

Applicants must access the PSO's eGrants grant management website at <https://eGrants.gov.texas.gov> to register and apply for funding.

## Key Dates

Action	Date
Funding Announcement Release	12/13/2019
Online System Opening Date	12/13/2019
Final Date to Submit and Certify an Application	02/27/2020 at 5:00pm CST
Earliest Project Start Date	09/01/2020

## Project Period

Projects must begin on or after 09/01/2020 and may not exceed a 12-month project period.

## Funding Levels

Minimum request is \$2,500.

Maximum request is:

- Up to \$10,000 for certified Crime Stoppers organizations.
- Up to \$15,000 for certified Crime Stoppers organizations that support or seek to initiate both an adult (standard) crime stoppers tipline/program and a campus tipline/program.
- Crime Stoppers organizations preselected and approved by Texas Crime Stoppers to host either the annual Crime Stoppers conference or the annual Campus Crime Stoppers conference may apply for up to \$50,000 to fund reasonable and actual costs associated with hosting the conference.

Match Requirement: None

## Standards

Grantees must comply with standards applicable to this fund source cited in the State Uniform Grant Management Standards ([UGMS](#)), [Federal Uniform Grant Guidance](#), and all statutes, requirements, and guidelines applicable to this funding.

## Eligible Activities and Costs

The following list of eligible activities and costs apply generally to all certified Crime Stoppers organizations under this announcement.

1. Training, professional development, or technical assistance received including travel to Texas Crime Stoppers Council approved trainings;
2. Contractual and professional services;
3. Salaries for non-law enforcement staff directly employed by non-profit crime stoppers programs;
4. Supplies (including equipment under \$5,000.00) and direct operating expenses (including up to \$500 for Directors and Officers liability insurance);
5. Advertising and public relations costs intrinsic to or promoting crime stoppers programs; and
6. Computerized tip management software.

## Program-Specific Requirements

Crime Stoppers organizations should procure, operate, and maintain a tip management system which receives information from individuals. The system must guarantee anonymity, must forward the information to the appropriate agency, pay rewards and provide statistical reports.

In order to strengthen and promote school safety, Crime Stoppers organizations who receive grant funded assistance must make a demonstrated good faith effort to expand or initiate a campus Crime Stopper program to public, private, or charter school campuses. Resources and information on how to operate a campus Crime Stoppers program is available from CJD.

## Project Narrative

Guidance on specific sections of the eGrants application's Narrative tab:

- **Project Abstract:** Summarize information in the other project narrative boxes. Do not offer general information or statistics about the program or the served community.
- **Problem Statement:** Describe the unmet need that funding will allow to be addressed.
- **Supporting Data:** Enter "N/A".
- **Project Approach and Activities:** Follow prompt. Applicants wishing to initiate a campus crime stoppers program should detail their timeline and plan.
- **Capacity and Capabilities:** Enter "N/A".
- **Performance Management:** Enter "N/A".
- **Target Group:** Applicants operating or initiating a campus crime stoppers program should list the campuses to be served and the total number of students in each grade level.
- **Evidence-Based Practices:** Enter "N/A".

## Budget

For project budgets, only multiples of identical items should be grouped into one line-item. Different expenses, trainings, events, etc., must be broken out into separate line-items.

## Eligibility Requirements

1. Entities receiving funds from CJD must be located in a county that has an average of 90% or above on both adult and juvenile dispositions entered into the computerized criminal history database maintained by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) as directed in the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Chapter 66. The disposition completeness percentage is defined as the percentage of arrest charges a county reports to DPS for which a disposition has been subsequently reported and entered into the computerized criminal history system.
2. Eligible applicants must have a DUNS (Data Universal Numbering System) number assigned to its agency (to request a DUNS number, go to <https://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>).
3. Eligible applicants must have submitted the 2019 Probation Fee and Repayment Report (PFRR) to Texas Crime Stoppers by January 31, 2020.
4. Eligible applicants must submit required Statistics Reports in the format and manner prescribed by CJD.

Failure to comply with program eligibility requirements may cause funds to be withheld and/or suspension or termination of grant funds.

## Prohibitions

Grant funds may not be used to support the unallowable costs listed in the [Guide to Grants](#) or any of the following unallowable costs:

1. Salaries for law enforcement coordinators or other public employees who support crime stoppers programs as part of any current employment;
2. Construction, renovation, or remodeling;
3. Medical services;
4. Fundraising;
5. Promotional gifts;
6. Law enforcement equipment that is standard department issue;
7. Entertainment, including amusement, diversion, social activities, and any associated costs (i.e. tickets to shows and sports events, meals, lodging, rentals, transportation, and gratuities) unless there is a clear programmatic purpose and the costs are approved in advance by CJD; and
8. Any other prohibition imposed by federal, state or local law or regulation.

## Selection Process

Applications will be reviewed by PSO staff members and/or a review group selected by the executive director. PSO will make all final funding decisions based on eligibility, reasonableness, availability of funding, cost-effectiveness, state priorities and strategies, and/or other relevant factors.

Additionally, preference will be given to any of the following:

- Projects that support the organization's campus program expansion efforts.
- Projects that support participation in the annual conferences.
- Projects that support information systems such as tip management software, answering services, phone service, or web hosting services.
- Financial need of the organization based on Annual Probation Fee and Repayment Report (PFRR).

## Contact Information

For more information, contact the eGrants help desk at [eGrants@gov.texas.gov](mailto:eGrants@gov.texas.gov) or (512) 463-1919.