

AACOG CJ Grant Workshop

FY 2026

Mandatory CJ Grant Workshop

- **TODAY**: December 17, 2024
- PURPOSE: to ensure CJD applicants are educated on the AACOG and OOG grants process
- GOAL: to ensure that all CJD applicants in the region go through the AACOG process, receive favorable reviews, and are recommended for funding
- *NOTE* An individual may not attend the grant workshop representing more than one agency in a single funding stream. A contract grant writer may attend the workshop, but a member of the contracting agency's staff must also attend.



Workshop Topics

- COG
- Federal Civil Rights Compliance
- Materials
- Timeline/Process
- Submittal Process DUE Date:
- RFA's & eGrants Introduction
- Scoring Process for new or renewal projects

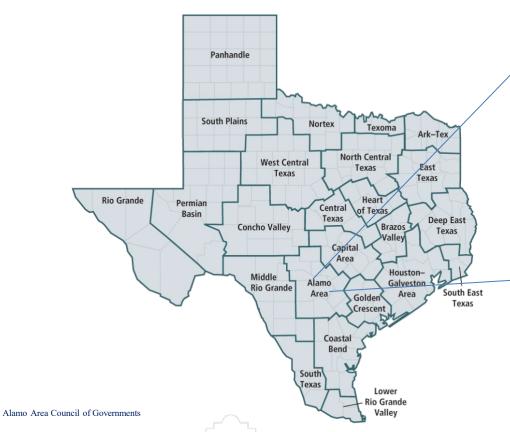


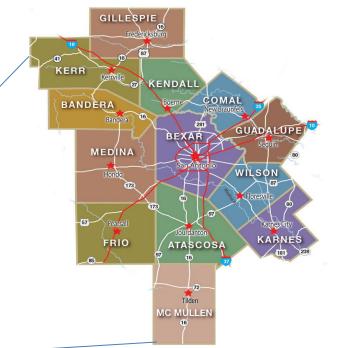
Criminal Justice Grant World

- AACOG Alamo Area Council of Governments
- OOG Office of the Governor
- PSO Public Safety Office
- CJAC Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (Scorers, Reviewers, Readers)
- eGrants OOG's online application and grant management system (egrants.gov)
- NextZen COG's online applicant Grant Summary Form and CJAC Score Tool Platform



AACOG 13 County Region







Federal Civil Rights Compliance

Protects

- Race
- Color
- National Origin
- Sex
- Gender
- Sexual Orientation

- Religion
- Disability
- Age



Federal Civil Rights Laws

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (race, color, national origin)
- Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (race, color, national origin, religion, disability, sex)
- Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (sex in educational programs)
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (disability)
- Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (age)
- Titles I, II, and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (disability)



Program Specific Statues

- Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (Safe Streets Act)
- Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)
- Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)



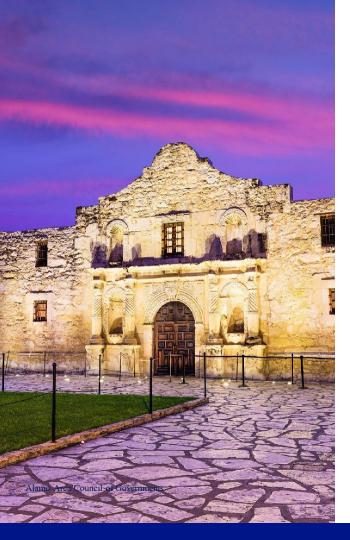
Persons with Limited English Proficiency

- Free aids and services to communicate effectively with persons with disabilities
- Free language services to ensure meaningful access to programs and activities

Compliance

- All projects must comply with Civil Rights Laws
- Applies to all operations of organization
- Cross Cutting Statutes apply to all Federal funding





Questions?

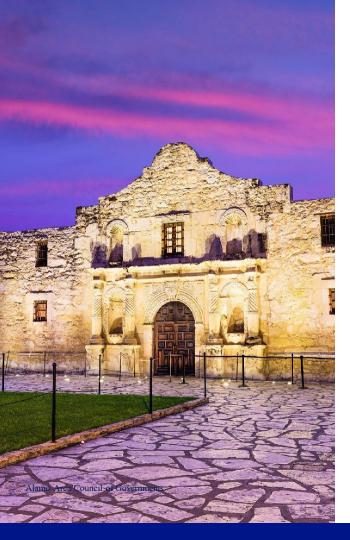


Your Materials

FY2026 Grant Materials

- Applicant Timeline/Calendar
- CJAC Guidelines
- Workshop Acknowledgement Form to be collected at the end of the workshop
- Grant Workshop Things to Remember





Timeline/Process

Application Timeline

AACOG's CJD EVENT	<u>Date</u>
AACOG CJ Grant Workshops	Dec. 17 th , 2024 -1pm – 4pm & January 14 th , 2025 - 9am – 12pm
Grant Summary Form opens in NextZen	January 23 rd , 2025 – 8:00 AM
Deadline for applicants to submit and certify applications in eGrants	February 13 th , 2025 – 5:00 PM
Deadline for AACOG Grant Summary Form	February 17 th , 2025 – 5:00 PM
CJAC members receive access to applications in to begin reviewing	March 2025 TBD by OOG – 8:00 AM
Applicants present to CJAC for scoring and ranking	April 8^{th} 9^{th} & 10^{th} 2025 – 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM
AACOG Staff presents scoring, ranking, and recommended funding amounts to AACOG BoD for final approval	April 23 rd , 2025 – 10:00 AM
AACOG Staff submits scoring, ranking, and recommended funding amounts in eGrants	May 9 th , 2025 – 5:00 PM

Grantee Steps





OOG Grant Opportunities

- ALERT Travel Assistance
- Body-Worn Camera Grant
- Bullet-Resistance Shield Grant
- Community-Based Services for Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth
- County Essential Services Grant
- County Solutions to Address Commercial Sexual Exploitation
- Crime Stoppers Assistance
- Criminal Justice Grant Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)
- District Attorney Testing of Forensic Evidence Grant
- First Responder Mental Health Grant
- General Victim Assistance (VOCA)
- Internet Crimes Against Children Grant
- Juvenile Justice & Truancy Prevention Grant (JJDP-SF & JJDP-TP)
- Paul Coverdell Forensic Services
 Improvement Grant

- Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant
- Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Grant
- Rifle Resistant Body Armor Grant
- Sexual Assault Evidence Testing Grant
- Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (SAFE)-Ready Facilities Grant
- Specialized Advocacy for Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth
- Specialty Courts Grant
- State Homeland Security Grants (Multiple Categories)
- Statewide Solutions to Address Commercial Sexual Exploitation
- Texas model for Care Coordination
- Violence Against Women & Training (VAWA)

https://egrants.gov.texas.gov/fundingopp



Justice-Related Categories Prioritized by AACOG

- Criminal Justice Grant Program Justice Assistant Grant (JAG): Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program
- General Victim Assistance: Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (VOCA)
- Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention State Funding: (JJDP-SF)
- Truancy Prevention Grant Program: (JJDP-TP)
- Violence Against Women Act of 2013 (VAWA)



OOG Grant Guides and Resources

Grant Guides

- Funding Opportunities/Annoucements/RFA's: https://egrants.gov.texas.gov/fundingopp
- OOG Resources:
 https://egrants.gov.texas.gov/resources



eGrants Registration Guide – Nov. 2020 eGrants User Guide to Creating an Application – Dec. 2020

Developing a Good Project Narrative Guide – May 2019 PSO Guide to Grants – Oct. 2024

Grant Resources

- eGrants Resources Page
- Texas Grant Management Standards (TxGMS)
- DOJ Grants Financial Guide
- Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 200
- Texas Administrative Code (TAC)

Familiarize yourself with the CJAC Grant Application Guidelines located on AACOG's Agency Website: https://aacog.gov/public-safety



Grant Summary Form (GSF)

- *** This form is Mandatory ***
- Applicants who do not submit a GSF results in an unfavorable review
- Includes questions on your project's goals, budget, etc. which hold criteria that is scored – do not leave a question blank.
- The NextZen Platform opens January 23rd, 2025 An invitation link will be emailed to all workshop participants and will be listed on the AACOG website until the submission deadline date.
- GSFs are due to AACOG by 5 p.m. on February 17th,2025 via AACOG's NextZen platform.

CJAC Guidelines

CJAC Requirements for an application to receive favorable review:

- Agency staff representative must attend at least one AACOG Grant Workshop – Dec. 17th, 2024, or January 14th, 2025 – Registration link emailed or can be found on the AACOG website.
- Submit only one application per agency/department per Funding
 Stream/RFA in eGrants.
 Opens

 December 16th, 2024 & Deadline is: February 13th, 2025, no later than 5:00 PM
- Complete and submit AACOG's Grant Summary Form in NextZen.
 Deadline: February 17th, 2025, no later than 5:00 PM
- Attend and Present project at the CJAC Scoring and Prioritization Meeting:
 Mandatory In-Person Only April 8th, 9th, & 10th, 2025

CJAC Guidelines Cont'd...

*** Applicants that DO NOT MEET one of these requirements will receive an unfavorable review but may still be recommended for funding. Applicants that DO NOT MEET two or more requirements WILL receive an UNFAVORABLE REVIEW and WILL NOT be recommended for funding. ***

Other Grant Materials

- 2026 Funding Opportunities (Requests for Applications (RFAs)) –
 VOCA, VAWA, JJDP, TP, and JAG
- Criminal Justice Strategic Plan
- CJAC Bylaws
- Instructional videos/guidance
- Grant Workshop slides

All Grant Materials Can Be Found on the Agency Website at:

<u>AACOG Public Safety</u>





Requests for Applications (RFAs)

Information Found on an RFA

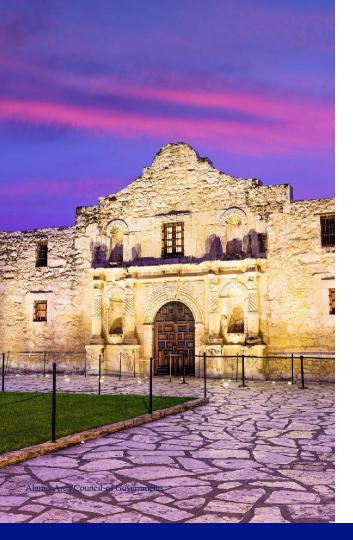
- The purpose of the program
- Sources of funding
- Eligible Organizations
- Application Process
- Key Dates

- Funding Levels
- Eligible Activities and Costs
- Eligibility Requirements
- Prohibitions
- Selection Process



RFA Locations

- Funding Opportunities on eGrants website:
 FY2026 Funding Opportunities
- AACOG Criminal Justice Website: FY2026 Grant Materials



General Victims Assistance Grant Program VOCA

Purpose

Provide services and assistance directly to victims of crime to speed their recovery and aid them through the criminal justice process.

- Responding to the emotional and physical needs of crime victims;
- Assisting victims in stabilizing their lives after a victimization;
- Assisting victims to understand and participate in the criminal justice system; and
- Providing victims with safety and security.



Purpose

- This solicitation is for programs seeking to provide general victim services to broad categories of victim populations that may include victims of commercial sexual exploitation or trafficking, including emergency and long-term residential (shelter) for children and transition-age youth as well as drop-in centers.
- Information about other related funding opportunities is provided below and the *Funding Opportunities* tab of the eGrants Homepage.
- Specialized Advocacy for Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth, FY2026. Projects to support advocacy services for children and transitioned-aged youth within the CSEY Advocacy Model.
- Texas Model for Care Coordination, FY2026. The purpose of this funding is to support programs to implement the Texas Model for Care Coordination for Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth (CSEY)
- Applying agencies for funds to support a CASA or Children's Advocacy Center program support must apply through Texas CASA, Inc. or CACTx



Available Funding

Funding is authorized for these projects under the following sources:

- Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (VOCA) (34 U.S.C. §20103) VOCA Funds are made available through a Congressional appropriation to the U.S.
 Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime.
- State funds are authorized under SB30, Section 2.26 passed during the 88th regular session for Trusteed Programs within the OOG.
- All awards are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and any modifications and or additional requirements that may be imposed by law.



Eligible Organizations

- State agencies
- Public & private non-profit institutions of higher education
- ISD
- Native American tribes
- COGs
- Non-profit corporations including hospitals and faith-based organizations
- Units of Local Government which are defined as a non-statewide governmental body with authority to establish a budget and impose taxes (includes hospital districts). Other local governmental agencies should apply through an associated unit of local government.



Application Process

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

- For eligible local and regional projects:
- Applicants must contact their applicable Regional Council of Governments (COG) regarding their application.
- Each of Texas' 24 COGs holds its own application planning workshops, workgroups, and/or subcommittees and facilitates application prioritization for certain programs within it's region.
 Failure to comply with regional requirements imposed by the COG may render an application ineligible.
- 2. State agencies, and other organizations proposing projects with a statewide impact, may submit applications directly to the Governor's Public Safety Office (PSO).
- Applicants are required to submit fully developed and detailed grant budgets at the time of application, PSO will not accept placeholder applications and/or budget line items in lieu of a well written and detailed grant application.
- Non-Profit applicants are limited to a single application per agency, and all other eligible organizations are limited to one application per unit, district, or division.

Alamo Area Council of Governments

Key Dates/Project Period

Key Dates:

- Funding announcement release: 12/16/2024
- Online System Opening Date: 12/16/2024
- Final Date to Submit and Certify an Application:
 02/13/2025 no later than 5:00PM CST
- Earliest Project Start Date: 10/01/2025

Project Period:

 Projects may not exceed 12 months and must begin on or after 10/1/2025 and expire on or before 9/30/2026



Funding Levels

- Minimum: \$10,000
- OOG Maximum: None
- CJAC Recommended Budget Caps: <u>See Guidelines</u>
- Match Requirement: 20% of the total project will be required for the FY26 grant cycle (See Page 17-19 of Guide to Grants in eGrants.gov to learn about Match)



VOCA Match Info.

- 20% of the TOTAL project cost can be met through cash or inkind contributions
- Matching funds are considered grant funds and may only be used for eligible, approved budget items
- Matching funds may be acquired during the grant period (Oct. 1st,2025 to Sept. 30th, 2026)
- Donations must be received during the grant period to be eligible as in-kind match
- If you exceed the match requirement and your project is awarded, you will be held to the higher amount.



VOCA Match Info...Cont'd.

 You must provide source(s) of in-kind and cash match on the eGrants budget tab *Source of Match subtab*.

NOTE eGrants does not calculate the match amount for you. When you submit the application the errors section of eGrants will alert you if the match is not met.



Calculating VOCA Match

2 Step Formula & Three examples

Total request is \$80,000

- Step 1. Determine the Total Project Cost by dividing the Amount of PSO Funds Requested by the % PSO can pay.
 - ***** \$80,000/.80 = \$100,000
- Step 2. Determine the Minimum match REQUIRED by multiplying the total project cost by the % of Match Required
 - * \$100,000 X 20% = \$20,000 Required match

Total request is \$100,000

- Step 1. Determine the Total Project Cost by dividing the Amount of PSO Funds Requested by the % PSO can pay.
 - * \$100,000/.80 = \$125,000
- Step 2. Determine the Minimum match REQUIRED by multiplying the total project cost by the % of Match Required
 - * \$125,000 X 20% = \$25,000 Required match

Calculating VOCA Match Cont'd...

Total request is \$500,000

- Step 1. Determine the Total Project Cost by dividing the Amount of PSO Funds Requested by the % PSO can pay.
 - * \$100,000/.80 = \$625,000
- Step 2. Determine the Minimum match REQUIRED by multiplying the total project cost by the % of Match Required
 - * \$625,000 X 20% = \$125,000 Required match

OOG Guide to Grants pages 18 and 19 go over Matching Contributions



Eligible Activities

General eligible activities and costs:

- Crisis Services
- Forensic Interviews
- Legal Advocacy
- Multi-Disciplinary Teams and Case Coordination
- Peer Support Groups



Eligible Activities Cont'd...

- Professional Therapy and Counseling
- Protective Order Assistance
- Shelter Programs
- Transitional Housing
- Victim-Offender Meetings
- Victim Notification Systems



Eligible Activities Cont'd...

- Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth (CSEY) Residential and Community Based Services
- Community-Based Drop-in Centers
- Emergency Residential Placements
- Long-Term Residential Placements
- Innovative Direct Services for Commercially Sexually Exploited youth

Note 1: 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. These applications will be scored and prioritized by the Regional Councils of Governments (COGs) as part of the General Victim Assistance program. Please be sure to contact your local COG for information on local COG policies, eligibility requirements, and deadlines for Fiscal Year 2026 General Victim Assistance funding. Failure to abide by COG policies may render your application ineligible.

Note 2: related to hospital accompaniment with sexual assault survivors: In accordance with Art. 56A.351, Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, a victim shall be offered the opportunity to have a sexual assault program advocate available during a sexual assault forensic exam. Sec. 420.051, Texas Government Code defines a sexual assault program advocate as an individual who has completed a sexual assault training program certified by the attorney general and is an employee or volunteer of a sexual assault program.

Alamo Area Council of Governments

Program Specific Requirements

All projects under this funding announcement must meet these requirements:

- Cultural Competency
- Victim Services Assessment Survey
- Special Requirements for Vehicle Purchases



Prohibitions

Grant funds may not be used to support the unallowable costs listed in the Guide to Grants or any unallowable costs

General Standards

Grantees must comply with:

- Texas Grant Management Standards (TxGMS)
- Federal Uniform Grant Guidance
- All statutes, requirements, and guidelines applicable to their funding stream



Eligibility Requirements

- Local units of governments Cybersecurity Training requirements
- In a county with 90% average or above on dispositions
- Report at least 90% of convictions within 5 business days
- LE- Current on reporting UCR (Uniform Crime Reporting) data and TX specific reporting to DPS (Case Disposition for Adult and Juvenile)
- Comply with the programs and procedures utilized by DHS (Dept. of Homeland Security)



Eligibility Requirements

- Must have a SAM number assigned to agency
- Registered in the federal SAM database
- Link to obtain a DUNS Number
- Link to obtain SAM number

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



Eligibility Requirements Cont'd.

Units of local government and colleges/universities with law enforcement agencies:

- Download, complete, and upload into eGrants the CEO/Law Enforcement Certifications and Assurances Form
- See RFAs



Eligibility Requirements

501(c)(3) organizations:

- Download, complete, and upload into eGrants the CEO/NGO Certifications and Assurances Form
- See RFA for VOCA



Program-Specific Requirements

Program-Specific Requirements are outlined in each funding stream's RFA:

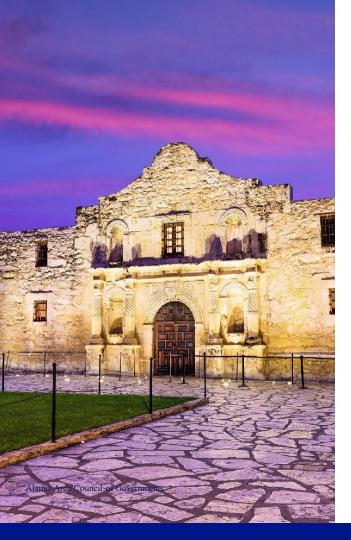
- VOCA Cultural competency, victim services assessment survey, special requirements for vehicle purchases
- VAWA Legal Assistance for Victims (LAV) Certification,
 State Priority Areas



Eligible Activities and Costs

- Each RFA details the funding specific eligible activities and costs
- Each RFA also details prohibited activities and costs





Criminal Justice Strategic Plan

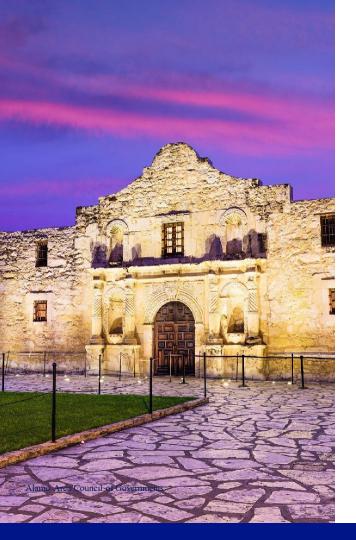
Criminal Justice Strategic Plan

- Available on AACOG Website <u>here</u>
- Outlines regional priorities, which are used as scoring elements during CJAC application scoring and prioritization
- Identifies gaps in services across the region
- Reviewed/revised every few years to ensure that the region's priorities change with local trends and demographic shifts

Regional Strategic Priorities

- Applications should address one or more Regional Strategic Priorities identified by the community
- Applicants will identify the priorities they address in the Grant Summary Form
- Priorities are available on the AACOG website, in the Criminal Justice Strategic Plan (pg. 4)





Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC)

Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC)

- 37 Members (13 from Bexar County and 2 from each rural county)
- Establishes grant application guidelines
- Reviews and evaluates grant applications
- Makes funding recommendations to the AACOG Board of Directors for approval

CJAC Bylaws

- Governing document for the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee
- Reviewed annually; all changes approved by AACOG Board of Directors
- Available on the AACOG Website under Public Safety





Application Review Process

Scoring Meetings

- Will be entirely in-person
- All grant programs present during their allotted time TBD by AACOG staff based on number of applicants per funding stream – you will be contacted with an agenda showing the date and time of your presentation. Can also be found online.
- Applicants will receive a schedule with their timeslot; please arrive 45 minutes to an hour before your presentation time in case we are running ahead of schedule, or an applicant does not show to present their project
- Applicants will receive unfavorable review if absent
- As with Grant Workshop, a representative from the applying agency must be present – contract grant writers cannot represent the agency alone



Applicant Presentations

- Presentations may be no more than 3 minutes
- An agency staff representative must present the project proposal presentation on the day of scoring.
- *A contracted grant writer may not present on behalf of the agency applying for grant funds*
- If your project is a combined effort in the community via interlocal agreement <u>– the applying agency on record</u> is required to present the project proposal
- No visual aids allowed
- You are Encouraged to include multiple employees for Q&A

Application Scoring Areas

- Collaboration (GSF)
- Regional Priorities (GSF)
- Sustainability (GSF)
- Narrative
- Presentation
- Budget (application and GSF)
- JAG Equipment Only: Requests limited to single project and/or package of related items



Grant Review Process

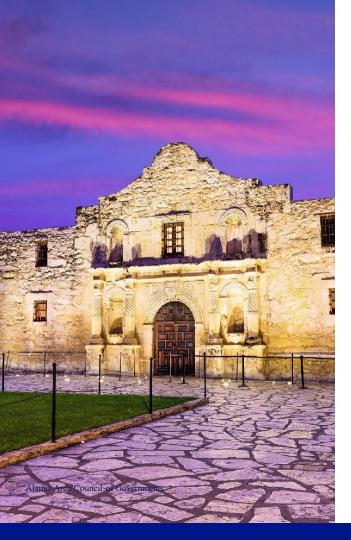
- CJD batches eligible applications to AACOG; COG Staff will assign NextZen GSF submissions to CJAC members while identifying conflicts of interest
- CJAC scores applications and determines recommended funding amounts
- AACOG BOD reviews and approves ranks
- AACOG provides CJD approved priority listings
- CJD reviews and determines final funding decisions



Ranking Meeting Process

- 1. CJAC members review grants and score each application as presented
- 2. Staff formats the scores and provides final scores to CJAC
- CJAC reviews and approves prioritization and makes final decision based on reasonable budget expectations and other factors
- 4. AACOG Board of Directors will review, approve and send it to the Governor's Office





Application Budget Reductions

Reasonable Budget Expectations (RBEs)

- AACOG Staff will receive RBEs in March 2025
- VOCA funding is anticipated to receive a 20% decrease for the upcoming fiscal year however, the OOG is requesting more federal dollars to cover any decrease.
- OOG may override regional prioritizations and funding recommendations based on programmatic requirements at the state and federal level

FY 2025 RBEs and Allocations

FY2025	RBE	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
VOCA	\$9,861,274.32	\$11,128,784.66	\$9,883,389.32
VAWA	\$617,851.72	\$ 374,445.47	\$ 374,445.47
JAG	\$992,501.99	\$1,859,439.52	\$992,501.99
JJDP	\$ 267,309.57	\$ 574,955.77	\$ 270,006.87
JJDP - TP	\$1,151,947.04	\$ 1,780,184.42	\$1,160,220.72

Recommended Budget Caps

- JAG: \$75,000 maximum request from OOG; Non-profits \$50,000 maximum request from OOG
- **JJDP**: \$50,000 from OOG
- <u>Truancy Prevention</u>: \$350,000 voluntary maximum request from OOG for all program requests, Continuation projects exceeding last years
 <u>AWARD</u> by 20% must provide justification at your presentation.
- VAWA: \$150,000 maximum request from OOG
- <u>VOCA</u>: \$250,000 voluntary maximum request for new program requests; Continuation projects may exceed last year's award by 20% if all funds were expended the previous grant year. (Eligibility for a 20% increase requires applying agency to have completed expending full year's award by September 30, 2024).

Alamo Area Council of Governments

Budget Reductions

- The CJAC reserves the right to recommend a reduced budget for any project.
- The CJAC will determine decreases on the day of grant presentations to holistically guage all grant applicants for each funding stream based on presentations, grant summary forms, RBE, and amount applied for in each funding stream.

New Projects

New projects must follow all eligibility requirements to qualify as a new project as established by the Office of the Governor.



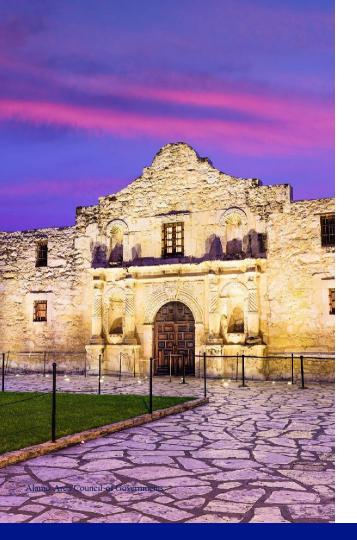
Continuation Projects

- Applicants will be asked to self-identify their projects as continuation projects on their GSF; eGrants will indicate whether a project is a continuation.
- All continuation projects will not exceed last year's request; Budgets will be reduced to meet previous year's request



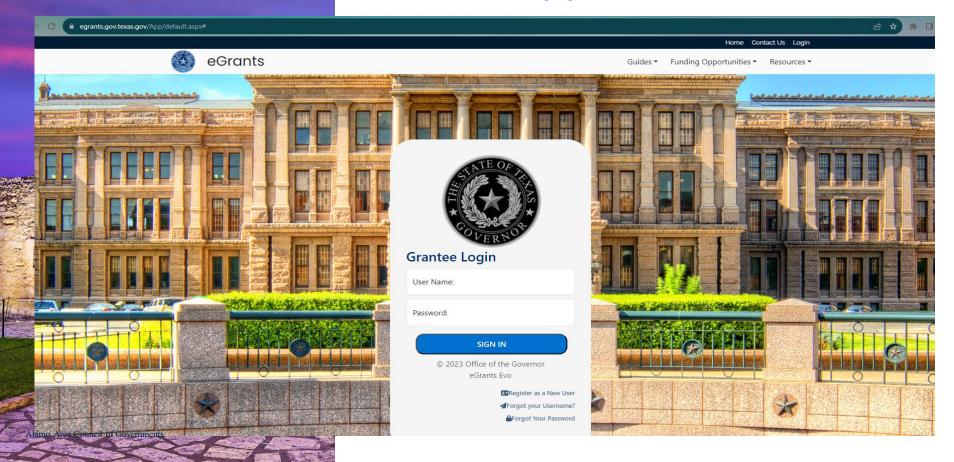
Review Summary

- CJAC reviews for quality and rank by guidelines & priorities identified in the strategic plan
- CJAC may recommend reduced funding
- Failure to comply with regional requirements imposed by the COG/CJAC may render an application ineligible, unfavorable, or recommended with a reduced budget



Submitting your application in eGrants

eGrants Application



ALL eGrants Applications

Submission Deadline

Thursday, February 13, 2025

No Later Than: 5:00pm



Application Submission Process

- Go to eGrants website at: <u>eGrants</u>
- All FY26 New, Renewal and Non-Competing Continuation Projects: Submit grant applications via eGrants system. If your new Get a Login for you and your authorized officials and an agency SAM # first.
- New Projects and Renewal Projects to be scored: In addition to eGrants must submit applicable AACOG Grant Summary Forms by February 17th, 2025, by 5:00pm CST via NextZen Portal Platform – Link to access will be emailed January 23rd.

Alamo Area Council of Governments

CERTIFY * CERTIFY * CERTIFY!!!

- After the Grant Writer hits "Submit" in eGrants, the Authorized Official must log into eGrants and "Certify" each application before the PSO accepts it
- The certification MUST be done no later than the deadline time 5:00pm on February 13th, 2025.
- Applications that are not certified by the deadline time will be deemed ineligible by the OOG.

For Assistance....

- Grant Managers
- eGrants Helpdesk
- AACOG CJ Planner





Questions?

Grant Workshop Acknowledgement Form

- Acknowledging your participation today and that you understand the state and regional application process
- Photograph for your records
- ***Return the signed physical copy to AACOG Staff
 TODAY before leaving the workshop today.***

Grant Writing Training

Grant Writing Training will be held in San Antonio, Texas
January 28th-29th, 2025
Hosted by United way of San Antonio & Bexar County

Tuition is normally \$495; however, register now and enter the discount code HOLIDAY and you will receive a \$50 discount. Register as part of a group of three (3) or more and automatically receive and additional \$50 off.

Grant Writing USA Event List

eGrants 101Training

eGrants Training will be offered by the OOG throughout the upcoming year. Please continue to check the link below for the next trainings being offered.

eGrants 101 Training



Contact Information

AACOG

- Cami Goldspink, Criminal Justice Planner: cgoldspink@aacog.com, 210-710-2619
- Criminal Justice General Inbox: cjusticeplanning@aacog.com



Contact Information

eGrants

- eGrants Help Desk Phone: 512-463-1919
- eGrants Help Desk Email: <u>eGrants@gov.texas.gov</u>
- Contact Us: eGrants Contact Us Page

