

Name:

# Body-Worn Camera Grant Program, FY2025

Available

12/11/2023

Due Date

02/08/2024

## Purpose:

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The purpose of this announcement is to solicit applications from law enforcement agencies to equip peace officers with body-worn cameras.

## Available Funding:

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State funds for these projects are authorized under the Texas General Appropriations Act, Article I, Rider 35 for Trusteed Programs within the Office of the Governor. All awards are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law. The Public Safety Office (PSO) expects to make available \$10M for FY2025.

## Eligible Organizations:

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Applications may be submitted by the Texas Department of Public Safety, municipalities, and counties that operate law enforcement agencies employing peace officers under Article 2.12, Texas Code of Criminal Procedure.

All applications submitted by local law enforcement agencies/offices must be submitted by a unit of government affiliated with the agency, including an authorizing resolution from that unit of government. For example, police departments must apply under their municipal government, and community supervision and corrections departments, district attorneys, and judicial districts must apply through their affiliated county government (or one of the counties, in the case of agencies that serve more than one county).

## Application Process:

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

## Key Dates:

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Action	Date
Funding Anouncement Release	12/11/2023

Online System Opening Date	12/11/2023
Final Date to Submit and Certify an Application	02/08/2024 at 5:00PM CST
Earliest Project Start Date	09/01/2024

## Project Period:

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Projects must begin on or after 09/01/2024 and may not exceed a 12 month project period.

## Funding Levels

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Minimum: None

Maximum: None

Match Requirement: 25%

## Standards

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

## Eligible Activities and Costs

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Funds may be used for obtaining body-worn cameras, digital video storage, and retrieval systems or cloud-based services. Subscriptions and/or leasing services that fall within the 12-month performance period are eligible.

## Program-Specific Requirements

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**Eligible officers.** Pursuant to Sec. 1701.652, Occupations Code, grant funds may only be used to equip peace officers (as defined by Article 2.12, Texas Code of Criminal Procedure) who:

1. Engage in traffic or highway patrol or otherwise regularly detain or stop motor vehicles; or
2. Primary responders who respond directly to calls for assistance from the public.

**Policy.** Pursuant to Sec. 1701.655, Occupations Code, a law enforcement agency that receives a grant to provide body worn cameras to its peace officers or that otherwise operates a body worn camera program shall adopt a policy for the use of body worn cameras. The policy must ensure that a body worn camera is activated only for a law enforcement purpose and must include:

1. Guidelines for when a peace officer should activate a camera or discontinue a recording currently in progress, considering the need for privacy in certain situations and at certain locations.
2. Provisions relating to data retention, including a provision requiring the retention of video for a minimum period of 90 days.
3. Provisions relating to storage of video and audio, creation of backup copies of the video and audio, and maintenance of data security.
4. Guidelines for public access, through open records requests, to recordings that are public information.
5. Provisions entitling an officer to access any recording of an incident involving the officer before the officer is required to make a statement about the incident.
6. Procedures for supervisory or internal review.
7. The handling and documenting of equipment and malfunctions of equipment.
8. Consistent with the Federal Rules of Evidence and Texas Rules of Evidence.

The policy may not require a peace officer to keep a body worn camera activated for the entire period of the officer's shift.

**Training.** Pursuant to Sec. 1701.656, Occupations Code, a law enforcement agency must provide training to:

1. Peace officers who will wear the body worn cameras.
2. Any other personnel who will come into contact with video and audio data obtained from the use of body worn cameras.

**Reporting.** Pursuant to Sec. 1701.653, Occupations Code, a law enforcement agency shall annually report to the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) regarding the costs of implementing a body worn camera program, including all known equipment costs and costs for data storage.

## Eligibility Requirements

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1. 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 Governments](#). 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.

2. Entities receiving funds from PSO 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.

Counties applying for grant awards from the Office of the Governor must commit that the county will report at least 90 percent of convictions within five business days to the Criminal Justice Information System at the Department of Public Safety

3. 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.

4. 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 DPS's 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.

5. 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 OOG and is active until August 31, 2025 or the end of the grant period, whichever is later.

6. Eligible applicants must be registered in the federal System for Award Management (SAM) database and have an UEI (Unique Entity ID) number assigned to its agency (to get registered in the SAM database and request an UEI number, go to <https://sam.gov/>).

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

## Prohibitions

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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. Any costs ancillary to the purchase of body-worn cameras, video storage, and retrieval systems or cloud-based services such as policy development, training costs, and staff;
2. Any in-car cameras and/or service agreements for in-car camera software; and
3. Any other prohibition imposed by federal, state or local law or regulation.

## Selection Process

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**Application Screening:** The Office of the Governor will screen all applications to ensure that they meet the requirements included in the funding announcement.

**Peer/Merit Review:** The Office of the Governor will review applications to understand the overall demand for the program and for significant variations in costs per item. After this review, the Office of the Governor will determine if all eligible applications can be funded based on funds available, if there are cost-effectiveness benefits to normalizing or setting limits on the range of costs, and if other fair share cuts may allow for broader distribution and a higher number of projects while still remaining effective.

**Final Decisions:** The Office of the Governor will make all final funding decisions based on eligibility, reasonableness, availability of funding, geographic distribution, cost effectiveness, or other relevant factors.

The Office of the Governor may not fund all applications or may only award part of the amount requested. In the event that funding requests exceed available funds, the Office of the Governor may revise projects to address a more limited focus.

## Contact Information

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

Total Funds

**\$10 Million**