

**Agency Name:** Grayson County  
**Grant/App:** 1344927 **Start Date:** 9/1/2024 **End Date:** 8/31/2025  
**Project Title:** Domestic Violence Investigator Program

### **Profile Information**

**Applicant Agency Name:** Grayson County  
**Project Title:** Domestic Violence Investigator Program  
**Division or Unit to Administer the Project:** Grayson County District Attorney's Office  
**Address Line 1:** 200 South Crockett, Suite 116A  
**City/State/Zip:** Sherman Texas 75090-7167

### **Narrative Information**

The Domestic Violence Investigator with the District Attorney's office maintains cultural sensitivity while working with all victims during the recovery process. Victim restoration begins with the first contact. The Domestic Violence Investigator has many hours of training in victim sensitivity issues including culture, race, religion, age, and gender issues among others. The Domestic Violence Investigator recognizes that each victim is different with different needs, feelings, ideas and barriers, and the services provided must be relevant to the needs of the community. The investigator is a 10 year United States Army Veteran and has been involved with law enforcement since 1994 and is therefore knowledgeable of the cultural issues faced by the victims he serves.

Our program works to improve the Criminal Justice response to victims of violence against women by contacting the victim at the earliest possible point in the criminal justice process attempting to keep the victim engaged in the process, and ensuring their safety. The follow-up provided by the the Investigator ensures that the victim is informed of the rights afforded them by law and that the defendant will be held accountable for their actions. The Investigator is aware of the cultural issues that are or may be present in some cases and is ever mindful of working within the framework of those issues.

### **Project Abstract :**

The Grayson County Domestic Violence Investigator will ensure that misdemeanor and felony cases of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Dating Violence and Stalking are investigated and prepared with adequate information for prosecution, provide victims 13 years of age and over assistance in participation in the criminal justice system, and provide referral to the Victim Services Division for assistance with Crime Victims Compensation, Protective Orders or other victim related matters and/or referrals. According to the Stats kept by the Grayson County District Attorney's Office , in 2022, there were 701 incidents of family violence filed by law enforcement within Grayson County's 143,131 population. The Domestic Violence Investigator investigated 417 cases of Family Violence provided to the District Attorney's office by the 13 law enforcement agencies in Grayson County from September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023. 111 of those were felonies and 281 were misdemeanors. The goal of the Domestic Violence Investigator Program is to provide investigative services to all adult female victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Dating Violence and Stalking to assist in the successful prosecution of offenders and to ensure adult female victims are afforded the rights granted by Article 56.02 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure. The Grayson County District Attorney's Office Domestic Violence Investigator program will provide investigative services to all female victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Dating Violence and Stalking within the 139,336

population of Grayson County, ages 13 years and up. Functions of the position include: interview victim/witnesses, assist prosecutors with scheduling witnesses for trial, contacting witnesses and provide security for victims/witnesses during criminal proceedings, provide information to victims concerning crime victims compensation and protective orders, referring victims to the victim services coordinators and to other area agencies and services when appropriate.

### **Problem Statement :**

Criminal cases of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, and Dating Violence are not adequately investigated and prepared for prosecution in Grayson County's 143,131 population. Female victims 13 years of age and over need assistance with information concerning participating in the criminal justice system, making good decisions regarding prosecution, as well as, information on Crime Victims Compensation, Protective Orders and other Victim related matters and/or area agencies or services. Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, and Stalking cases require information to be gathered at the beginning of the case for prosecutors to determine the cases place in the system, and someone to contact the victim to determine if that victim is willing to participate in the prosecution of the case.

### **Supporting Data :**

According to the 2022 Crimes in Texas report published by the Texas Department of Public Safety, law enforcement agencies in Grayson County reported 877 incidents of Domestic Violence or calls for service in the 2022 fiscal year for it's 143,141 population. There were 86 reported sexual assaults and no data on stalking. Sexual assaults are always mixed with all assaults including child cases and sometimes Burglary of a Habitation Intending other Felony. From September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023 the Domestic Violence Investigator conducted investigations on 417 cases 111 were felonies and 281 were misdemeanors. These cases include dating violence and we are beginning to include stalking as well, but this data does not include stalking cases. There were 30 sexual assault cases investigated and 13 cases of stalking during this time period. The Domestic Violence Investigator was out of the office on Family Medical Leave Act from February until May of 2022. I am unable to provide the statistics investigated by others within our office during this time frame.

### **Project Approach & Activities:**

The Grayson County District Attorney's Office participates in the Texoma Council of Governments regional community planning process in all focus areas and specifically in the area of victim services. The Domestic Violence Investigator Program project addresses the number one priority for prosecution projects by supporting and responding to violence against women. This project continues the development of a specialized Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Dating Violence and Stalking victim services division within the prosecutor's office. The Investigator in this program dedicates his time to locating and contacting victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, and Stalking, gathering demographic as well as case specific information including determining if medical records need to be obtained from a medical center, if there has been past violence, if the victim and defendant are still together, what the relationship is, and if the victim wishes to pursue prosecution. This information is vital to prosecutors who file the cases. Every effort is made to contact a victim including the Investigator physically attempting to locate. The Investigator also serves subpoenas, marshals witnesses at criminal hearings when necessary, provides

criminal history checks on defendants and witnesses, obtains any records necessary for the case and other duties that may be required for such cases or the program.

### **Capacity & Capabilities:**

The Domestic Violence Investigator program has maintained the same general structure during its entire history - covering the same geographical area (Grayson County) and with the same hierarchy. The Domestic Violence Investigator reports to the District Attorney and the First Assistant District Attorney. The Investigator is a United States Army Veteran and has 29 years law enforcement experience. The Investigator will remain up to date on all training hours necessary, especially in the areas of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, and Stalking.

### **Performance Management :**

The Domestic Violence Investigator program's goal is to ensure that all cases of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, and Stalking cases filed in our office by the 13 law enforcement agencies that serve Grayson County's 143,131 population are properly investigated and prosecuted, and that all victims of such crimes are given appropriate resources and the rights guaranteed by Chapter 56 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure. The Domestic Violence Investigator will dedicate his time to contacting female victims aged 13 and above, gathering demographic and permanent contact information to enhance the prosecution on approximately 450 total cases for the 2024 fiscal year on the cases provided by law enforcement by August 31, 2024. The Domestic Investigator will track the number of cases filed by law enforcement, the number of cases he investigates, the number referred for prosecution, and the number of cases prosecuted in both felony and misdemeanor courts.

### **Target Group :**

The Domestic Violence Investigator Program provides investigative services on all cases of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, and Stalking involving female victims age 13 years and over in Grayson County's 143,131 population. Cases are submitted from 13 law enforcement agencies, as well as the two college campuses and the Texas Rangers. In the 2021 fiscal year, the Domestic Violence Investigator provided services to 463 victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, and Stalking cases. As of the date of this writing 149 cases have been investigated. Spanish speaking victims are assisted by personnel in our office or certified interpreters and other challenges are handled on a case by case basis to ensure all needs of victims are met. There is not a specific population of persons that are investigated by the investigator as the cases brought for investigation are provided by law enforcement. All races, religions, genders, and gender identities, ages above 13 years of age are served by our investigator. In the 2024 fiscal year the Domestic violence Investigator intends to provide services to 450 female victims of all races, religions, genders and gender identities, ages above 13 years of age in Grayson County.

### **Evidence-Based Practices:**

The Grayson County District Attorney's Office designed the Domestic Violence Investigator Program out of a need to provide vital information to prosecutors in cases of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, and Stalking cases. Initial contact with victims within 10 days of receiving the offense report, and maintaining the most current demographic and permanent contact information is paramount to successful prosecutions of

these cases. We have found that if we can make contact with those victims at the earliest possible time after the offense, gather her information, defendant information, including criminal history and prior bad acts, the better chance of not only keeping that victim engaged but also assisting her in making a change in her life and a successful prosecution. Our current records show our investigator has investigated 393 cases from January 1, 2022 to August 31,2022 and from September 1, 2022 to December 31,2022 he has investigated cases forwarding 171 of those cases to be prosecuted which includes cases from before the December 31,2022 date.

**Project Activities Information**

**Selected Project Activities:**

<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE:</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
Investigation	100.00	The Domestic Violence Investigator, Terry Syler provides investigative services in the Grayson County District Attorney's office including; interviewing victim/witnesses; criminal history checks; marshaling witnesses; victim contact; records retrieval; filing class C cases; and providing information and referral as well as assisting in getting arrest warrants issued.

<b>Type of Crime</b>	<b>Percent of Funds Dedicated to Crime Enter whole percentages only</b>	<b>Funds Dedicated to Crime Current Award x Percent Entered</b>
Child Physical Abuse	0	\$0.00
Child Sexual Abuse	0	\$0.00
Domestic and Family Violence	98	\$34,508.74
Child Sexual Assault	0	\$0.00
Adult Sexual Assault	2	\$704.26
DUI/DWI Crashes	0	\$0.00
DUI/DWI Crashes	0	\$0.00
Assault	0	\$0.00
Adults Molested As Children	0	\$0.00
Elder Abuse	0	\$0.00
Robbery	0	\$0.00
Survivors of Homicide	0	\$0.00
Adult Human Trafficking	0	\$0.00
Child Human Trafficking	0	\$0.00

Other Violent Crimes	0	\$0.00	
Description:			
Other Non-Violent Crimes	0	\$0.00	
Description:			
SUM of %'s Sum of % MUST = 100%	100	SUM of Funds Sum of Funds MUST = OOG Current Budget	\$35,213.00

### Budget Details Information

#### Budget Information by Budget Line Item:

CATEGORY	SUB CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	GPI	TOTAL	UNIT/%
Personnel	Certified Peace Officer - All Others	Domestic Violence Investigator Terry Syler provides investigative services in Grayson County District Attorney's Office investigating VAWA eligible crimes, which are domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Terry Syler's current salary is \$66,750.00 and his benefits are \$30,479 (benefits include FICA, Health Insurance, Retirement, Unemployment, and Workers Compensation. (Also includes a 5% salary and benefit increase as required by our commissioners	\$35,213.00	\$62,016.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$97,229.00	100

**Source of Match Information**

**Detail Source of Match/GPI:**

<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>MATCH TYPE</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Grayson County General Fund	Cash Match	\$62,016.00

**Summary Source of Match/GPI:**

<b>Total Report</b>	<b>Cash Match</b>	<b>In Kind</b>	<b>GPI Federal Share</b>	<b>GPI State Share</b>
\$62,016.00	\$62,016.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

**Budget Summary Information**

**Budget Summary Information by Budget Category:**

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>OOG</b>	<b>CASH MATCH</b>	<b>IN-KIND MATCH</b>	<b>GPI</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Personnel	\$35,213.00	\$62,016.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$97,229.00

**Budget Grand Total Information:**

<b>OOG</b>	<b>CASH MATCH</b>	<b>IN-KIND MATCH</b>	<b>GPI</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
\$35,213.00	\$62,016.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$97,229.00

**Condition Of Fundings Information**

<b>Condition of Funding / Project Requirement</b>	<b>Date Created</b>	<b>Date Met</b>	<b>Hold Funds</b>	<b>Hold Line Item Funds</b>
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