

Agency Name: Fannin County

Grant/App: 5737701 **Start Date:** 10/1/2026 **End Date:** 9/30/2027

Fund Source: DJ-Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program

Project Title: Increase Technological Capabilities to Prosecute and Prevent Violent Crimes Against Children

Status: Application - Release Review to Applicant **Fund Block:** 2025

Profile Information

Applicant Agency Name: Fannin County

Project Title: Increase Technological Capabilities to Prosecute and Prevent Violent Crimes Against Children

Division or Unit to Administer the Project: Fannin County Criminal District Attorneys Office

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Start Date: 10/1/2026

End Date: 9/30/2027

Grant Officials:

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Narrative Information

Project Abstract:

The Fannin County Criminal District Attorney's Office is seeking Criminal Justice Grant Program funding to acquire Cellebrite digital forensic technology to support the investigation and prosecution of violent crimes, with a primary focus on child sexual assault cases. As the prosecuting authority for all criminal cases in Fannin County, the Office works closely with local law enforcement agencies to ensure that offenders who commit serious violent crimes are held accountable and that victims receive timely justice. Child sexual assault cases increasingly rely on digital evidence found on mobile phones and other electronic devices. Offenders often use these devices to communicate with victims, store images or videos, and coordinate criminal activity. Without the ability to quickly and lawfully access this evidence, investigations and prosecutions can be delayed, increasing the risk of re-victimization and allowing dangerous offenders to remain in the community. This project will enhance the Office's ability to analyze digital evidence in-house, reduce delays associated with external forensic processing, and strengthen cases presented to grand juries and courts. By improving access to critical digital evidence, the project will help expedite violent crime prosecutions, improve outcomes in child sexual assault cases, and enhance public safety.

throughout Fannin County. Funding for this project will directly support the Criminal Justice Grant Program's goal of reducing violent crime and improving the effectiveness of the criminal justice system through targeted, technology-driven solutions.

Problem Statement:

The prosecution of violent crimes in Fannin County, particularly child sexual assault cases, has become increasingly dependent on timely access to digital evidence contained on mobile phones and other electronic devices. As the prosecuting authority for all criminal cases in the county, the Fannin County Criminal District Attorney's Office is responsible for ensuring that violent offenders are held accountable and that victims—especially children—are protected through swift and effective prosecution. However, the growing complexity of digital evidence presents a significant challenge to the timely resolution of these cases. Child sexual assault is a violent crime that frequently involves the use of digital devices to facilitate grooming, coercion, exploitation, and the concealment of criminal activity. Mobile phones often contain critical evidence such as communications between offenders and victims, images or videos of abuse, location data, and information identifying additional victims. Despite the central role of this evidence, the Office currently lacks the in-house capability to efficiently access and analyze encrypted or locked devices. Without dedicated digital forensic technology, seized devices must be processed through limited external resources, resulting in delays in evidence review, charging decisions, and case progression. These delays can hinder investigations, prolong trauma for child victims, and allow dangerous offenders to remain in the community while cases are pending. Additionally, the inability to quickly analyze digital evidence can negatively impact prosecutorial decision-making, weaken cases presented to grand juries and courts, and strain partnerships with local law enforcement agencies that rely on the District Attorney's Office for guidance and case support. As the volume of digital evidence in violent crime cases continues to increase, the current workflow is no longer sufficient to meet prosecutorial demands. The absence of in-house digital forensic capability limits the Office's ability to reduce evidence backlogs, respond promptly to investigative needs, and effectively prosecute offenders who commit serious crimes against children. Addressing this gap is critical to improving the criminal justice system's response to violent crime, enhancing public safety, and ensuring justice for the most vulnerable victims in Fannin County.

Supporting Data:

Recent FBI Crime Data Explorer statistics show that over the past five years (2019–2023), Fannin County recorded 210 violent crime incidents, of those 10 to 15 percent were reported rapes or sexual assaults of children as part of local violent crime totals. Although overall violent crime rates in Fannin County are slightly below national averages, these figures represent real cases requiring thorough investigation and prosecution, particularly those involving sexual violence. Local law enforcement agencies — including the Fannin County Sheriff's Office, Constables Precincts 1, 2, and 3, and municipal police departments in Bonham, Honey Grove, Savoy, Ector, Leonard, and Trenton — regularly seize mobile phones and other digital devices during investigations of violent offenses. Prosecutorial case records show that digital evidence is frequently essential to these investigations, especially in sexual assault cases involving child victims. Because the Fannin County Criminal District Attorney's Office currently lacks in-house digital forensic capability, these devices must be sent to external resources for extraction and analysis, often causing significant delays in prosecutorial review and case progression. These delays can impede charging decisions, slow case preparation, and reduce the timeliness of presenting complete evidence to grand juries and courts, prolonging trauma for victims and delaying justice for families. Supporting data for this project will be drawn from local prosecutorial intake records, law enforcement referrals, and evidence handling logs maintained by the Criminal District Attorney's Office

and partner agencies in Fannin County. Together, this data demonstrates that violent and sexual crimes persist within the county and that timely access to digital evidence is crucial to effective prosecution and improved outcomes for victims.

Project Approach & Activities:

The Fannin County Criminal District Attorney's Office will implement a structured, technology-driven approach to improve the investigation and prosecution of violent crimes, with a primary focus on child sexual assault cases. This approach directly addresses the identified problem of delayed access to critical digital evidence by establishing in-house digital forensic capabilities that support timely prosecutorial review and case progression.

Methodology The project's methodology centers on integrating validated digital forensic technology into existing prosecutorial and investigative workflows. Mobile phones and other electronic devices are frequently seized during child sexual assault investigations and often contain essential evidence such as communications, images, videos, and location data. The project will utilize Cellebrite digital forensic tools to lawfully access, extract, and analyze data from these devices in accordance with legal standards, chain of custody requirements, and best practices for handling sensitive evidence.

Key Activities

Acquisition and Implementation of Digital Forensic Technology The Office will acquire Cellebrite digital forensic technology to enable in-house extraction and analysis of data from seized electronic devices. This capability will reduce reliance on external forensic resources and allow prosecutors and investigators to access critical evidence more efficiently.

Training and Skill Development Designated prosecutors and investigators will receive appropriate training to ensure proper and ethical use of the technology. Training will focus on lawful extraction methods, evidence integrity, documentation, and the effective use of digital evidence in charging decisions and courtroom proceedings.

Integration into Prosecutorial Workflow Digital forensic processing will be incorporated into standard case review procedures for violent crimes involving child victims. Devices will be analyzed as early as legally permissible to support timely charging decisions, improve grand jury presentations, and strengthen trial preparation.

Enhanced Collaboration with Law Enforcement Partners The Criminal District Attorney's Office will continue to work closely with local law enforcement agencies in Fannin County by providing timely prosecutorial guidance informed by digital forensic analysis. Improved access to digital evidence will allow for more efficient coordination during investigations and support multi-agency case development.

Ongoing Monitoring and Quality Control Supervisory staff will oversee the use of digital forensic technology to ensure compliance with legal standards, evidence handling requirements, and grant objectives. Project activities will be monitored throughout the grant period to ensure consistency with performance goals and to address workflow challenges as they arise.

Connection to the Identified Problem This approach directly addresses delays in digital evidence processing that currently hinder the prosecution of violent crimes against children. By establishing in-house digital forensic capabilities, the Criminal District Attorney's Office will reduce evidence backlogs, expedite prosecutorial review, and strengthen cases presented to grand juries and courts. These activities are expected to improve case outcomes, reduce the time offenders remain at liberty during investigations, and enhance public safety across Fannin County.

Capacity & Capabilities:

The Fannin County Criminal District Attorney's Office is the designated prosecutorial authority for all felony and misdemeanor criminal cases arising within Fannin County, Texas. The Office is responsible for prosecuting violent crimes, including child sexual assault and sexual exploitation cases, and works closely with local law enforcement agencies to ensure thorough investigations and effective case outcomes. This countywide role positions the Office to implement and oversee projects that directly enhance the investigation and

prosecution of serious violent offenses. The Office is staffed with experienced prosecutors and investigators who routinely handle complex cases involving digital evidence. Personnel regularly review, analyze, and present electronic communications, images, videos, and other digital materials in grand jury proceedings and at trial. The proposed project will build upon existing investigative and prosecutorial expertise by adding specialized digital forensic technology that enhances current workflows rather than requiring the creation of new or untested processes. Grant oversight and project implementation will be managed by qualified supervisory staff within the Criminal District Attorney's Office with experience in evidence handling, case management, and compliance with grant requirements. Designated personnel will be responsible for coordinating technology acquisition, overseeing training, and ensuring that digital evidence is processed in accordance with legal standards, chain of custody requirements, and best practices for handling sensitive evidence in child sexual assault cases. The Office maintains strong collaborative partnerships with local law enforcement agencies operating within Fannin County. These agencies rely on the Criminal District Attorney's Office for prosecutorial guidance, case review, and evidence assessment, particularly in violent crime investigations involving child victims. The addition of in-house digital forensic capability will further strengthen these partnerships by allowing for more timely evidence review, improved coordination during investigations, and more efficient case progression. The Criminal District Attorney's Office also works in coordination with victim services providers and the courts to ensure that child victims receive appropriate support throughout the prosecution process. These established relationships support a multidisciplinary approach to violent crime prosecution and will remain integral to the successful implementation of this project. The Office has the organizational structure, experienced personnel, and collaborative partnerships necessary to effectively implement the proposed project. By integrating Cellebrite digital forensic technology into existing prosecutorial operations, the Fannin County Criminal District Attorney's Office will enhance its capacity to prosecute violent crimes against children, reduce delays associated with digital evidence processing, and improve public safety outcomes across the county.

Performance Management:

The Fannin County Criminal District Attorney's Office will use a structured performance management approach to measure the effectiveness of this project in improving the prosecution of violent crimes, with a primary focus on child sexual assault cases. Project success will be evaluated through clearly defined goals, measurable objectives, and ongoing data collection throughout the grant period. Project Goal The primary goal of this project is to strengthen the investigation and prosecution of violent crimes against children by improving the Criminal District Attorney's Office's ability to access, analyze, and utilize digital evidence in a timely and efficient manner. Objectives and Strategies Objective 1: Increase in-house capacity to process digital evidence in violent crime cases. Strategy: The Office will implement Cellebrite digital forensic technology to allow trained personnel to extract and analyze data from seized mobile devices associated with child sexual assault and other violent crime investigations. This will reduce reliance on external forensic resources and improve case processing efficiency. Objective 2: Reduce delays in prosecutorial review of digital evidence. Strategy: Digital devices will be processed using Cellebrite technology as early as legally permissible following seizure. Faster access to digital evidence will support earlier charging decisions, improved case preparation, and more complete presentations to grand juries and trial courts. Objective 3: Improve prosecutorial outcomes in violent child sexual assault cases. Strategy: By enhancing access to critical digital evidence, prosecutors will be better equipped to identify corroborating evidence, uncover additional victims, and present stronger, more comprehensive cases, leading to improved case resolutions. Data Collection and Tracking The Criminal District Attorney's Office will collect and track project performance data using existing internal systems and records, including prosecutorial case management systems, evidence logs,

training records, and investigative documentation. Data will be maintained in accordance with applicable records retention laws and confidentiality requirements, particularly those governing child victim cases. Performance measures will include, but are not limited to: Number of digital devices processed using Cellebrite technology Time elapsed between device seizure and prosecutorial review Number of child sexual assault and violent crime cases supported by digital forensic analysis Number of staff trained and actively utilizing the technology Case outcomes such as charges filed, cases accepted for prosecution, and case dispositions Designated supervisory staff will be responsible for monitoring performance data on a regular basis to ensure project objectives are being met. Data will be reviewed throughout the grant period to identify trends, address workflow challenges, and make necessary adjustments to project implementation. This ongoing performance management process will ensure that grant-funded resources are used effectively and that the project remains aligned with the Criminal Justice Grant Program's goals of reducing violent crime and improving the criminal justice system.

Target Group:

The target group for this project consists of law enforcement agencies and school district police partners operating within Fannin County, Texas, as well as the prosecutors and investigators of the Fannin County Criminal District Attorney's Office who support violent crime prosecutions. The project is designed to enhance the Office's ability to provide prosecutorial support and digital evidence analysis in violent crime cases, particularly child sexual assault investigations, for all agencies within its jurisdiction. Primary beneficiary agencies include the following Fannin County law enforcement entities: Fannin County Sheriff's Office Fannin County Constables Precincts 1, 2, and 3 Bonham Police Department Honey Grove Police Department Savoy Police Department Ector Police Department Leonard Police Department Trenton Police Department The project will also support investigations involving school-based offenses and child victims through collaboration with independent school district police and administrative partners, including: Bonham Independent School District Honey Grove Independent School District Dodd City Independent School District Sam Rayburn Independent School District Leonard Independent School District Trenton Independent School District Through these partnerships, the Criminal District Attorney's Office will provide enhanced prosecutorial review and digital evidence analysis for cases involving violent crimes against children, including offenses that originate on school campuses or involve juvenile victims. While services will not be provided directly to the public, the project will benefit child victims, families, and the broader community by supporting timely investigations, reducing delays in prosecution, and improving case outcomes. By strengthening digital forensic capacity at the prosecutorial level, this project will serve all participating agencies in Fannin County by improving access to critical evidence, enhancing interagency collaboration, and increasing the effectiveness of violent crime prosecutions throughout the county.

Evidence-Based Practices:

The methods and activities proposed under this project are grounded in established research and widely accepted best practices related to violent crime investigation and prosecution, particularly cases involving child sexual assault and digital evidence. As criminal activity increasingly involves the use of mobile phones and electronic communications, national research and professional standards recognize digital forensics as a critical component of effective criminal justice responses to violent crime. Research published in peer-reviewed forensic science and criminal justice journals indicates that digital evidence is present in the vast majority of modern criminal cases, including violent offenses. Studies have found that mobile devices often contain critical information such as communications, images, location data, and metadata that are essential for corroborating

victim statements, identifying additional victims, and linking offenders to criminal conduct. Best practices in digital forensics emphasize the importance of timely, lawful access to electronic devices and the use of validated forensic tools to ensure evidence integrity, chain of custody, and admissibility in court. The U.S. Department of Justice and the National Institute of Justice have consistently identified digital evidence collection and analysis as a core capability for effective violent crime investigation and prosecution. NIJ-supported research highlights that delays in accessing digital evidence can negatively affect investigative outcomes, prolong victim trauma, and reduce the effectiveness of prosecutions, particularly in child sexual assault cases where digital communications often form the foundation of the evidentiary record. Professional standards in digital forensics further support the use of specialized, industry-recognized tools and trained personnel to process electronic devices. The use of validated forensic technology allows prosecutors and investigators to manage large volumes of data efficiently, identify relevant evidence more quickly, and reduce evidence backlogs. These practices align with national recommendations to improve case processing efficiency and strengthen outcomes in serious and violent crime cases. The proposed project applies these evidence-based and promising practices by integrating proven digital forensic methods into the prosecutorial workflow of the Fannin County Criminal District Attorney’s Office. While the specific implementation is tailored to local needs, the underlying approach—enhancing in-house digital forensic capacity to support violent crime prosecution—is consistent with established research, DOJ guidance, and best practices used by prosecutorial offices nationwide. By adopting these evidence-based practices, the project is expected to reduce delays in digital evidence processing, improve prosecutorial decision-making, and strengthen the successful prosecution of violent crimes against children, thereby advancing public safety and the effectiveness of the criminal justice system in Fannin County.

Project Activities Information

Introduction

This section contains questions about your project. It is very important for applicants to review their funding announcement for guidance on how to fill out this section. Unless otherwise specified, answers should be about the EXPECTED activities to occur during the project period.

Selected Project Activities:

ACTIVITY	PERCENTAGE:	DESCRIPTION
Law Enforcement	100.00	Attainment and Deployment of New Technology with IT and Procurement Approvals. Appropriate level training will be provided to all operators and end users to ensure the newly acquired technology is utilized properly and to its full potential. Tracking mechanisms will be utilized to measure the number of digital devices that are unlocked and forensically examined. Arrests records will be tracked using a RMS and in house data base to measure the number of cases that involve a digital device involved including case types to ensure measurement of violent crimes against children.

Measures Information

Objective Output Measures

OUTPUT MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
Equipment or technology: Individuals/Operators equipped	2
General Law Enforcement or Public Safety: Arrests resulting from grant	15
Targeted Investigation: Criminal cases resulting in arrest	15
Targeted Investigation: Grant-funded investigations carried out by the unit/division	20
Training or professional development: Individuals provided	2
Training or professional development: Individuals received	2
Training, professional development, or technical assistance: Hours provided	40
Training, professional development, or technical assistance: Hours received	40

Custom Output Measures

CUSTOM OUTPUT MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
Training; Operator Level Training/Certification for two investigators to utilize the newly acquired technology.	2
Training; Familiarization training for end-users provided by operators to ensure understanding of digital forensic information for courtroom presentation.	3

Technology Deployed: Digital devices unlocked and processed by our agency.	15
Targeted Investigation: Criminal cases resulting in arrest involving digital forensic evidence.	20

Budget Details Information

Budget Information by Budget Line Item:

CATEGORY	SUB CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	GPI	TOTAL	UNIT/%
Travel and Training	In-State Registration Fees, Training, and/or Travel	B-TRN-03-040 In-Person/Virtual CCO+CCPA Insejets (5 days) for two investigators; Cellebrite training will ensure proper implementation and use of the newly acquired technology. Agency personnel tasked with extracting, collecting, reviewing, and presenting digital evidence will receive operator training/certification to utilize the new technology to its full potential.	\$9,690.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,690.00	0
Equipment	Specialized Computer Software	Cellebrite Digital Technology; Insejets Online Pro, Insejets Pro UFED Subscription, Insejets Pro PA Subscription, UFED Dongle Kit, Insejets Kit, Smart Translator (3 languages translation Promotion) With the implementation of this new	\$29,262.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$29,262.00	1

		<p>technology, we will have in-house access to digital devices involved in criminal cases. Currently, we are reliant on outside agencies for this technology thus, upon implementation we will become more effective and efficient minimizing delays and backlog and allowing critical evidence that may not have otherwise been uncovered to be accessible to investigators and prosecutors as they combat violent crime against children. Offenders participating in activities to solicit children online often secrete their activities through the use of increased encryption, advanced device locking technology, sophisticated file hiding/vault systems, chat systems, and advanced anti-forensics measures. With the addition of Cellebrite, we will bolster our capabilities and capacity to access, extract, and analyze data from the widest range of iOS and Android devices. This technology will also increase efficiency and provide actionable intelligence to assist with prevention</p>						
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		efforts, all while strengthening cases for prosecution.						
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Source of Match Information

Detail Source of Match/GPI:

DESCRIPTION	MATCH TYPE	AMOUNT
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Summary Source of Match/GPI:

Total Report	Cash Match	In Kind	GPI Federal Share	GPI State Share
\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Budget Summary Information

Budget Summary Information by Budget Category:

CATEGORY	OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	GPI	TOTAL
Equipment	\$29,262.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$29,262.00
Travel and Training	\$9,690.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,690.00

Budget Grand Total Information:

OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	GPI	TOTAL
\$38,952.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$38,952.00