



BORDER CHILDREN'S JUSTICE PROJECT

Program Specific Requirements for 2024 - 2025

TEXAS
JUVENILE
JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT

I. GRANT DESCRIPTION.

Border Children's Justice Project (BCJP) is a Discretionary State Aid (DSA) grant created to comply with Section 223.001(c), Human Resources Code. The goal of the BCJP is to reduce delinquency, increase juvenile accountability, and rehabilitate juveniles through a comprehensive, coordinated, community-based juvenile probation system. The BCJP facilitates collaborative efforts by United States and foreign authorities involving juvenile courts, United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), law enforcement, United States and other consulates, child protective agencies, and correctional officials. The project is designed to improve the rehabilitative efforts of Texas and foreign authorities and provide a variety of services to juveniles and their families. This grant does not apply to youth committed to a state facility. The objective of the BCJP is to return foreign nationals to their respective communities after processing in the Texas juvenile justice system, to assist in the return of US citizen juveniles who have committed offenses in Mexico, Central America, or South America to their home communities in the United States, and to serve foreign nationals residing in the United States.

II. GRANT SPECIFIC DEFINITIONS. For the purposes of this grant:

- A. **Foreign Authorities.** May include consulate offices as well as the respective law enforcement, children service, social service, and immigration service agencies in the areas served by the BCJP outside the continental United States.
- B. **Foreign National.** A juvenile who is a citizen of Mexico or a country in Central or South America and not a United States citizen.
- C. **Grantee.** The juvenile board and/or juvenile probation department receiving funds under this grant.
- D. **Project Coordinator.** The person responsible for coordinating the delivery and provision of services of the BCJP. The coordinator must be familiar with the laws, culture, and resources of Mexico, Central America, and South America.
- E. **State Facility.** A facility operated by or under contract with TJJJ for youth committed to TJJJ.

III. PROGRAM SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE.

Grantee performance under the grant shall be determined using the following measures:

- A. total number of foreign nationals referred to the BCJP;
- B. total number of United States citizens referred to the BCJP from foreign authorities; and
- C. average cost for juveniles served.

IV. PROGRAMMATIC COMPONENTS.

- A. **Program Requirements.** The Grantee shall provide services as established within the grant requirements and its proposal, which is incorporated into this grant by reference. The Grantee shall have a program policy and procedure manual that details program requirements, eligibility, and staff responsibilities. The BCJP shall include the following services provided by the Grantee:
 - 1. coordination of the return home of each foreign national who has committed delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision in the county where the BCJP is located;
 - 2. assistance in the return home of foreign nationals who have committed delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision in a Texas county where there is no BCJP. The Texas county where the juvenile engaged in the conduct may refer the juvenile to the BCJP in the Texas county closest to the juvenile's home;
 - 3. coordination of the return of juvenile citizens of the United States who have committed an offense in a foreign country to the appropriate authorities in the United States for further court-related proceedings;
 - 4. provision of juvenile probation services to foreign nationals that are placed on probation and remain in the United States; and
 - 5. negotiation and formulation of agreements with the consulate's offices for the provision of necessary and appropriate services for foreign nationals and their families. The services may include:
 - a. collecting restitution from juveniles to repay losses to victims in the United States;
 - b. securing proper identification of foreign nationals, including birth verification, when possible, and a correct address;

- c. informing parents, guardians, and custodians of their child's involvement with the juvenile court;
- d. providing counseling services to juveniles and their families;
- e. securing supervision services of foreign nationals placed on probation; and
- f. returning juveniles to their homes through the authority of the consulate's office.

B. Eligibility Criteria. Grantee shall ensure that juveniles served by this grant:

- 1. have citizenship in an applicable foreign country and:
 - a. have committed an act of delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision in the state of Texas; and
 - b. have been referred to the BCJP in a Texas border county; or
- 2. have United States citizenship and reside with their family in the United States and:
 - a. have committed an offense in an applicable foreign country; and
 - b. have been referred to the BCJP in a Texas border county.

C. Staff Requirements and Responsibilities. Grantee shall adhere to the following criteria:

- 1. Grantee shall have a Project Coordinator; and
- 2. the Project Coordinator shall facilitate collaborative efforts between the United States and foreign authorities involving juvenile courts, ICE, law enforcement, United States or foreign consulate offices, child protective agencies, and correctional officials.

D. State Level Secure Correctional Facilities. The policies and procedures applicable to the Border Children's Justice Project do not apply to youth committed to a state facility.