



Criminal Justice Policy Development Committee Policies and Procedures

INTRODUCTION

The following policies and procedures define rules and regulations governing certain application processes for the Office of the Governor's (OOG) Public Safety Office (PSO) programs. PSO has identified the following funding opportunities in which the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) will assist in the distribution of grant funds:

- Criminal Justice Program (Justice Assistance Grant (CJ-JAG))
- General Victim Assistance – Direct Services Program (GVA)
- Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Program (JJ)
- Truancy Prevention (TP)
- Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- Violent Crimes Against Women Criminal Justice and Training Program – Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, and Stalking (VAW)

In addition, these policies and procedures govern the operation of NCTCOG's Criminal Justice Policy Development Committee (CJPDC) as outlined in the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between OOG and NCTCOG.

NCTCOG shall provide general planning and coordination activities for issues related to criminal justice, juvenile justice, delinquency prevention, victims services, and related topics throughout the year. Such services may include providing feedback on, input to, or communicating PSO's real or proposed priorities.

1. COMPLIANCE WITH ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

- 1.1. All policies, rules, and regulations set forth in this document are in compliance with the Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Title 1, Part 1, Chapter 3.
- 1.2. Section 3.1 of the Texas Administrative Code; Applicability: Subchapters A through F of this chapter apply to all applications for funding and grants submitted to PSO. Subchapter A covers the general provisions for grant funding. Subchapter B addresses budget rules for grant funding. Subchapter D provides rules detailing the conditions PSO may place on grants. Subchapter E sets out the rules related to administering grants. Subchapter F specifies rules regarding program monitoring and audits.

2. NOTIFICATION OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

OOG will post all Funding Announcements (FA) in the *Texas Register* and to the OOG eGrants Funding Schedule Calendar. OOG will notify the COGs when FAs are posted in the *Texas Register*. NCTCOG will post OOG funding opportunities to its website and will distribute a notification of funding availability to regional database contacts. The NCTCOG notification will contain mandatory grant application workshop information, including the schedule and registration details.



North Central Texas Council of Governments
Criminal Justice Program

OOG posts all funding announcements in the *Texas Register*. It is the applicant agency's responsibility to identify funding opportunities in which to apply.

3. APPLICATION WORKSHOP REQUIREMENT

- 3.1. NCTCOG's Criminal Justice Program staff will conduct mandatory Grant Application Workshops. Workshop schedules and registration details will be posted on NCTCOG's Criminal Justice Program website.

NCTCOG shall make the following available to current grantees, potential applicants, and other requestors at least 30 days prior to the PSO eGrants application deadline: local priorities related to criminal justice issues; local policies and procedures; criteria used in the scoring of applications including a copy of the scoring instrument; other relevant materials that affect NCTCOG's scoring process; and information related to the availability of training materials or other documents regarding PSO grant application creation available on the eGrants website. NCTCOG will direct potential applicants to the eGrants website and shall inform applicants/grantees to contact OOG personnel and/or the eGrants Helpdesk for assistance.

3.2. MANDATORY ATTENDANCE:

- 3.2.1. Grant application workshop attendance is mandatory for all FY23 applicants wishing to submit a new application, renewal application and/or a non-competing continuation application in the funding categories listed in the Introduction, page

- 3.3. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: Applicants may request technical assistance from NCTCOG Criminal Justice Program staff during the development of applications prior to submission. PSO staff will also provide technical assistance on grant-related questions/issues. NCTCOG technical assistance is advisory in nature and is not intended to address all possible outcomes of the grant application process.

- 3.4. NCTCOG may require additional information be submitted directly to NCTCOG for scoring purposes. NCTCOG-required items may include but not be limited to the NCTCOG Addendum, applicable Cooperative Working Agreements and/or Letters of Intent.

Applications submitted on an incorrect NCTCOG Addendum will not be scored and will not be recommended for funding (for example: submitting a CJ-JAG project on a Juvenile Justice addendum).

Applications submitted on an NCTCOG Addendum from prior grant cycles will not be scored and will not be recommended for funding.

- 3.5. DEADLINES: Application submission deadlines will be set by PSO and eGrants applications in all program categories will be submitted directly to PSO electronically.

Egrants submissions and all NCTCOG-required documents are due by the PSO-determined due date. Deadlines are final. No late eGrants applications or NCTCOG-required information will be accepted, without exceptions. There is no appeal process.



4. FUNDING GUIDELINES

4.1. LOCAL PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIC PLANNING:

- 4.1.1. Local needs and priorities will be identified through the strategic planning process, with guidelines set forth by PSO. The criminal justice needs relevant to the plan include but are not limited to criminal justice system improvements, juvenile justice system improvements, direct victim services, mental health, and substance abuse treatment. Local priorities will be presented to applicants during mandatory grant application workshops and will be incorporated into the scoring criteria.

Local needs and priorities for the strategic planning process may be gathered via electronic surveys, on-site meetings, or other reasonable methods.

For scoring purposes, CJPDC may identify specific issues related to the local priorities.

NCTCOG will evaluate, update and submit the Strategic Plan and an Executive Summary by a deadline set by PSO.

- 4.1.2. Grant application workshop attendees will be made aware of the importance of justice-related strategic planning. All strategic planning documents will be posted on NCTCOG's website.

- 4.2. APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY: Eligibility for funding is determined by PSO and applicant agencies must adhere to guidelines set forth by PSO in the Funding Announcement (FA) as posted in the *Texas Register*. Funding allocated to NCTCOG's 16-county region may only serve the NCTCOG region. Therefore, applicants desiring to serve counties in other COG regions must submit a separate application to that COG and follow the policies and procedures set forth by each.

- 4.2.1. Agencies receiving funds directly from their state association, from a PSO-designated fiscal agent or directly from PSO for select programs must apply directly through their state association, designated fiscal agent, or PSO and may not apply for funds allocated to NCTCOG's region. Examples include but are not limited to: Children's Advocacy Centers and Court Appointed Special Advocates projects.

- 4.2.2. PSO will make the final determination as to which funding source is most appropriate for each application.

- 4.3. FUNDING LIMITATIONS: For the FY23 grant cycle, the following guidelines apply to program categories prioritized by NCTCOG:

- 4.3.1. Criminal Justice Program - Justice Assistance Grant (CJ-JAG):

- 4.3.1.1. Non-Profit Applicant Agencies (including hospitals and faith-based organizations): A suggested cap of \$50,000 has been placed on new and renewal CJ-JAG applications being scored and prioritized.

- 4.3.1.2. Units of Local Government, ISDs, Native American tribes, Councils of Governments, State Agencies, Colleges and Universities:



North Central Texas Council of Governments
Criminal Justice Program

- 4.3.1.2.1. A suggested cap of \$100,000 has been placed on new and renewal CJ-JAG applications being scored and prioritized that benefit one (1) service area/jurisdiction.
- 4.3.1.2.2. A suggested cap of \$160,000 has been placed on new and renewal CJ-JAG applications being scored and prioritized that benefit two (2) service areas/jurisdictions.*
- 4.3.1.2.3. A suggested cap of \$240,000 has been placed on new and renewal CJ-JAG applications being scored and prioritized that benefit three (3) or more service areas/jurisdictions.*

* CJ-JAG collaboration projects may be subject to additional supporting documentation at the time of grant submittal. Supporting documents may include items such as Letters of Intent from all collaborators and Cooperative Working Agreements. CJ-JAG collaboration documents are due by the PSO-determined due date (see Section 3.5).

- 4.3.2. Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Program: A suggested cap of \$100,000 has been placed on new and renewal applications being scored and prioritized.
- 4.3.3. Truancy Prevention Program: A suggested cap of \$100,000 has been placed on new and renewal applications being scored and prioritized.
- 4.3.4. Violence Against Women Justice and Training Program: A suggested cap of \$100,000 has been placed on new and renewal applications being scored and prioritized.
- 4.3.5. General Victim Assistance Grant Program (GVA) and Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE): Per direction from PSO, funding limits do not apply for new and renewal applications submitted in these categories.
- 4.3.6. Non-competing continuation projects in CJ-JAG, JJ, TP, VAW and GVA in year two or three for FY23 may either continue in the cycle at the currently funded amount or submit the project as a “renewal”, follow applicable funding limitations and enter back in the competition to be scored.
- 4.3.7. All Program Categories: The CJPDC has the discretion to recommend an application at a reduced amount.

4.4. APPLICATION LIMITATIONS:

- 4.4.1. For the FY23 grant cycle, an agency may submit two (2) new, or two (2) renewals, or one (1) new and one (1) renewal distinctly different project(s) to be scored in the following categories:
 - Juvenile Justice*
 - Truancy Prevention*
 - Violence Against Women Justice and Training Program*
- 4.4.2. Criminal Justice Program - Justice Assistance Grant (CJ-JAG) *: For the FY23 grant cycle, an agency may submit one (1) new or one (1) renewal CJ-JAG application to be scored.



North Central Texas Council of Governments
Criminal Justice Program

***EXCEPTION:** The exception applies only to government entities. For cities and counties with distinct departments, each department may submit two (2) new, or two (2) renewals, or one (1) new and (1) renewal application(s) to be scored in Juvenile Justice and Violence Against Women and one (1) new or one (1) renewal application to be scored in CJ-JAG.

For example, a county's juvenile probation department, district attorney's office and sheriff's office may each submit up to two (2) new, two (2) renewals, or one (1) new and (1) renewal distinctly different application(s) in Juvenile Justice and Violence Against Women and one (1) new or one (1) renewal CJ-JAG application. A government entity is not limited in the number of their departments that apply.

4.4.3. General Victim Assistance Program: Per PSO, 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.

4.4.4. Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE): There is no limit on number of CSE applications per agency.

4.5. APPLICATION CYCLES:

4.5.1. Criminal Justice Program - Justice Assistance Grant (CJ-JAG) projects:

4.5.1.1. A three-year prioritization cycle applies to all new and renewal FY23 CJ-JAG staffing-based projects.

4.5.1.2. A two-year prioritization cycle applies to all new and renewal FY23 CJ-JAG evaluation projects.

4.5.1.3. A one-year prioritization cycle applies to all new FY23 CJ-JAG equipment-only projects.

4.5.1.4. Based on scoring results, the CJPDC and NCTCOG's Executive Board will develop priority list recommendations for a period of three years for staffing-based CJ-JAG applications and a period of two years for CJ-JAG evaluation applications.

4.5.1.5. PSO will not make CJ-JAG funding allocations directly to NCTCOG, therefore a recommendation for a multi-year period only means the application will be scored the first year and will move up the priority level for the subsequent prioritization year(s) without being scored again.

4.5.1.6. For FY23, new and renewal CJ-JAG projects will enter the application cycle at 100% of the awarded amount in the first year and will be prioritized at an amount not to exceed 100% of the original awarded amount for the remainder of the prioritization cycle.

4.5.1.6.1. Staffing-based CJ-JAG projects only: PSO may award a lesser amount to a project due to depleted funding at the project's priority list position. In this case, the applicant may request the initial CJPDC-recommended amount when submitting that project's grant cycle two-of-three and grant cycle three-



North Central Texas Council of Governments
Criminal Justice Program

of-three applications. This policy will be applied to the CJ-JAG FY22 staffing-based new or renewal project that received a lesser amount, if applicable.

4.5.2. Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention (JJ) projects:

- 4.5.2.1. A three-year prioritization cycle applies to all new and renewal FY23 JJ staffing-based projects.
- 4.5.2.2. A two-year prioritization cycle applies to all new and renewal FY23 JJ evaluation projects.
- 4.5.2.3. A one-year prioritization cycle applies to all new FY23 JJ equipment-only projects.
- 4.5.2.4. Based on scoring results, the CJPDC and NCTCOG's Executive Board will develop priority list recommendations for a period of three years for staffing-based JJ applications and a period of two years for JJ evaluation applications.
- 4.5.2.5. PSO will not make JJ funding allocations directly to NCTCOG, therefore a recommendation for a multi-year period only means the application will be scored the first year and will move up the priority level for the subsequent prioritization year(s) without being scored again.
- 4.5.2.6. For FY23, new and renewal JJ projects will enter the application cycle at 100% of the awarded amount in the first year and will be prioritized at an amount not to exceed 100% of the original awarded amount for the remainder of the prioritization cycle.
 - 4.5.2.6.1. Staffing-based JJ projects only: PSO may award a lesser amount to a project due to depleted funding at the project's priority list position. In this case, the applicant may request the initial CJPDC-recommended amount when submitting that project's grant cycle two-of-three and grant cycle three-of-three applications. This policy will be applied to the JJ FY22 staffing-based new or renewal project that received a lesser amount, if applicable.

4.5.3. Truancy Prevention (TP) projects:

- 4.5.3.1. A three-year prioritization cycle applies to all new and renewal FY23 TP staffing-based projects.
- 4.5.3.2. A two-year prioritization cycle applies to all new and renewal FY23 TP evaluation projects.
- 4.5.3.3. A one-year prioritization cycle applies to all new FY23 TP equipment-only projects.
- 4.5.3.4. Based on scoring results, the CJPDC and NCTCOG's Executive Board will develop priority list recommendations for a period of three years for staffing-based TP applications.
- 4.5.3.5. PSO will not make TP funding allocations directly to NCTCOG, therefore a recommendation for a multi-year period only means the application will be scored



North Central Texas Council of Governments
Criminal Justice Program

the first year and will move up the priority level for the subsequent prioritization year(s) without being scored again.

- 4.5.3.6. For FY23, new and renewal TP projects will enter the application cycle at 100% of the awarded amount in the first year and will be prioritized at an amount not to exceed 100% of the original awarded amount for the remainder of the prioritization cycle.
 - 4.5.3.6.1. Staffing-based TP projects only: PSO may award a lesser amount to a project due to depleted funding at the project's priority list position. In this case, the applicant may request the initial CJPDC-recommended amount when submitting that project's grant cycle two-of-three and grant cycle three-of-three applications. This policy will be applied to the TP FY22 staffing-based new or renewal project that received a lesser amount, if applicable.
- 4.5.4. Violence Against Women Justice and Training (VAW) projects:
 - 4.5.4.1. A three-year prioritization cycle applies to all new and renewal FY23 VAW staffing-based projects.
 - 4.5.4.2. A two-year prioritization cycle applies to all new and renewal FY23 VAW evaluation projects.
 - 4.5.4.3. A one-year prioritization cycle applies to all new FY23 VAW equipment-only projects.
 - 4.5.4.4. Based on scoring results, the CJPDC and NCTCOG's Executive Board will develop priority list recommendations for a period of three years for staffing-based VAW applications and a period of two years for VAW evaluation applications.
 - 4.5.4.5. PSO will not make VAW funding allocations directly to NCTCOG, therefore a recommendation for a multi-year period only means the application will be scored the first year and will move up the priority level for the subsequent prioritization year(s) without being scored again.
 - 4.5.4.6. For FY23, new and renewal VAW projects will enter the application cycle at 100% of the awarded amount in the first year and will be prioritized at an amount not to exceed 100% of the original awarded amount for the remainder of the prioritization cycle.
 - 4.5.4.6.1. Staffing-based VAW projects only: PSO may award a lesser amount to a project due to depleted funding at the project's priority list position. In this case, the applicant may request the initial CJPDC-recommended amount when submitting that project's grant cycle two-of-three and grant cycle three-of-three applications. This policy will be applied to the VAW FY22 staffing-based new or renewal project that received a lesser amount, if applicable.
- 4.5.5. General Victim Assistance (GVA) projects:
 - 4.5.5.1. A three-year prioritization cycle applies to all new and renewal FY23 GVA staffing-based projects.



North Central Texas Council of Governments
Criminal Justice Program

- 4.5.5.2. A two-year prioritization cycle applies to all new and renewal FY23 GVA evaluation projects.
- 4.5.5.3. A one-year prioritization cycle applies to all new FY23 GVA equipment-only projects.
- 4.5.5.4. For staffing-based GVA projects scored in FY20 and funded for 24-months (grant period 10-1-19 thru 9-30-21) with subsequent 12-month non-competing continuation for FY22 cycle (grant period 10-1-21 thru 9-30-22): Agencies may enter the FY23 cycle as a 12-month renewal and project will be scored.
- 4.5.5.5. Based on scoring results, the CJPDC and NCTCOG's Executive Board will develop priority list recommendations for a period of three years for staffing-based GVA applications and a period of two years for GVA evaluation applications.
- 4.5.5.6. PSO will not make GVA funding allocations directly to NCTCOG, therefore a recommendation for a multi-year period only means the application will be scored the first year and will move up the priority level for the subsequent prioritization year(s) without being scored again.
- 4.5.5.7. For FY23, new and renewal GVA projects will enter the application cycle at 100% of the awarded amount in the first year and will be prioritized at an amount not to exceed 100% of the original awarded amount for the remainder of the prioritization cycle.
 - 4.5.5.7.1. Staffing-based GVA projects only: PSO may award a lesser amount to a project due to depleted funding at the project's priority list position. In this case, the applicant may request the initial CJPDC-recommended amount when submitting that project's grant cycle two-of-three and grant cycle three-of-three applications. This policy will be applied to the GVA FY22 staffing-based new or renewal project that received a lesser amount, if applicable.
- 4.5.6. Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE) projects: PSO will provide special scoring instructions to NCTCOG for CSE application prioritization. Application prioritization cycles will not apply to CSE.
- 4.5.7. All Funding Categories:
 - 4.5.8.1. All final funding decisions are made by PSO, and an NCTCOG recommendation is not a guarantee of funding.
 - 4.5.8.2. Applications funded by PSO out of prioritization order will be one-grant period commitments.
 - 4.5.8.3. Grant Adjustment Policy: An authorized person for a funded project will notify NCTCOG in writing prior to submitting a grant adjustment request through OOG's eGrants system. Should NCTCOG staff determine the adjustment results in a deviation from the scope of services presented in the original application, the grant adjustment request may be forwarded to CJPDC for review. If CJPDC determines the change in budget or scope of the funded project impacts how the



project would have been prioritized, the prioritization may be withdrawn, and future recommendations may be affected.

5. APPLICATION REVIEW AND SCORING PROCESS

- 5.1. Applications will be scored by members of the CJPDC.
- 5.2. **PROJECT SCORING CRITERIA:** The CJPDC-approved scoring criteria will be used to evaluate each new and renewal application submitted for review. The exception will be Child Sex Trafficking (CST) applications as PSO will provide special CSE scoring criteria.
- 5.3. **MINIMUM SCORE:** A minimum score of seventy (70) is required for a project to be recommended for funding in all program categories except CSE.
- 5.4. **PROJECT SCORING PROCESS:**
 - 5.4.1. Once PSO determines the eligibility of applications within a program category, applications will be forwarded to NCTCOG for scoring and prioritization.
 - 5.4.2. In the event in-person scoring sessions cannot be held, scoring will be conducted via a virtual platform. If a scoring session is held virtually, members are counted as present and may score applications via teleconference or video conference.
 - 5.4.3. In order to be able to score applications, each CJPDC member must participate in scoring training provided by NCTCOG Criminal Justice Program staff.
 - 5.4.4. When necessary, as a result of the number of submitted applications for review, scoring, and prioritization, NCTCOG staff will divide the CJPDC members into scoring teams. NCTCOG Criminal Justice program staff will attempt to divide members into teams with a system that maintains diversity of PSO multi-disciplinary representation of members and considers prior history of individual member's scoring average.
 - 5.4.5. Scores from each scoring team member will be recorded, totaled, and averaged with the other team member scores for each individual project. The average score for each application will be used to rank the applications from high to low which will determine the NCTCOG-recommended priority within each program category.
 - 5.4.6. In the event of a tie score when the projects are ranked, staff will delete a high score and a low score until the tie is broken. Projects will be placed on the priority list in the order of the tiebreaker score.

For example: Project 1 and Project 2 both have an average of 85.0000. After removing the high and low individual scores from each project, Project 1 now has an average of 84.333333 and Project 2 has an average of 86.555555. Project 2 will be listed above Project 1 on the priority ranking list.
- 5.5. NCTCOG will provide Vendor Hold technical assistance to grantees. At time of scoring/prioritization, NCTCOG staff will notify CJPDC of agencies that appear to have persistent vendor hold issues.



6. NCTCOG RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUNDING

6.1. The CJPDC must make funding recommendations on applications based upon local criminal justice priorities identified in the NCTCOG's most recently completed strategic plan; any PSO-identified state priorities, the eligibility, reasonableness, and cost-effectiveness of the proposed project; and current NCTCOG policies and procedures. The CJPDC has the discretion to recommend an application at a reduced amount.

6.1.1. The CJPDC will make priority recommendations to NCTCOG's Executive Board. The Executive Board will make the final determination on the CJPDC priority lists.

6.1.2. Following Executive Board endorsement, applicants will be notified within fourteen (14) calendar days that their application was either "Recommended for Funding" or "Not Recommended for Funding" to PSO. Spreadsheets identifying the scores and priority ranking for each program category will be posted on the NCTCOG website, which will include the following statement:

"After the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee prioritizes the grant applications and the NCTCOG's governing body approves the priority listing, the NCTCOG submits the written priority listing to PSO. Based upon the NCTCOG's priority listing, PSO will verify the eligibility, reasonableness and cost-effectiveness strategy of the proposed project, and the availability of funding, and will render final funding decisions on these grant applications. The NCTCOG will notify grantees of any changes in the funding recommendations."

6.2. PRIORITY RANKING PROCEDURE:

6.2.1. NCTCOG staff will place all non-competing continuation projects in their priority ranking from the previous year in each program category. All applications will maintain their initial score until the prioritization period expires.

6.2.2. New and renewal projects will be placed in priority (according to score, high to low) immediately following non-competing continuation projects in each program category.

6.2.3. If a project is deemed ineligible by PSO, it will be noted as such on the priority ranking list. If a project is not recommended by CJPDC, it will be noted as such on the priority ranking list.

6.2.4. In the event more than one agency applies for identical services serving the same geographical area and each receives a "recommended for funding" score, the CJPDC will determine if the geographic area to be served is sufficient to support more than one program. If not, the organization receiving the highest score will be recommended for funding and the lower-scored application(s) will not be recommended for funding.

6.2.5. The CJPDC reserves the right not to recommend a project based upon chronic or egregious violations including but not limited to PSO monitoring reports verifying non-compliance, failure to complete PSO-required program progress reports and/or PSO-required financial reports, misuse of PSO funds, or at the discretion of the PSO.

6.2.6. In the event PSO provides NCTCOG with projected allocations for a project category, and if there are insufficient applications recommended for funding with a minimum score



North Central Texas Council of Governments
Criminal Justice Program

of 70 points to expend the allocation, the CJPDC may continue to recommend projects in ranking order until the funding is expended or a minimum score of 60 points is reached.

- 6.3. EX-PARTE CONTACT: Any form of contact between a committee member and an applicant agency's representative, employee or contractor in which the application or the scoring of the application is discussed is prohibited. Such contact should immediately be reported to NCTCOG's Criminal Justice Programs staff. Such contact may result in an applicant agency being ineligible for future funding consideration.

7. CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- 7.1. MEMBERSHIP: The CJPDC is a multi-disciplinary representation of members from the North Central Texas region.
- 7.1.1. The representation must include citizens or parents, substance abuse prevention, education, juvenile justice, law enforcement, mental health, non-profit organizations, municipalities, counties, prosecution or courts, and victim services. No single group may constitute more than one-third (1/3) of the Committee.
- 7.1.2. Membership shall roughly reflect a county's percentage of the region's population. Every attempt will be made to have at least one representative from each of the region's 16 counties.
- 7.1.3. NCTCOG's Executive Board will appoint new members, to serve staggered three-year terms, ending December 31st of each calendar year, with a maximum committee size of fifty members. Every effort will be made to balance committee representation based on county population.
- 7.1.4. The Committee includes a permanent representative for each of the following agencies: City of Dallas and City of Fort Worth Police Departments; Dallas County and Tarrant County Sheriff's Offices; Dallas County and Tarrant County District Attorney's Offices; Dallas County and Tarrant County Juvenile Probation Departments; Dallas County and Tarrant County Community Supervision and Corrections Department (Adult Probation).
- 7.1.4.1. One alternate may be designated for the above referenced permanent representatives. If the designated alternate is scoring applications for a program category, the alternate must attend a CJPDC Scoring Training session and be present at the program category scoring review(s).
- 7.1.4.2. The permanent representative and designated alternate(s) for agencies listed in Section 7.1.4 may not share voting privileges simultaneously.
- 7.1.5. New member nominations may be solicited from a variety of sources, including elected officials, current members, strategic planning participants, and community contacts. Members in good standing may serve two consecutive 3-year terms.
- 7.1.6. Appointed members are expected to participate in each meeting to carry out the grant review and prioritization process and other CJPDC business. Attendance issues may be grounds for removal. It is the responsibility of the member to notify NCTCOG staff in advance when unable to participate in CJPDC functions. NCTCOG staff will notify the Chair and Vice Chair of chronic non-participation issues. As directed, NCTCOG staff will



North Central Texas Council of Governments
Criminal Justice Program

contact the member regarding his/her intent to remain on CJPDC. Based on member's response to such inquiry, the member may be subject for removal from CJPDC.

- 7.1.7. Membership Ethics Subcommittee: NCTCOG Criminal Justice Program staff will assist the Chairperson in appointing no more than 10 current members to serve on this subcommittee. Each member of this subcommittee shall be familiar with best ethics practices and standards relating to moral turpitude. The subcommittee is responsible to assure that members of the CJPDC are ethically fit to serve. The subcommittee shall investigate and deliberate concerns regarding any members' fitness to serve from any source. The subcommittee shall make one of the following recommendations to the CJPDC if it finds grounds to sustain the ethical concern of the member: 1) censure of the member or 2) removal of the member from the CJPDC. The CJPDC shall approve, reject, or modify the subcommittee's recommendation.
- 7.1.8. A quorum is at least 50% of the Committee's active membership. A vote may be carried by a majority of those Committee members participating during a meeting at which a quorum is present.

7.2. OFFICERS & DUTIES:

7.2.1. During the last quarter of the calendar year, a Nominations Subcommittee will be appointed by the Chairperson to develop a list of candidates for the committee's consideration. This Subcommittee will include the Chair, or in the Chair's absence, the Vice-Chair and at least four (4) other Committee members.

7.2.2. The Chair will:

- Preside at all meetings of the CJPDC
- Call regular and special meetings of the CJPDC
- Appoint temporary sub-committees at his/her discretion to perform specific tasks related to the business of the CJPDC
- Appoint special sub-committees at his/her discretion

7.2.3. The Vice-Chair will: Act as the presiding officer during the absence or incapacity of the Chair and shall have all the duties, responsibilities, powers, and privileges of the Chair

7.2.4. TERM OF OFFICE - Term of office for officers shall be limited to two one-year terms. He/she must be a Committee member and not a designated alternate and be recommended to NCTCOG's Executive Board for confirmation annually.

7.2.5. VACANCY - In the event of a vacancy for the position of any officer, the Committee will recommend a replacement to the Executive Board no later than the next regular meeting following notification that such vacancy exists.

7.3. NCTCOG will ensure that all NCTCOG governing board meetings and meetings of the CJPDC (with a quorum present) at which PSO-related matters are discussed comply with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551.

7.4. Regular meetings will be held to review and modify the Policies and Procedures for a new grant cycle and to address other business the CJPDC deems necessary. Special sessions will be held for new member orientation, scoring training, and grant application team reviews.



North Central Texas Council of Governments
Criminal Justice Program

- 7.5. In the event an in-person meeting cannot be held, meetings will be conducted via a virtual platform. If a meeting is held virtually, NCTCOG staff will conduct a roll call of members to track attendance and confirm a quorum. Participating members may vote via teleconference or video conference. Electronic voting by email will be deemed binding if a remote decision is needed.
- 7.6. NCTCOG will maintain a written record documenting all CJPDC proceedings related to PSO business. Processed minutes must be certified with the signature of a CJPDC member who attended the meeting.
- 7.7. NCTCOG shall retain the Records for a period of seven (7) years after the final payment by PSO under the terms of this Agreement with the following qualification: if any audit, claim, or litigation is initiated before the expiration of the seven-year period, the Records shall be retained until the audit, claim, or litigation is resolved or until the end of the regular seven-year period, whichever is later. At the end of the seven-year period, NCTCOG shall request disposition instructions for the Records from PSO and shall dispose of the Records in accordance with PSO's instructions.
- 7.8. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY:** NCTCOG shall ensure that members of NCTCOG's governing body, the CJPDC, and NCTCOG staff abstain from scoring and voting on any grant application, other than a grant application submitted by NCTCOG, during the prioritization process if the member or an individual related to the member within the third degree by consanguinity or within the second degree by affinity:
 - Is employed by the applicant agency and works for the unit or division that would administer the grant, if awarded;
 - Serves on any governing board that oversees the unit or division that would administer the grant, if awarded;
 - Owns or controls any interest in a business entity or other non-governmental organization that benefits, directly or indirectly, from activities with the applicant agency; or
 - Receives any funds, or a substantial amount of tangible goods or routine services, from the applicant agency as a result of the grant, if awarded.

If a CJPDC member has a conflict of interest regarding a particular grant application, NCTCOG will ensure the committee member abstains from voting, commenting, or otherwise influencing the prioritization process for that application. A CJPDC member with a conflict of interest regarding a particular grant application must vacate the room* whenever that application is presented to or reviewed by CJPDC, and the member must not take part in or be present for any discussion on the application with any other member of CJPDC.

*In the event a scoring session is held virtually, a CJPDC member with a conflict must leave the teleconference or video conference whenever that application is presented to or reviewed by CJPDC.

If any applicant, CJPDC member, NCTCOG personnel or other individual has reason to believe that favoritism or inappropriate actions were displayed during the scoring or prioritization of projects, NCTCOG shall ensure that the concerns are shared with PSO as soon as possible.

8. PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT REQUESTS

- 8.1. NCTCOG shall notify PSO of any Public Information Act or media request received by NCTCOG relating to any application for PSO funding or PSO funded grant program no later than one (1) business day after receiving the request. The notification shall include the name



North Central Texas Council of Governments
Criminal Justice Program

of the requestor, the date the request was received by NCTCOG, and a description of the information requested. NCTCOG shall give the PSO opportunity to review any OOG-originated materials and information prior to release, if requested by the PSO.

- 8.2. NCTCOG shall notify PSO as to its response to any Public Information Act or media request received by the NCTCOG relating to any application for PSO funding or PSO-related grant program no later than one (1) business day after providing its response to the requestor. The notification shall include a description of the response (or a copy of the response, if the request was made to the requestor in writing), the date the response was provided to the requestor, and the name of the NCTCOG staff person who responded to the request.