

## **FY24 Grant Modification Request**

### **Lone Star Defender Organization**

#### **Operation Lone Star Indigent Defense Program**

##### **Background**

- TIDC Awarded Lone Star Defender Organization (LSDO) an FY2024 grant with a two-year term to continue the Operation Lone Star (OLS) Indigent Defense Program through the current biennium. This managed assigned counsel program serves as the indigent defense hub and contracts with private attorneys and public defender organizations to provide defense services for eligible clients.
- The program was formerly operated by the Lubbock Private Defender Office (LPDO). Because the size and continuing nature of the program, the OLS program was split from LPDO and chartered as an independent organization.

##### **There are three requested modifications to the current award requested:**

1. As part of the organizational restructuring, LSDO has assumed an estimated \$5,645,100 in financial obligations in the form of appointed cases that remain outstanding at the time of the organizational transfer. LSDO requests an increase in their award to cover this assumed financial liability for open cases transferred from LPDO. The amount of this increase in the LSDO award is offset by the de-obligation of unspent funds in the FY22 grant originally made to LPDO and other available OLS funds remaining from the last biennium's OLS appropriations.
2. In order to achieve greater cost effectiveness, LSDO requests the addition of four full-time attorneys who will provide direct representation in OLS cases. The cost of this is more than offset by a reduction in contract services associated with the cost of cases that would otherwise be handled by panel lawyers at a greater expense.
3. Finally, in order to maintain the agreed level of representation capacity that TIDC has required under the grant award, LPDO will re-allocate some unexpended funds in the budget to meet the necessary costs for public defender contracts in FY25 and is requesting additional funds for the balance not covered by the re-allocation.

These modifications require increase in the award of \$6,582,361.

##### **Recommendation**

**Increase LSDO's FY24 Improvement Grant for Operation Lone Star Indigent Defense by \$6,582,361 to a revised total award of \$37,298,198.**