

TEXAS INDIGENT DEFENSE COMMISSION

209 W. 14TH St, Room 202
Austin, Texas, 78701

512-936-6994 (Voice)

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Contact: Terri Tuttle
512-936-6994

Texas Indigent Defense Commission Awards over \$2.2 Million in Grants to Texas Counties

AUSTIN – Today the Texas Indigent Defense Commission awarded more than \$2.2 million in additional grants to Texas counties at its final meeting of the fiscal year. Tarrant County Judge Glen Whitley, who chairs the Commission’s Grants and Reporting Committee, pointed out the importance of these grants: “These funds are direly needed by Texas counties as they continue to absorb the brunt of increased costs in order to ensure that constitutional responsibilities are met.”

Additionally, Austin County and Hunt County were awarded special grants totaling \$300,000 to offset extraordinary indigent defense expenditures. Counties that demonstrate extraordinary indigent defense expenses that constitute a financial emergency may apply for assistance from the Commission.

The Commission, formerly known as the Task Force on Indigent Defense, has distributed funds to Texas counties since 2002 to help meet the statutory and constitutional requirements to provide access to counsel for the poor. More information on the Commission’s programs is available at <http://www.txcourts.gov/tidc/>.