



## TEXAS INDIGENT DEFENSE COMMISSION

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### **TIDC Awards Formula Grants to Support Defense in Indigent Criminal Cases and to Fund Indigent Defense Coordinator in Kleberg County**

AUSTIN, Texas - The [Texas Indigent Defense Commission](#) (TIDC) awarded \$24 million in formula grants to Texas' 254 Counties to help improve attorney representation systems for the poor. Under the Constitution and Texas state law, each county is required to develop a system to provide attorneys to those charged with a crime who cannot afford to hire counsel. The Commission also awarded \$1.1 million in grants to Texas's 14 largest counties that are not eligible to participate in the rural Regional Public Defender Office for Capital Cases (RPDO). The RPDO is supported with TIDC grants, as well as county matching funds. Both formula grants are awarded based on a formula that considers each county's population and indigent defense costs incurred.

The Commission also awarded a \$44,000 discretionary grant to Kleberg County to hire an indigent defense coordinator. The coordinator will support the county and district court in ensuring that processes are in place to document, track, process and rule upon requests for counsel and make appointments of counsel in a timely manner to defendants determined not to be able to hire counsel. The grant award was made in response to a TIDC policy monitoring review. "Kleberg County appreciates the Commission's grant assistance to help us improve our processes and ensure that indigent defendants have prompt access to counsel," said Kleberg County Judge Rudy Madrid. "At the end of the day, this is a true representation of organizations working together for the greater good of Texas citizens."

"The grants awarded today provide vital support to help Texas' counties provide quality indigent defense representation," said Commission Chair Sharon Keller.

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