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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 17, 2021

TIDC Funds New Public Defense Improvements

AUSTIN – The Texas Indigent Defense Commission (TIDC) awarded over \$4 million in new Improvement Grants today. Funds will be used to build, expand, or improve public defense systems across the State, including the following:

- **Bexar County:** \$1.5 million to establish the Bexar County Managed Assigned Counsel program.
- **Tom Green County:** \$2.3 million to launch the Concho Valley Regional Public Defender Office.
- **Cameron County:** \$200,000 to improve the Cameron County Juvenile Public Defender Office.
- **Denton County:** \$220,000 to create an indigent defense coordinator program.
- **El Paso County:** \$176,000 to fund the *Padilla* Immigration Counseling and Advice program.

“Today, TIDC is helping to create public defender offices in eight counties and improve indigent defense in several more,” said Court of Criminal Appeals Presiding Judge and TIDC Chair Sharon Keller. “We’re excited to support indigent defense innovation here in Texas.”

TIDC Executive Director Geoff Burkhart noted that the Bexar County Managed Assigned Counsel program has been “years in the making” and will be a “big benefit to the County’s 2 million residents.”

In addition to the new Improvement Grant awards, TIDC also awarded over \$18 million in continuing Improvement Grants.

About TIDC

The Texas Indigent Defense Commission funds, oversees, and improves indigent defense in each of the State’s 254 counties. TIDC is led by 13 commission members and 12 staff. To learn more, visit www.tidc.texas.gov.