

[Regional Public Defender Office for Capital Cases]

2013

The Regional Public Defender Office for Capital Cases will be available to Counties in the 1st and 8th Administrative Judicial Regions in October.

A new website is available at <http://rpdo.org>

Town hall meetings will be held the new regions in July. However, please contact the program's Chief Defender, Jack Stoffregen at (806) 775-5650 if you have questions about your county's participation.

On June 21st, 2012 the Texas Indigent Defense Commission approved a \$5,109,739 award for the RPDO, part of which will be dedicated to the expansion of services in the 1st and 8th Administrative Judicial Regions.

Expansion Phase in

- ☐ 192 Counties are eligible (7th, 9th, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, & 6th Administrative Judicial Regions)
- ☐ 48 Counties from the 1st and 8th AJRs will be eligible at the beginning of FY2013
- ☐ 1st and 8th Regions average 53.4 cases per year

Background

The West Texas Regional Public Defender Office was established five years ago by an Interlocal Agreement between the counties in the 7th and 9th judicial regions, with Lubbock County serving as the administrative county. Start-up costs were funded by a grant from the Texas Indigent Defense Commission (then the Task Force) To provide access to more counties, WTRPD requested additional grant funds to expand.

The Lubbock-based office currently has satellite offices in Amarillo, Angleton, Burnet, Kingsville, Midland, and Uvalde dedicated entirely to the defense of indigent defendants charged with capital offenses.

Plans for Expansion

- ☐ Additional satellite offices will be opened in the 1st and 8th Regions. (Locations TBD)
- ☐ Any region may propose its own program of a similar nature at any time.
- ☐ To initiate a program, counties should contact Lubbock County or the Texas Indigent Defense Commission.

<http://rpdo.org>

FY 2013 Budget

Category		Yearly Cost
Personnel Costs		\$3,200,250
Fringe Benefits		\$849,990
Travel & Training		\$429,512
Equipment (w/ Server)	1-time	\$150,000
Supplies (Westlaw, etc.)		\$83,400
Program Evaluation		\$25,000
Indirect (First year)		\$371,587
Total FY2013		\$5,109,739

Cost Allocation for Each County

- ☐ The objective is to distribute the financial responsibility fairly, based on actual use of services.

Original Formula for 7th & 9th Regions

- ☐ Cost allocated based on formula:
 - ☐ 50% based on percentage of total population
 - ☐ 50% based on percentage cases filed
 - ☐ Minimum of \$1,000
- ☐ Cash Match Funding for 4 years
 - ☐ Inter-local agreements established between Lubbock County and other counties

Additional Staffing Requirements

- ☐ 12 new Lawyers
- ☐ 10 new Mitigation Specialists
- ☐ 6 new Investigators
- ☐ 6 new Legal Assistants

RPDO Performance Highlights

- ☐ Able to provide cost efficiency to counties
 - In FY 2009 Randall, Crane, & Taylor Counties paid \$136,617 of services through the interlocal agreement.
 - Without WTRPD, cost to these counties would have been approximately \$557,060**.
- ☐ Creates Budget Predictability
 - Counties are able to forecast the amount of defense expenses required for capital cases with more certainty.
- ☐ Increased Quality of Representation
 - Provides a specialized capital defender system with highly trained lawyers, mitigators, and investigators.

** Based on the Regional Plan Fee Schedule hourly rates applied to the number of hours logged for capital defense services delivered to these counties in FY2009

Counties In Next Expansion Regions

1 st Region	8 th Region
Anderson	Archer
Bowie	Clay
Camp	Cooke
Cass	Eastland
Cherokee	Erath
Delta	Hood
Ellis	Jack
Fannin	Johnson
Franklin	Montague
Grayson	Palo Pinto
Gregg	Parker
Harrison	Somervell
Henderson	Stephens
Hopkins	Wichita
Houston	Wise
Hunt	Young
Kaufman	
Lamar	
Marion	
Morris	
Nacogdoches	
Panola	
Rains	
Red River	
Rockwall	
Rusk	
Shelby	
Smith	
Titus	
Upshur	
Van Zandt	
Wood	

For More Information:

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<http://rpdo.org>

--OR--

Texas Indigent Defense Commission
Phone: 512-936-6994
<http://www.txcourts.gov/tidc>



Regional Public
Defender Office
(RPDO)
for Capital Cases
*Planning Document
Summer 2012*