



HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Office of Management and Budget 1001 Preston; Suite 500 Houston, TX 77002 713-274-1135

Grants Coordination Section - Conveyance Form Application Award

Department Name / Number	DUNS	Grant Title
District Courts - 700	Not Applicable	Multi-District Litigation Court Program FY 2025
Funding Source: Supreme Court of Texas: CFDA# N/A	Grant Agency: Supreme Court of Texas	
Program Year: 16 th	Program Ending:	
Grant Begin Date: 09/01/2024	Grant End Date: 08/31/2025	
Grant Org. Key: GY25_MDL	If applicable, Prior Year Org. Key: 100001000001469	

Grant Description:

Modeled on federal statutes, the Texas Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation (MDL) is authorized by subchapter H, TGC 74, guided by the Texas Rules of Judicial Administration (Rule 13) and provides for the transfer of class action lawsuits filed in state courts to a single state court for pretrial coordination. The MDL panel may transfer litigation to an MDL court when the panel determines that the transfer will be for the convenience of the parties and witnesses; and promote the just and efficient conduct of the actions. For each case filed, once pre-trial proceedings have been completed by the MDL court, the case is remanded to the original court for trial.

	Total Budget	Grant Funded	County Funded
Salary & Benefits	\$104,769.43	\$104,769.43	\$0.00
Non-Labor	\$1,780.57	\$1,780.57	\$0.00
Sub Tot. Incremental Cost	\$106,550.00	\$106,550.00	\$0.00
Indirect Cost	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00*
TOTALS	\$106,550.00	\$106,550.00	\$0.00

* under development

Full Time Equivalent Positions

Date Guidelines are Available

% of Positions Paid by Grant

Grant Submittal Deadline Date

Grant Discussion:

This award is related to an application approved by Commissioners Court on 7/15/24. Through this award, the District Courts are receiving funding from the Texas Supreme Court under Multidistrict Litigation (MDL) guidelines to continue operations of a dedicated MDL Asbestos Court as well as a minimum of 10 additional MDLs including the silica docket and storm-related dockets, among others. The award funds the salaries and benefits of a Court Coordinator (1.0 FTE) in addition to other grant-related services and supplies. The goal is to hear a large percentage of remaining cases over the next year. There is no match requirement.

County Funded Cost Projection

Year	Required	Discretionary
2024	-	-
2025	-	-
2026	-	-
2027	-	-
2028	-	-

Completed by: Michael Mattingly Mattingly, Mike

Date: 9/5/24

Reviewed by: Denise B...

Date: 09/09/24

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

§

COUNTY OF HARRIS §

On this, the 19th day of September, 2024, the Commissioners' Court of Harris County, Texas, sitting as the Governing body of Harris County, at a regular meeting of the Court, upon motion of Commissioner _____, seconded by Commissioner _____, duly put and unanimously carried;

IT IS ORDERED that County Judge Lina Hidalgo or her designee be hereby authorized to approve, and on behalf of Harris County, Texas, permission to apply for continuation funding from Supreme Court of Texas in an amount not to exceed \$106,550 for MDL Court.

The grant period is September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2025

SIGNED: _____
COUNTY JUDGE LINA HIDALGO

Passed and Approved this _____ day of _____, 2024.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Harris County Commissioners' Court finds it in the best interest of the citizens of Harris County that the MDL Court continue to be operated from September 1, 2024 – August 31, 2025: and

WHEREAS, The Harris County Commissioners' Court agrees that the event of loss or misuse of the Supreme Court of Texas funds, The Harris County Commissioners' Court assures that the funds will be returned to the Supreme Court of Texas in full; and

WHEREAS, The Harris County Commissioners' Court designates the Honorable Lina Hidalgo, County Judge, as the grantee's authorized official to apply for, accept, reject, alter or terminate the grant on behalf of the MDL Court.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Harris County Commissioners' Court approves submission of the MDL Court grant application to the Supreme Court of Texas.



The Supreme Court of Texas

CHIEF JUSTICE
NATHAN L. HECHT

201 West 14th Street Post Office Box 12248 Austin TX 78711
Telephone: 512/463-1312 Facsimile: 512/463-1365

CLERK
BLAKE A. HAWTHORNE

JUSTICES
DEBRA H. LEHRMANN
JEFFREY S. BOYD
JOHN P. DEVINE
JAMES D. BLACKLOCK
J. BRETT BUSBY
JANE N. BLAND
REBECA A. HUDDLE
EVAN A. YOUNG

GENERAL COUNSEL
NINA HESS HSU

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
NADINE SCHNEIDER

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
AMY STARNES

August 29, 2024

Mr. Richard Woods
Administrative Office of the District Courts, Harris County
1201 Franklin, 7th Floor
Houston, Texas 77002-2022
richard_woods@justex.net

via email

RE: FY2025 MDL Statement of Grant Award

Dear Mr. Woods:

I have enclosed a Statement of Grant Award. The Court has approved funding from the Multi-District Litigation Grant Program in the amount of **\$106,550.00** for fiscal year 2025. The Grant Award covers the Harris County District Courts Grant Request for the multiple MDL cases and expenses delineated in the Statement of Grant Award.

Please sign, scan, and return this via email to my attention at The Supreme Court of Texas to nina.hesshsu@txcourts.gov. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly at (512) 475-0938.

Sincerely,

/s/ Nina Hess Hsu

Nina Hess Hsu
General Counsel

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Sheily Spangie

via email



The Supreme Court of Texas

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AMY STARNES

August 29, 2024

STATEMENT OF GRANT AWARD MULTI-DISTRICT LITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM FY 2025

Grant Number: 201-25-00001
Grantee Name: Harris County District Courts
Program Title: Dedicated MDL Court – Harris County
Grant Period: September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2025
Grant Award Amount: \$106,550.00

The Supreme Court of Texas (“the Court”) has awarded the above-referenced grant from the MultiDistrict Litigation Grant Program (“MDL Program”), pursuant to H.B. 1 of the 88th Legislature’s Regular Session (“the General Appropriations Act”), Supreme Court of Texas, Strategy B.1.2. The individual authorized to apply for and accept grant funds (“Grantee”) must sign this Statement of Grant Award and return it to the General Counsel of the Court. The signed Statement of Grant Award must be on file with the General Counsel in order for the Grantee to receive reimbursements for authorized expenditures. Funding is provided as listed below:

	Expense	Amount of MDL Grant Program Funds Awarded
a.	Court Coordinator	\$104,769.43
b.	Legal Research	\$834.96

c.	Office Supplies/Long Distance	\$945.61
d.	Total	\$106,550.00

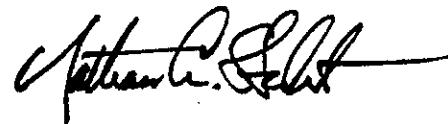
The Grantee agrees to the following:

- To accept the grant award.
- To abide by all terms and conditions as stated in the FY 2025 MDL Grant Program Terms and Conditions (attached) incorporated into this Statement of Grant Award by reference for all purposes.
- All funds shall be managed in accordance with the Texas Uniform Grant Management Standards (UGMS).
- That a violation of any term of the Award Activities or any provisions of the UGMS may result in the Court placing a temporary hold on grant funds and, subject to Court approval, permanently de-obligating all or part of the grant funds, requiring reimbursement for funds already spent, or barring the organization from receiving future grants.
- That disbursement is subject to the availability of the funds appropriated to the Court pursuant to the General Appropriations Act, the Court's Strategy B.1.3.
- The funds set forth above will be disbursed in one lump sum at the beginning of the grant period. If additional funds are to be awarded at a later date, a new Statement of Grant Award will be generated at that time. Any funding not obligated by the end of the grant term will be reimbursed to the Court by September 1, 2025.

Grantee

The Supreme Court of Texas

Signature of Grantee



Nathan L. Hecht
Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Texas

Name & Title

Date: August 29, 2024

Date

Undersigned Grantee certifies that:

This grant is governed by Texas Uniform Grant Management Standards (UGMS).

Grant funds expended must be reasonable and necessary to carry out the objectives of the program for which funding is sought.

Any Grant funds not obligated by the end of the grant term must be reimbursed to the Court and all expenditures must be supported by appropriate documentation.

Grantee understands that funding for the program ends at the termination of the grant period.

Signature

FY2025 MDL Grant Program Terms and Conditions

Applicable Authority and Rules

The MDL Grant Program is governed by the Uniform Grant Management Standards (UGMS) as promulgated by the Office of the Governor.

Program Requirements

- a. **Fund Use** - Funds must be used to pay for the direct and/or administrative costs of improving and supporting the MDL System.
- b. **Compliance with Laws** - The Grantee shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws, statutes, codes, ordinances, rules and regulations, and the orders and decrees of any courts or administrative bodies or tribunals in any matter affecting the performance of this program, including, without limitation, workers' compensation laws, minimum and maximum salary and wage statutes and regulations, nondiscrimination laws and regulations, and licensing laws and regulations. When required, the Grantee shall furnish the Court with satisfactory proof of its compliance.
- c. **Grant Officials** - Grantee must designate the following grant officials:
 - I. **Program director**. This person must be the officer or employee responsible for program operation, monitoring, or implementation of the funded program and who will serve as the point-of-contact regarding the program's day-to-day operations.
 - ii. **Financial officer**. This person must be the county auditor (or county treasurer if the county does not have a county auditor) or governmental, educational institution or non-profit organization's fiscal officer.
 - iii. **Authorized official**. This person must be authorized to apply for, accept, decline, modify, or cancel the grant for the Grantee. A county judge or a designee authorized by the governing body in a resolution may serve as the authorized official.
Note: The program director and the authorized official may be the same person. The financial officer may not serve as the program director or the authorized official.

- d. **Maintain Official Contact Information** - Grantees and subgrantees must advise the Court of changes in the authorized official, program director or financial officer. This information will be used to provide notices for grant information. The Court will use e-mail whenever possible to notify grant recipients of required reports and funding opportunities.
- e. **Reports** - All FY2025 grants will require a final, expenditure report and program report to be due by September 15, 2025, and at least one follow-up report, to be due no later than December 31, 2025, to track program objectives and better ensure that the goals are being met.
- f. **Technology and Software Purchases** - All technology equipment and software must be purchased in accordance with Harris County purchasing procedures and regulations.
- g. **Equipment and Software Maintenance** - All equipment and software purchased with grant funds shall include at least three (3) years and no more than five (5) years of maintenance to ensure that the equipment and software will operate as intended during and beyond the grant period.
- h. **OCA Reporting** – Grantees must follow the Texas Judicial Council's reporting requirements to the Office of Court Administration and must submit their monthly court activity reports to OCA electronically, unless they have obtained a waiver in writing from OCA.
- I. **Records Retention** - Grantees must maintain records related to the funded activity for at least three years after the end of the grant period. Records may be stored electronically. Records must be made available to the Court or its designees upon request.
- j. **Monitoring and Auditing** - Records must be made available to the Court or its designees upon request. The Court or its designees must have access to funded events and be allowed to conduct on-site inspections.
- k. **Professional and Contractual Services** - Any contract or agreement entered into by a Grantee that obligates grant funds must be in writing and consistent with Texas contract law. Grantees must establish a contract administration system to regularly and consistently ensure that contract deliverables are being provided as specified in the contracts. A Grantee's failure to monitor its contracts may result in disallowed costs and/or disallowed match.
- l. **Grant Management Standards** - All programs and funds awarded by the Court shall be managed in accordance with the Texas Uniform Grant Management Standards (UGMS).
- m. **Timeframe for Expenses** - No expenses are allowed outside of the period specified in the Statement of Grant Award.
- n. **Funds Availability** - All commitments are subject to the availability of funds.