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Travis County Auditor's Office
Subrecipient Risk Assessment Results – Hays County
Fiscal Year 2023

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TRAVIS COUNTY
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To: Sally Hernandez, Sheriff
Travis County Sheriff's Office

From: Patti Smith, CPA
Travis County Auditor

Date: April 12, 2023

Subject: Hays County - Risk Assessment Results

The Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority of the State of Texas (MVCPA) grant is a $697,075 fund for a multi-regional task force. Within the MVCPA, the Sheriff's Combined Auto Theft Task Force (SCATTF) is managed by Travis County and encompasses 16 Central Texas counties, including Hays County. Hays County's portion of the grant totals $91,707.

When the County remits grant funds to another organization to carry out the state award, that organization may be considered a subrecipient by the state government depending on the details of the County's relationship with that organization. Travis County is required to comply with applicable Texas Grant Management Standards (TxGMS) requirements for its subrecipients. Specifically, the County must comply with requirements that "the local government must review the risk posed by grant applicants." The County is required to use these risk assessment results to develop a monitoring plan for the subrecipients.

The Risk Evaluation & Consulting Division (REC) of the Travis County Auditor's Office has completed a risk assessment of grant subrecipient Hays County; the following report details our findings for this risk assessment.

RISK RATINGS

For subrecipient risk assessments, REC utilizes a five-level risk rating scale from very low to very high to quantify risks based on 11 criteria. The ratings for these criteria are then utilized to assign an overall risk rating to the subrecipient of low, medium, or high. We determined the overall risk rating for Hays County to be low; details about risk criteria rated high and very high are provided in the Areas of Concern paragraph below. See Attachment A for a summary of the individual risk ratings for the 11 risk criteria.

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AREAS OF CONCERN

In this section, we report on risk criteria rated high and very high. We noted the following for Hays County:

Very High-Risk Rating:

Documented Procedures
The County and its subrecipients are required to adhere to the Texas Grant Management Standards (TxGMS) which include the requirement for documented procedures. Hays County did not provide any policies and procedures addressing timekeeping or payroll.

Policies are the entity's business rules and requirements. Procedures are the steps to be taken to ensure adherence to policy. Note that we only evaluated the submitted procedures and not their actual implementation by the entity.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

The concerns reported above are significant because the County is a pass-through entity. If the subrecipient is found to be noncompliant, the state government will also consider the County to be noncompliant. We recommend that Hays County review their current documented procedures and make improvements as necessary to ensure their procedures are compliant with TxGMS.

FINANCIAL OBSERVATIONS

The following observations are based on the September 30, 2021, audited financial statements provided by Hays County:

Financial Statements

- Annual revenues totaled approximately $198,311,749. Revenues were comprised of property taxes (58%), sales tax (16%), other revenue (13%), charges for services (7%), and operating grants and contributions (7%). Expenditures totaled approximately $224,387,553, resulting in a deficiency of revenues under expenditures of approximately $26,075,804.

- Assets totaled $764,671,267 and liabilities totaled $720,765,167, resulting in net assets of $43,906,100.

RISK ASSESSMENT TEAM

Ely Allen, Financial Analyst II

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CLOSING

This report is intended solely for the information and use of County departments and offices involved with processing state grant funds and the Commissioners Court. Please contact us if you have any concerns or questions regarding this report.

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Cynthia Sayles, Grants Manager, Travis County Auditor's Office
Risk Assessment File

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ATTACHMENT A – RISK ASSESSMENT RATINGS

Risk Assessment Criteria and Ratings	Rating
1. Financial impropriety involving the subrecipient reported in the media	Very Low
2. Amount of grant award for this project/program	Very Low
3. Experience managing any type of grant funds	Very Low
4. Grant experience: dollar amount of grant revenue for most recent fiscal year.	Very Low
5. Single Audit	Very Low
6. Financial statement audit	Very Low
7. Financial records and reporting	Very Low
8. State/federal agency monitoring during the past 3 years	Low
9. Personnel experience and/or turnover	Medium
10. Internal Control Questionnaire	Very Low
11. Documented procedures	Very High
Overall Risk Rating	Low