

Office of the Attorney General
Request for Applications (RFA) for the
Choose Life Grant Program

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) is soliciting applications for projects that support the Choose Life Grant Program. The purpose of the OAG Choose Life Grant Program is to provide funds, using a competitive allocation method, as described in Chapter 402 of the Government Code.

Applicable Funding Source for Choose Life Grant Program:

The Choose Life Grant Program receives funding from a separate account in the general revenue fund that the OAG is authorized to administer to make grants to an eligible organization. The Choose Life account is authorized by Chapter 504.662 of the Transportation Code, and Chapter 402.036 of the Government Code, and is funded by fees collected for the purchase of a Choose Life License Plate, as well as gifts, grants, donations and legislative appropriations. All funding is contingent upon an appropriation to the OAG by the Texas Legislature. The OAG makes no commitment that an Application, once submitted, or a grant, once funded, will receive subsequent funding.

Eligibility Requirements:

Eligible Applicants: An Applicant Organization must be an eligible organization in this state to apply for the Choose Life Grant Program, meaning it must meet all of the following criteria:

- An organization that provides services in this state and is exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(a), Internal Revenue Code of 1986, by being listed as an exempt charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of that code;
- Provides counseling and material assistance to pregnant women who are considering placing their children for adoption;
- Does not charge for services provided;
- Does not provide abortions or abortion-related services or make referrals to abortion providers;
- Is not affiliated with an organization that provides abortions or abortion-related services or makes referrals to abortion providers; and
- Does not contract with an organization that provides abortions or abortion-related services or makes referrals to abortion providers.

Eligibility: The OAG will initially screen each application for eligibility. Applications will be deemed ineligible if the application is submitted by an ineligible applicant; the application is not filed in the manner and form required by the Application Kit; the application is filed after the deadline established in the Application Kit; or the application does not meet other requirements as stated in the RFA and the Application Kit.

How to Obtain Application Kit: The OAG will post the Application Kit on the OAG's website at www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/chooselife. Updates and other helpful reminders about the application process will also be posted at this location. Potential Applicant Organizations are encouraged to refer to this site regularly.

Deadlines and Filing Instructions for the Grant Application:

Application Deadline: The Applicant Organization must submit its application, including all required attachments, to the OAG and the OAG must receive the submitted application and all required attachments by the deadline established in the Application Kit to be considered timely filed.

Filing Instructions: Strict compliance with the filing instructions, as provided in the Application Kit, is required. The OAG will **not** consider an Application if it is not filed by the due date as stated in the Application Kit.

Minimum and Maximum Amounts of Funding Available: Minimum and maximum amounts of funding are subject to change as stated in the Application Kit. The minimum grant request the OAG will consider is \$1,000. As of the date this Application Kit is published, the amount available in the Choose Life account to award is approximately \$39,000. Applications requesting an amount below the minimum will not be considered.

Start Date and Length of Grant Contract Period: The term of this grant contract is one year from September 1, 2015, through August 31, 2016, with the ability for an extension of time, subject to and contingent on funding and approval by the OAG.

No Match or Volunteer Requirements: There are no match or volunteer requirements.

Award Criteria: The OAG will make funding decisions that support the efficient and effective use of public funds. Scoring and review components will include, but are not limited to, information provided by the applicant on the proposed project activities and budget. Funding decisions will use a competitive allocation method. All grant decisions including, but not limited to, eligibility, evaluation and review, and funding rest completely within the discretionary authority of the OAG. The decisions made by the OAG are final and are not subject to appeal.

Grant Purpose Area: All grant projects must address one or more of the purpose areas as stated in the Application Kit.

Prohibitions on Use of Choose Life Grant Program Funds: OAG grant funds may not be used to support activities related to providing abortions or abortion-related services, or making referrals to abortion providers. OAG grant funds may not be used to support or pay the costs of equipment, overtime, out-of-state travel, dues, or lobbying; any portion of the salary or any other compensation for an elected government official; the purchase or lease of vehicles; the purchase of promotional items or recreational activities; costs of travel that are unrelated to the direct delivery of services that support the OAG grant-funded program; the costs for consultants or vendors who participate directly in writing a grant application; or for any unallowable costs set forth in applicable state or federal law, rules, regulations, guidelines, policies, procedures or cost principles. Grant funds may not be used to purchase any other products or services the OAG identifies as inappropriate or unallowable within this RFA or the Application Kit.

OAG Contact Person: If additional information is needed, contact Lyndsay Ysla at Grants@texasattorneygeneral.gov or (512) 936-1278.