



ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT

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OFFICE OF  
COURT ADMINISTRATION

January 25, 2005

Mr. Bryan Wilson, Grant Administrator  
Task Force on Indigent Defense  
POB 12066  
Austin, TX 78711


Dear Mr. Wilson:

The Webb County Public Defender's Office and the Webb County Office of Economic Development have reviewed the OCA Task Force on Indigent Defense's current funding formula and its impact on local indigent defense. We would like to thank the Task Force for their assistance in providing the necessary resources for our continued success in the fair representation of our clients.

After careful analysis, we have determined that the Task Force grant has played a major role in allowing us to provide fair and equitable representation before the law for clients who cannot afford private attorneys. We are, therefore, in favor of continuing the use of the current grant formula and urge that the Task Force retain it in making its awards. Any changes to that formula may have a significant negative impact on Public Defenders' offices in all heavily populated Texas counties, making them less able than they presently are to mount an effective defense for their clients.

Again, thank you for your support and assistance to our offices. We look forward to continuing to work with you in the future. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 956-523-4606.

Sincerely,

  
Juan Vargas  
Director of Economic Development