

TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Brandon S. Wood



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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MEMORANDUM

To: Sheriffs and Jail Administrators
From: Branson S. Wood, Executive Director
Date: August 23, 2019
Subject: HB 4468, Electronic Monitoring of "At-Risk" Cells

The 86th Legislature passed HB 4468, which amended Government Code 511.019(d). This increased the size of county jails eligible for grant funding from 96 to 288 beds.

In order to determine whether your facility meets the requirements of 511.019(d) and to verify we have the most up to date information, counties with a capacity of 97 to 288 beds need to submit floor plans of your facility. If your county operates more than one facility, please provide a floor plan of each facility. When submitting these floor plans please ensure that holding cells, detoxification cells, separation cells, single cells and violent cells are clearly identified. If electronic sensors or cameras are already provided at or near these cells, their locations need to be denoted on the floor plans.

Funding will only cover the initial costs to purchase and install systems for monitoring of at-risk cells. Ongoing maintenance costs associated with the systems will not be the responsibility of the Commission and funding will not be allocated for such. Any funding allocated to a facility must be utilized to purchase only the products approved through the proposal process. If a facility makes changes to a proposal after our initial review, documentation must be provided to our office for reevaluation. Systems considered excessive, above and beyond the minimum required, or considered to be too costly during our review may be denied on a case by case basis.

Counties seeking funding must submit an itemized proposal indicating the number, type and model of each device, including the cost associated with each item. Facilities that have already installed electronic devices to meet the requirements of Section 511.019(d) after September 1, 2017, may provide documentation detailing the cost of each item to be reviewed for potential reimbursement. Facilities that installed equipment prior to September 1, 2017, will not be eligible for reimbursement. Please provide the requested information by **September 30, 2019**.

All facilities are required to comply with these requirements by September 1, 2021. Your regional Inspector will review these systems as part of the annual inspection process after installation has been verified by our office.

If you have any questions regarding this program, please contact Grant Administrator Bobby Ratra bobby.ratra@tcjs.state.tx.us or Planner Jason Ross jason.ross@tcjs.state.tx.us to request additional information.

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"The Commission on Jail Standards welcomes all suggestions and will promptly respond to all complaints directed against the agency or any facilities under its purview".

To empower local government to provide safe, secure and suitable local jail facilities through proper rules and procedures while promoting innovative programs and ideas