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**For Immediate Release: Dallas County DA's Office Receives Grant to Continue
Transportation Access for Youthful Offenders**

(Dallas, Texas) – Dallas County Criminal District Attorney John Creuzot is proud to announce the Dallas County District Attorney's Office has received a grant in the amount of \$12,500 from the Texas Bar Foundation to continue funding Transportation Access for Youthful Offenders.

"We remain so thankful to the Texas Bar Foundation for this grant. To receive this money means continuing crucial work in Dallas County and sends a message that we care about our youthful offenders and want to see them making meaningful changes in their lives. This money will go directly into the future of our communities, ensuring we break the cycle of recidivism and drive down costs for taxpayers in the process," said Dallas County Criminal District Attorney John Creuzot.

The Transportation Access for Youthful Offenders project helps close short-term transportation gaps for individuals assigned to the AIM (Achieve Inspire Motivate) Drug Court by eliminating logistical and financial barriers to transportation. This grant will continue to enhance overall public safety, increase compliance by AIM court participants, and increase the successful completion rate of AIM participants.

Removing a Barrier

Participants in AIM have multiple appointments each week – court, meeting with case managers, drug testing, counseling, and other court-ordered programming. Many involved in the AIM program have greater risk factors as they deal with homelessness, unemployment, limited resources, and lack of family support. These challenges combined with Dallas' sprawling layout with limited public transportation can make it almost impossible for some participants to stay in compliance.

Thanks to transportation vouchers provided by this grant, that barrier has been removed. Through these vouchers, participants have reliable transportation to crucial programs like residential treatment, intensive outpatient therapeutic counseling, and community service hours just to name a few.

Ameia, a recent graduate from the AIM program, benefitted directly.

"There isn't an excuse for you to miss court. When I started this program, I did not have a car, but I did have reliable transportation from family, but things happen," Ameia said. "Thanks to the transportation that the AIM program provides in an emergency, you don't have to get sanctioned because you can't make it somewhere."

Fellow participant Alison added, “The parking passes helped me a lot since the garage fees can add up! I’m very thankful the AIM program has such things like Uber credits because they definitely come in handy when you need it most!”

A Legacy of Measured Success

AIM was established in February 2016 by the Dallas County District Attorney’s Office and is a pre-adjudication diversion program for first-time felony offenders aged 18-24. **A study by the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute found a 74% reduction in recidivism among AIM Court participants vs. Probationers and a cost savings of \$6.86 for every \$1 invested in AIM Court vs. probation.**

Since its creation, AIM has graduated 223 individuals between the ages of 18-24. The 12-18-month program includes life and parenting skills, counseling and substance abuse treatment, resources for housing, food, and healthcare, and is centered around employment and education. Before graduating, each participant is required to complete their GED and/or secure employment. After graduating from AIM, the participant’s case will be dismissed and immediately expunged.

With these grant funds from the Texas Bar Foundation, AIM participants will have consistent access to employment opportunities, job training, and other program requirements. Closing these short-term gaps can have an exponential impact on participants’ success. Together, we can create a safer community and improve our local workforce.

Since its inception in 1965, the Texas Bar Foundation has awarded more than \$27 million in grants to law-related programs. Supported by members of the State Bar of Texas, the Texas Bar Foundation is the nation’s largest charitably-funded bar foundation.