



**Hidalgo County Health &  
Human Services Department  
Public Health Preparedness & Response Division**

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June 16, 2009

Mr. Eduardo Olivarez,

Respectfully consider the following request for an Epidemiologist for Hidalgo County Health & Human Services Department either at a minimum of 3 months contractual basis or full-time. Based on the ongoing needs and challenges that our department faces it is become evident that our current staff does not have the educational background and/or training necessary to evaluate the highly complex epidemiological medical scenarios that have unfolded in recent months. The current H1N1 is prime example of the challenges that our department faces, and the liability to our staff is much too great to oversee. Hidalgo County is the county with the highest number of confirmed H1N1 cases in the State of Texas, bringing us at 534 confirmed cases and 5 probable cases as of June 11, 2009. Furthermore, it is the community as a whole who is being underserved by our current lack of preparation.

With this position filled it would alleviate much of the medical and legal burden currently being placed on other department members which in turn will translate to more efficient handling of incoming medical threats and/or challenges. Hidalgo County Health & Human Services Department has benefited from the expertise and guidance of an Epidemiologist position in the past, but due to grant cuts have been unable to fill. By filling this position Health Department Staff will be able to have a more accountable system in place and will be better able to handle their current case load. Please review and forward accordingly as this is a matter which requires the utmost attention. Thank you in advance for helping us build a stronger and more professional work force here at the Hidalgo County Health & Human Services Department.

Sincerely,

Evangelina Rubio  
Public Health Preparedness Coordinator