



Hidalgo County Commissioners Court

Ramon Garcia
County Judge

A. C. Cuellar, Jr.
Commissioner, Precinct 1

Eduardo "Eddie" Cantu
Commissioner, Precinct 2

Joe M. Flores
Commissioner, Precinct 3

Joseph Palacios
Commissioner, Precinct 4

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, September 20, 2016

Texas Healthy Communities Program recognizes Hidalgo County for preventing and controlling heart disease, stroke and other chronic diseases

EDINBURG – The Texas Healthy Communities Program recognized the County of Hidalgo for its efforts to reduce cardiovascular disease (CVD), stroke, and other chronic diseases.

The Texas Healthy Communities Program assists communities to assess their existing environments, implement changes in local environmental and policy infrastructure and adopt priority public health practices to reduce risk factors for chronic diseases and honors cities that advance recognized best practices for preventing and controlling CVD, stroke and other chronic diseases.

There are four levels of recognition: Gold, Silver, Bronze and Honorable Mention. Hidalgo County was recognized at the Bronze Level. Last year the county received an Honorable Mention. Communities are assessed on eight indicators to determine recognition as a Texas Healthy Community. Environmental indicators include offering physical activity areas, healthy eating options, mother-friendly, worksites and an evidence-based health curriculum in schools. Policy indicators include a 100% smoke free city smoking ordinance; an EMS system which maintains a rapid response time for cardiac events and treatment of stroke as a medical emergency in the community, with appropriate acute stroke treatment protocols in place.

The Texas communities recognized this year are: Harris, Nueces and Webb counties and the City of Houston at the Gold Level; Angelina, Lubbock, Parker, Taylor, and Victoria counties recognized at the Silver Level; Hidalgo, Lamar, Parker, Taylor and Victoria counties at the Bronze Level; and Ector, Jasper, Nacogdoches, Newton, Waller and Wood counties, and the Cities of Temple, Red Oak, and Waxahachie received Honorable Mentions.

More information about the Texas Healthy Communities Program can be found on the Texas Department of State Health Services web site at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/heart/Texas-Healthy-Communities-Program.aspx>, or by contacting the Texas Healthy Communities Program, Cecily Brea, by phone at (512) 776 – 2050 or email at TXHC@dshs.state.tx.us.

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Hidalgo County is home to one of the fastest growing regions in the nation. We provide health and justice to the 800,000 residents of our county as well as a variety of services to residents who live outside city limits. We strive to be accessible and responsive to our citizens by providing excellent public service through the values of leadership, transparency, fairness, collaboration, respect and fiscal responsibility.