

January 9, 2018

Eduardo Olivarez  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Hidalgo County Health and Human Services Department  
1304 S. 25th Ave.  
Edinburg, TX 78542

Re: Project Public Health Ready Recognition Status

Dear Mr. Olivarez:

On behalf of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), I am pleased to inform you that Hidalgo County Health and Human Services Department has been awarded Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) recognition. PPHR recognition acknowledges your dedication and commitment toward public health preparedness. Congratulations on achieving this prestigious recognition!

Your final applicant review form has been shared electronically with your PPHR state lead. This form provides overall comments from reviewers on your application as well as criteria-specific feedback on areas of excellence or opportunities for further improving your agency's plans. NACCHO may wish to share some of the areas of excellence and procedures identified in your application with other LHDs. If that situation arises, NACCHO staff will contact your agency to seek permission to share your work.

Take pride in your accomplishment! Promote your PPHR recognition status using the press release template that has been shared with your PPHR state lead. Additionally, please join us for the PPHR recognition ceremony at the 2018 Public Health Preparedness Summit, April 17-20 in Atlanta, GA. This ceremony not only acknowledges your exceptional accomplishments but also provides you with the opportunity to meet representatives from other newly recognized agencies. Additional information regarding the recognition ceremony will be forthcoming at a later date.

Once again, congratulations on achieving PPHR recognition. NACCHO strongly encourages you to continue with the PPHR quality improvement process by conducting routine assessments of your agency's public health preparedness plans, staff capacity and capability, and response activities.

Sincerely,

William M. Barnes, PhD, MBA  
Interim Executive Director & Chief Program Officer

Laura Hanen, MPP  
Interim Executive Director & Chief of Government Affairs



## Mike Escaname

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**From:** Burrell,Deserie (DSHS) <Deserie.Burrell@dshs.texas.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 16, 2018 3:35 PM  
**To:** mike.escaname@hchd.org; Evangelina.Rubio@hchd.org  
**Subject:** FW: Request To Travel Out Of State - PHEP Program - Hidalgo County Health Department

The travel is approved.

*Deserie Burrell, CTCM*

Contract Management Section  
(512) 776-3967

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**From:** Powers,Linda (DSHS)  
**Sent:** Friday, February 16, 2018 11:24 AM  
**To:** Burrell,Deserie (DSHS) <Deserie.Burrell@dshs.texas.gov>; Birnberg,Dana (DSHS) <Dana.Birnberg@dshs.texas.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Request To Travel Out Of State - PHEP Program - Hidalgo County Health Department

They are good to go. 😊

Linda Powers  
Public Health Emergency Preparedness Liaison  
Health Emergency Preparedness and Response  
Regional and Local Health Operations  
Texas Department of State Health Services  
Office: 512-776-6365  
Mobile: 512-484-2819  
[linda.powers@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:linda.powers@dshs.texas.gov)

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**From:** Burrell,Deserie (DSHS)  
**Sent:** Friday, February 16, 2018 11:10 AM  
**To:** Birnberg,Dana (DSHS) <[Dana.Birnberg@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:Dana.Birnberg@dshs.texas.gov)>; Powers,Linda (DSHS) <[Linda.Powers@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:Linda.Powers@dshs.texas.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Request To Travel Out Of State - PHEP Program - Hidalgo County Health Department

Please see his request below. This would fall under the 10% so he could pursue making arrangements should the program allow.

*Deserie Burrell, CTCM*

Contract Management Section  
(512) 776-3967

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**From:** Mike Escaname [<mailto:miguel.escaname@hchd.org>]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 16, 2018 11:02 AM

**To:** Burrell,Deserie (DSHS) <[Deserie.Burrell@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:Deserie.Burrell@dshs.texas.gov)>  
**Cc:** [eddie.olivarez@hchd.org](mailto:eddie.olivarez@hchd.org); [eva.rubio@hchd.org](mailto:eva.rubio@hchd.org)  
**Subject:** Request To Travel Out Of State - PHEP Program - Hidalgo County Health Department

Deserie,

The available funds that resulted from a vacancy that has since been filled will be transferred out of the Personnel category.

Let me know if you have any other questions.

*Mike Escaname*

Chief Financial Officer  
Hidalgo County Health & Human Services Department  
1304 S. 25<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Edinburg, TX 78542-7205  
Main Line (956) 383-6221  
Direct Line (956) 292-7000 ext. 7210

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**From:** Burrell,Deserie (DSHS) [<mailto:Deserie.Burrell@dshs.texas.gov>]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 16, 2018 10:58 AM  
**To:** Mike Escaname  
**Subject:** FW: Request To Travel Out Of State - PHEP Program - Hidalgo County Health Department

I need to know where you getting the requested \$5k to cover – is it unspent travel funds or are you requesting to move money from another category to cover the expenses if they are approved? If so, from what category and why are there excess funds.

*Deserie Burrell, CTCM*

Contract Management Section  
(512) 776-3967

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**From:** Mike Escaname [<mailto:miguel.escaname@hchd.org>]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 16, 2018 10:53 AM  
**To:** Burrell,Deserie (DSHS) <[Deserie.Burrell@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:Deserie.Burrell@dshs.texas.gov)>  
**Cc:** [eddie.olivarez@hchd.org](mailto:eddie.olivarez@hchd.org); [eva.rubio@hchd.org](mailto:eva.rubio@hchd.org)  
**Subject:** Request To Travel Out Of State - PHEP Program - Hidalgo County Health Department

Good morning Deserie:

In an effort to comply with a travel requirement as stated in the Grant Technical Assistance Guide, section 3.6.3 (Travel), this email is being sent to you to obtain prior approval to travel to Atlanta Georgia within the dates of April 16, 2018 to April 20, 2018.

Hidalgo County Health & Human Services was awarded Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) recognition on January 9, 2018. The National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO) has invited us to participate in the PPHR recognition ceremony at the 2018 Public Health Preparedness Summit to be held on April 17<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> of 2018. This summit is a premiere conference on public health preparedness and provides a wealth of information in this area.

We have planned on using available [FY 18 PHEP](#) (Hazards) funds to send two Hidalgo County PHEP program participants to cover the costs of this trip. A preliminary total cost estimate has arrived to \$5,112.00.

Due to the wonderful notification of this national recognition, we'd appreciate if this request could be expedited in order to make the necessary travel arrangements.

Thank you for your assistance with this request.

*Mike Escaname*

Chief Financial Officer

Hidalgo County Health & Human Services Department

1304 S. 25<sup>th</sup> Ave

Edinburg, TX 78542-7205

Main Line (956) 383-6221

Direct Line (956) 292-7000 ext. 7210

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## TRAVEL Budget Category Detail Form

Legal Name of Respondent:

**HIDALGO COUNTY**

Conference / Workshop Travel Costs					
Description of Conference/Workshop	Justification	Location City/State	Number of:	Travel Costs	
			Days & Employees	Mileage	
2018 Public Health Preparedness Summit (PHPR NACCHO Recognition)	2 staff for 4 nights (Per diem is \$64 per day x 4 days = \$256 for 2 employees = \$512.00; Lodging is \$300 per night for 4 nights = \$1,200 for two employees = \$2,400.00; Air fare for two persons \$790 (estimate); Registration is \$705 per person = \$1,410.00	Atlanta / Georgia	4 nights / 2 employees	Mileage	
				Airfare	\$790
				Meals	\$512
				Lodging	\$2,400
				Other Costs	\$1,410
				<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,112</b>
				Mileage	
				Airfare	
				Meals	
				Lodging	
				Other Costs	
				<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>
				Mileage	
				Airfare	
				Meals	
				Lodging	
				Other Costs	
				<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>
				Mileage	
				Airfare	
				Meals	
				Lodging	
				Other Costs	\$0
				<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>
TOTAL FROM TRAVEL SUPPLEMENTAL CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP BUDGET SHEETS					\$0

**Total for Conference / Workshop Travel**

**\$5,112**

# PREPAREDNESS SUMMIT

APRIL 17 - 20, 2018 • ATLANTA GEORGIA


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## 2018 Preparedness Summit

### Strengthening National Health Security: Mastering Ordinary Responses, Building Resilience for Extraordinary Events

Communities constantly face unexpected emergencies such as Zika virus outbreaks, floods, wildfires and chemical spills. Each event yields learning opportunities and resulting lessons that can strengthen communities for the next event. By identifying, responding to and recovering from these ongoing events, communities build the capacity and capabilities to withstand extraordinary, catastrophic events.

As public health professionals look towards an uncertain future, one thing is certain—we must continue to build resilience for any and all events. Climate change and its numerous effects on communities will test our ability to take actions to prepare, respond, and recover from disasters. The focus of the 2018 Preparedness Summit is to explore the factors driving change in our world, analyze how they will impact the future of public health preparedness, and identify opportunities we have *today* to drive action toward meeting our future needs.

The Preparedness Summit is the first and longest running national conference on public health preparedness. Since its beginning in 2006, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) has taken a leadership role in convening a wide array of partners to participate in the Summit; presenting new research findings, sharing tools and resources, and providing a variety of opportunities for attendees to learn how to implement model practices that enhance the nation's capabilities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters and other emergencies.

In 2018, the Summit will take place at the Hyatt Regency in Atlanta, Ga., April 17-20. We hope you will join us!

Like 11



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Register to attend Plenary Session “Strengthening Health Security: Visions for a Prepared and Resilient Nation”

16 Feb 2018

Register for the 2018 Preparedness Summit to attend a plenary session featuring federal leaders from ASPR, FEMA, CDC and Homeland Security discuss topics such as, Strengthening Health Security: Visions for a Prepared and Resilient Nation. New leadership within federal agencies responsible for [Read more](#) →

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