



Hidalgo County Health and Human Services Department

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July 3, 2018

Mr. Robert Hancock
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
Division of Diabetes Translation
4770 Buford Highway
MD F-75
Atlanta, GA 30341

RE: Letter of Support for the Application by the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC)
Under Grant Opportunity CDC-RFA-DP18-1817

Dear Mr. Hancock:

Please accept this letter as an expression of full support for the application by the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) for grant funding under the opportunity titled, "*Diabetes and Heart Disease & Stroke Prevent Programs—Innovative State and Local Public Health Strategies to Prevent and Manage Diabetes and Heart Disease and Stroke.*" The need for these programs is enormous in the Lower Rio Grande Valley due to the high prevalence of diabetes and obesity in our region. The prevalence of cardiovascular disease and stroke incidents have added to our chronic disease crisis.

In regards to the proposed project, the Hidalgo County Health and Human Services Department is enthusiastically collaborating with the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council, the local Council of Governments, on this grant proposal submission. Our department is at the forefront of addressing various public health challenges on the Texas-Mexico border. Thus, we welcome the LRGVDC's initiative in partnership with Unidos Contra la Diabetes (UCD) and the Texas A&M School of Public Health. Our department is ready to support this strong partnership to ensure that we meet the public health outcomes outlined in our proposal to reduce and manage these deadly chronic conditions.

We are pleased that the LRGVDC is seeking these funds on behalf of Hidalgo County and on behalf of our neighboring Cameron County and Willacy County. Individually, none of our counties would be able to apply for this grant opportunity. Together, though, through the consortium that we represent through the LRGVDC our southernmost border region will have a fair opportunity to access such critical CDC resources to improve our population's wellbeing.

To conclude, we whole-heartedly support the LRGVDC application. Please contact me at 956-383-6221 if we can answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Eddie Olivarez
Chief Health Administrator