



June 16, 2020

Judge Richard F. Cortez
Hidalgo County Judge
Hidalgo County
100 E. Cano Second Floor
Edinburg, Texas 78539

**Subject: Contract Renewal for training and skills development for Hidalgo County Residents
Request for FY 19-20: \$100,000.00 Benchmark 20**

Dear Judge Cortez:

First and foremost, thank you very much for the partnership with the County of Hidalgo to provide it's economically disadvantaged residents with assistance in obtaining job training and postsecondary education to compete for demand occupations. As you commence the arduous work of budget review, we have prepared information that will assist in the process. Enclosed please find:

- Hidalgo County Progress Report year to date for current funding.
- VIDA's FY 17-18: Closing Annual Summary: 503 Valley residents were served during FY 17-18 with an average income after graduation of **\$38,500.80** per year with benefits.
- VIDA's 2015 Economic Impact Study conducted by UTPA in which the findings show that VIDA's work has a positive incremental economic impact on the Rio Grande Valley. The study shows that for every one dollar invested in VIDA and its participants, there is a **\$12.12** return to the communities that we serve. **This translates to a return on the community's investment of \$29.6 million dollars in additional jobs, income, taxes and output in the local economy.**

VIDA is proud to report that the benchmark of individuals served under the current contract was exceeded. This is only possible through the leveraging of County, State and Federal training dollars.

Your commitment to empowering the adult, hard to serve market with the tools – the skills – to break the cycle of poverty and pave the way to self-sufficiency is not only appreciated but also a fundamental need if we are to compete for new job creation, and satisfy the needs of our existing employers as they struggle with job retention. **VIDA respectfully requests an investment of \$100,000 to serve 20 Hidalgo residents in FY 19-20 (January 2020 through December 2020).** We look forward to continuing the work that we do in partnership with Hidalgo County to impact sustainable economic growth in the region...one VIDA at a time.

Respectfully,


Priscilla Dinn Alvarez
Executive Director

Enclosures: Progress Report, Annual Summary, Economic Impact Study | PHONE: (956) 903-1900