

AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Commissioners Court – June 30, 2020

AI Number: 76238

Project Number: 2020-288

Information: Requesting authority to exempt from competitive procurement requirements, pursuant to TxLGC 262.024 (a)(1)(2) and requesting authority to purchase Abbott ID Now Instruments for the Hidalgo County Health Department in order to assist with County medical and public health expenses addressing the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency.

Description of AI: Purchase of instruments to increase the availability of COVID-19 tests and decrease the turnaround rate between the test and the results.

Funding Source: CARES Act Relief Fund (TBD)

Acct. # 0-1287-441-42-115-096-0-660

Requested by: Eduardo “Eddie” Olivarez, Health Director

Department: Health Department

Prepared by: Hector A. Garcia, Contract Specialist I

Department: Purchasing Department

BACKGROUND

On March 17, 2020, pursuant to the authority under Texas Government Code Section 418.108, Hidalgo County Judge Richard Cortez issued a Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency due to the imminent threat arising from the Coronavirus (COVID-19). On March 22, 2020, in accordance with Texas Government Code Section 418.108(b), the Commissioners Court of Hidalgo County issued an Order of Continuance of Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency that affirmed the activation of the Hidalgo County Emergency Management Plan and extends the Declaration of Local Disaster.

In coordination with the response of this ongoing public health emergency, the Hidalgo County Health Department is in need of COVID-19 testing instruments and supplies to conduct tests on the residents, First Responders and Health Care Professionals that may have been exposed to COVID-19 in the process.

The 2010 Census has indicated that Hidalgo County has a low to moderate income level of 54.76% and the Texas Department of State Health Services estimates Hidalgo County’s population to be 1,005,539. With this large impoverished population, but limited lab testing capacity, the detection, mitigation, and response to COVID-19 has been largely impacted. Current public health directive emphasizing the importance of preventing and mitigating the spread of COVID-19.

With the increase rise of infection rates, the immediate acquisition of this equipment and supplies will provide a much needed service to increase the County's testing capacity as part of the continued response to the public health emergency related to COVID-19.

COMPLIANCE

In compliance with the national preparedness goal under the Presidential Policy Directive (PPD-8), the Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 (HSPD-5) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Capability 12 and pursuant to the Order of Continuance of Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency that affirmed the activation of the Hidalgo County Emergency Management Plan and extends the Declaration of Local Disaster, requests the courts approval for the purchase of Abbott ID Now Instruments and supplies to address the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic public health emergency.

ADMINISTRATION

Approval of the item is consistent with Hidalgo County's intended purpose to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

AGENDA ITEM CAPTION

- A. Discussion, consideration, and action to approve a necessary CARES Act Relief Fund expenditure to cover cost not accounted for in the current budget and cannot be lawfully funded by a line item, allotment or allocation, for the Abbott ID Now Instruments in order to assist with County medical and public health expenses addressing the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency; the Court having reviewed the Agenda Item Briefing, herein finds that such expenditure is reasonable and necessary for the intended use;
- B. Requesting exemption from competitive procurement requirements pursuant to Texas Local Government Code 262.024 (a)(1)(2), attached herein; and
- C. Request by Hidalgo County Department of Health and Human Services to purchase thirteen (13) Abbott ID Now Instruments from _____ in the total amount of _____ meeting specifications and requirements including, but not limited to submittal of Form 1295 and proof of required insurances [if applicable].

RECOMMENDATIONS

Approval of the item will allow the Hidalgo County Health Department to proceed with increasing testing ability while addressing the current public health directive emphasizing the importance of preventing and mitigating the spread of COVID-19. As previously stated, the purchase of this equipment and supplies, are a reasonable and necessary expenditure related to the County's COVID-19 Public Health Response. Expenditures will be charged to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief,

and Economic Security (CARES) Act and/or other assistance available to address the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Attachments:

- Tex. Loc. Gov. Code
- Form 1295
- Agenda Item Briefing
