



2812 S. Bus. Hwy 281  
Edinburg, Texas 78539  
Phone: (956) 318-2626  
Fax: (956) 318-2629  
[www.co.hidalgo.tx.us/purchasing](http://www.co.hidalgo.tx.us/purchasing)

---

## AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Commissioners Court – June 16, 2020

AI Number: 75721

Project Number: Pending

**Information:** [Requesting approval to purchase Five (5) Cool Cube 28 at Refrigerated Temps for Hidalgo County Health Department *[in order to assist with County functions related to medical and public health measures.]*]

**Description of AI:** (A) Discussion, consideration, and action to approve a necessary CARES Act Relief Fund expenditure to cover cost of purchase); (B) Exemption from competitive bidding requirements, pursuant to Texas LGC 262.024(a)(1)&(2); (C) Requesting approval to purchase

**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:** Elena Gomez, Contract Specialist II      **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.

Hidalgo County Health and Human Services Department (HCHHSD) in response to the COVID pandemic public health emergency and in accordance to the National Preparedness Goal under the Presidential Policy Directive 8 (PPD- 8) which directs us to aim in the establishment of ' secure and resilient nation with the capabilities required across the whole community to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to and recover from the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk," and in order to comply with the directive of Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 (HSPD-5)

### COMPLIANCE

Under the Presidential Policy Directive/PPD-8: National Preparedness, “it is aimed at strengthening the security and resilience of the United States through systematic preparation for

the threats that pose the greatest risk to the security of the nation, including acts of terrorism, cyber-attacks, pandemics, and catastrophic natural disasters,” and in compliance with the Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 (HSPD-5), and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Capability 9 (Medical Materiel Management and Distribution), 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, we request the courts approval for the purchase of Five (5) Cool Cube 28 at Refrigerated Temps to continue the further needed response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

These laboratory qualified portable transport storage unit will store the Covid-19 vaccines or specimens at safe refrigerated temperatures when transporting them between sites. These units will safely store the vaccine when being administered at remote sites without the need for electricity.

## **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 line item, allotment or allocation, for the purchase of Five (5) Cool Cube 28 at Refrigerated Temps to store vaccines, in order to assist with County 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. Exemption from competitive bidding requirements, pursuant to Texas LGC 262.024(a)(1): an item that must be purchased in case of a public calamity if it is necessary to make the purchase promptly to relieve the necessity of the citizens; (2) an item necessary to preserve and protect the public health and safety of the citizens.
- C. Requesting approval to purchase 5 refrigerators thru open market,

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Approval of the items will allow the Hidalgo County Health Department to efficiently store the Covid-19 vaccines or specimens at safe refrigerated temperatures when transporting them between sites. These units will safely store the vaccine when being administered at remote sites without the need for electricity. Recommending that Commissioners Court authorize the purchase for said portable transport storage units as stated as it is 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) Relief Grant Fund and/or other grant assistance available to address the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Attachments:

- 1295 Form
- Project Overview
- Tex. Loc. Gov. Code
- 213 Form
- Agenda Item Briefing