

Overview

SCOPE:

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 *“A 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) which is the ability to manage domestic incidents by establishing a comprehensive incident management system has determined and identified the critical lack of a climate controlled warehouse space.

Currently, Hidalgo County HCHHSD does not have sufficient nor available warehouse space to support and maintain the current COVID-19 pandemic response supplies and thus is not prepared to house additional supplies for the potential of a future pandemic response. Hidalgo County HCHHSD is borrowing a "closed" cafeteria type facility as storage from a County Precinct's Community Resource Centers (CRC) to store a significant number of supplies which were ordered during the COVID-19 pandemic. As the need continues to increase for additional supplies that are needed to support our county divisions and their staff during the COVID-19 response, we are also seeking to utilize multiple county locations to store all the supplies that were recently ordered.

SUPPORT FOR REQUEST:

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 construction of a climate controlled 20,000 square foot warehouse to continue the further needed response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

PURPOSE:

As a critical countermeasure and to strengthen our preparedness and response capacity for Hidalgo County HCHSD is the ability to acquire a climate controlled 20,000 square foot warehouse. This would include a 26 foot cargo truck with a tommy lift, an 18,000 lb. capacity forklift, and trailer to stockpile emergency supplies. Additional supplies would include: lifesaving medical supplies, personal protective equipment such as gloves, protective gowns, disposable coveralls, disinfectant spray, hand sanitizer, N95 masks, oxygen tubing, syringes, temporarily house antibiotics, influenza vaccines, testing supplies, and support devices for life-saving care. This inventory would be a safeguard to support supply and demand response needs and it would avoid experiencing the alarming shortage we have had with COVID-19.

During 1999 the Omnibus Appropriations Act (Public Law 105-277) Congress charged all states with the formation of a Strategic Pharmaceutical Stockpile (NPS). The Health and Human Services Commission and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention led the way to establish the National Pharmaceutical Stockpile (NPS). The mission of the NPS was to supply states and communities with large quantities of essential medical material during an emergency which could be deployed within twelve hours of a federal decision. In June 2002, the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Response Act (Public-Law 107-188) was signed into law and amended the name of the NPS to the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) and expanded its mission to provide for the emergency health security of the United States.

The SNS has effectively bridged the gap between emergency requirements and existing public health response capabilities. Today, the SNS is considered an essential part of a national public health response system and it is recognized for its ability to efficiently acquire, store, manage medical material, and to then distribute those resources to disaster-affected areas. Sustaining the SNS inventory requires managing the entire life cycle of stockpile assets as well as acquiring, storing, and transporting supplies.

The management of all warehoused equipment and supplies involves overseeing the shelf-life, expirations dates, ensuring that all stocked items are rotated and kept

within the shelf-life limits, ensuring their availability to transport as needed during a public health emergency.

WAREHOUSE:

The COVID – 19 Pandemic has proven to us that there is a gap in which we need to have an emergency stockpile prepared and properly stored for Hidalgo County that would be readily available. The establishment of a climate controlled 20,000 square foot warehouse to support the necessary space to maintain adequate storage of stockpile supplies critical to the support of a pandemic like COVID-19. The current situation that the Hidalgo County HHSD finds itself in during this pandemic does not meet the demand or current needs required to efficiently and effectively handle said crisis. The warehouse would offer increased storage for the Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), increase the shelf-life of products such as disinfectants, and hand sanitizers, to include the critical equipment necessary to support dispensing, inventory order accuracy, faster picking-up and receiving times, and overall have better inventory control. There is other less obvious, but equally compelling reasons why it is critical that Hidalgo County establish this warehouse.

26' BOX TRUCK WITH A WIDE LIFT GATE:

COVID-19 obligated Hidalgo County HHSD to become as resourceful and creative as possible to effectively and immediately respond to storing and transporting goods needed by this pandemic. It required the cooperation and collaboration effort of many to come up with options in which to store numerous personal protective equipment supplies to help protect our staff and our constituents.

18,000 LB. CAPACITY FORLIFT:

In order to efficiently support loading, storage, and distribution of goods and materials, an 18,000 lb. capacity forklift has a power operated forked platform that can be raised and lowered for insertion under cargo to lift or to move it. Forklifts have the capacity to lift and move an impressive amount of weight and are fundamental equipment for an efficient warehouse.