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AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Commissioners Court –August 25, 2020

AI Number: 76980

Project Number: 2020-463

Information: [Requesting authority to authorize a discretionary exemption for COVID-19 Radio Public Service Announcements *in order to assist with County actions to facilitate compliance with public health measures addressing the ongoing COVID 19 emergency.*]

Description of AI: Requesting exemption from competitive bidding under TxLGC 262.024 (a)(1)(2)

Funding Source: CARES Act Relief Fund

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

Requested by: Isaac Sulemana, Chief of Staff

Department: Office of County Judge

Prepared by: Yolanda Velasquez, 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 Offices in response to the COVID-19 pandemic public health emergency has identified a need for a comprehensive and aggressive communication strategy and campaign to disseminate County information of the programs and Assistance County offers to public as part of the response to COVID-19.

The 2010 Census has indicated that Hidalgo County has a low to moderate income level of 54.75% and the Texas Department of State Health Services estimated 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. However, given our current trend, we are projected to have a large segment of the population severely impacted by the pandemic.

COMPLIANCE

In compliance with the national preparedness goal under the Presidential Policy Directive (PPD-8), the Homeland Security Presidential Directives 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, request the Court's approval for the necessary Public Service Announcements (PSAs) to address the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic public health emergency.

ADMINISTRATION

Approval of the item is consistent with Hidalgo County's response to COVID-19 while continuing to provide necessary services to mitigate, control and manage the spread of the virus.

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 [***COVID-19 Radio Public Service Announcements in order to assist with County actions to facilitate compliance with public health measures and with provisions of economic support in connections with addressing the ongoing COVID 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 bidding requirements under the Texas Local Government Code, Section 262.024(a)(1) an item that must be purchased in case of public calamity,(2) an item necessary to preserve and protect the public health and safety of the citizens;
- C. Ratification of PO's 820126/Univision/\$2,940.00 and 820184/Entravision Radio/\$11,700.00 for urgent and necessary Public Service Announcements to disseminate COVID-information on public health and economic support initiatives and programs;
- D. Action to approve the budget for the Communication Strategy/Campaign at the amount of \$_____ per _____ to end on _____.

RECOMMENDATION

Approval of the items will allow Hidalgo County to continue to respond to the current public health emergency of COVID-19. As previously stated, with these large impoverished population and continued incurred case search; therefore, this is deemed 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:
