

Hidalgo County

Urban County Program



Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) 2020 Program Year

CR-05 - Goals and Outcomes

Progress the jurisdiction has made in carrying out its strategic plan and its action plan.

91.520(a)

This could be an overview that includes major initiatives and highlights that were proposed and executed throughout the program year.

Hidalgo County Program Year 2020 Consolidated Annual Performance & Evaluation Report (CAPER) is the 3rd year of the annual performance report which describes progress from July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021 towards the goals set forth in the FY2018-2022 Consolidated Plan (5 Year Con Plan). During the 2020 Program Year, Hidalgo County Urban County Program (UCP) expended \$7,855,633.95 in CDBG, \$8,005.66 in CDBG-CV, \$1,595,252.29 in HOME, \$553,822.35 in ESG and \$163,129.26 in ESG-CV. Total Expended: \$10,175,843.51.

CDBG

Public Facilities 17 projects completed - Spent \$5,815,430.14 includes Parks Rec. Fac., Flood Drainage Improvements, Water/Sewer, Streets and Fire Stations/Equipment. Public Services assisted 482,609 persons - spent \$739,450.90 includes abused & neglected children, Services for persons with disabilities, Senior Services, Transportation Services, and Services for Victims for Domestic Violence, Health Services, Food Banks and other Public Services not listed in 05.

HOME

The Hidalgo County Urban County Program (UCP) proposed in its 2020 One Year Action Plan assisting twenty (20) homeowners through its Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation (Rehab.) Program. However, UCP actually assisted eight (8) Rehab Program households. This outcome was directly related to the imminent threat and possibility of exposure and spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Consequently, day-to-day work operations such as application intake and house visits/assessments stopped from March through August 2020. Once UCP got acclimated to the new norm, staff altered processes that were normally performed in-person. As a result, there are currently five (5) Rehab Program projects under construction and another twenty-five (25) applicants that are in the environmental review process or in the plans and specifications development. As such, UCP anticipates that the 2021 program year Rehab Program beneficiaries will remedy this program year's disparity.

As for the Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDO) Homeowner Housing beneficiaries, UCP proposed assisting five (5) new homeowners in the 2020 One Year Action Plan. UCP is proud to report that seventeen (17) households/beneficiaries were assisted in this 2020 reporting period. After assessing these outcomes and current workload, UCP does not anticipate any deviation from the HOME 2018-2022 5 Year Consolidated Plan or future Annual Action Plans.

ESG

For this program year, the County of Hidalgo through its ESG subrecipients served a total 166 persons through Homeless Prevention, 6,720 persons assisted with Overnight Shelter and Services, 86 persons assisted thru Tenant Based Rental Assistance (Rapid) and 16,529 beds were utilized under Emergency Shelter. Total expenditures including ESG Administration was: \$553,822.35.

The Hidalgo County Urban County Program has modified the beneficiaries as identified below to meet the actual completed projects and the number of beneficiaries being serviced:

Table 1 – Accomplishments – Program Year 2020					
Matrix	Goal	Indicator	Expected	Actual	Explanation
03F	Parks, Recreational Facilities & Improvements	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	10710	8810	Accomplishment is at 82% for this activity. There are 3 activities open and they will be completed within the next fiscal year (2021).
03J	Water/Sewer Imp.	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	8400	0	Accomplishment is at 0% for this activity. There are 3 activities open and they will be completed within the next fiscal year (2021).
03Z	Other Public Facilities	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	3015	0	Accomplishment is at 0% for this activity. There are 3 activities open and they will be completed within the next fiscal year (2021).
05M	Health Services	Public Service Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	1038	888	Accomplishment is at 85% for this activity. Due to Covid-19 many non-profit agencies suffered and were closed during the pandemic, therefore, it was difficult for them to reach out and provide services to clients.
05W	Food Banks	Public Service Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	1265	973	Accomplishment is at 77% for this activity. Due to Covid-19 many non-profit agencies suffered and were closed during the pandemic, therefore, it was difficult for them to reach out and provide services to clients.

14A	Rehab: Single Unit Residential	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	20	8	Accomplished 40% of the proposed activity due to UCP stopping application intake and house assessments. There are approximately 30 Rehab Program projects underway in FY'21 which will remedy the gap FY'20 produced.
N/A	Homeless Prevention ESG		180	166	Will complete by end of 5 th year.

Table 2 – Accomplishments – Strategic Plan to Date

Matrix	Goal	Indicator	Expected	Actual	Explanation
03F	Parks, Recreational Facilities & Improvements	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	50000	28010	We anticipate completing the expected by end of the 5 th year. Due to Covid-19 we have been slow to execute projects.
03J	Water/Sewer Improvements	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	25000	9610	We anticipate completing the expected by end of the 5 th year. Due to Covid-19 Pandemic we have been slow to execute projects.
03Z	Other Public Facilities & Improvements	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	11000	0	We anticipate completing the expected by the end of the 5 th year. Due to Covid-19 we have been slow to execute projects.
05B	Services for Persons with Disabilities.	Public Service Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	75	31	We anticipate completing the expected by end of the 5 th year. Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, Non-Profit organizations have provided limited services.
14A	Rehab: Single Unit Residential	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	75	43	UCP does not anticipate any deviation from the HOME 2018-2022 5 Year Consolidated Plan or future Annual Action Plans.
N/A	Homeless Prevention ESG	Public Service Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	750	392	Will complete by end of 5 th year.

Comparison of the proposed versus actual outcomes for each outcome measure submitted with the consolidated plan and explain, if applicable, why progress was not made toward meeting goals and objectives. 91.520(g)

Categories, priority levels, funding sources and amounts, outcomes/objectives, goal outcome indicators, units of measure, targets, actual outcomes/outputs, and percentage completed for each of the grantee’s program year goals.

Goal	Category	Source / Amount	Indicator	Unit of Measure	Expected – Strategic Plan	Actual – Strategic Plan	Percent Complete	Expected – Program Year	Actual – Program Year	Percent Complete
Emergency Solutions Grant	Homeless	ESG: \$ / ESG-CV1: \$2229055 / ESG-CV2: \$4242374	Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing	Households Assisted	125	102	81.60%	199	86	43.22%
Emergency Solutions Grant	Homeless	ESG: \$ / ESG-CV1: \$2229055 / ESG-CV2: \$4242374	Homeless Person Overnight Shelter	Persons Assisted	6500	15309	235.52%	2500	6720	268.80%
Emergency Solutions Grant	Homeless	ESG: \$ / ESG-CV1: \$2229055 / ESG-CV2: \$4242374	Overnight/Emergency Shelter/Transitional Housing Beds added	Beds	35000	51593	147.41%	7000	16529	236.13%

Emergency Solutions Grant	Homeless	ESG: \$ / ESG-CV1: \$2229055 / ESG- CV2: \$4242374	Homelessness Prevention	Persons Assisted	750	392	52.27%	2247	166	7.39%
Fire Stations/Equipment	Public Facilities	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	175000	116195	66.40%	20445	32850	160.67%
Flood Drainage Improvements	Infrastructure	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	12500	12330	98.64%	3125	10275	328.80%
Food Banks	Public Services	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	6250	3828	61.25%	1265	973	76.92%
Handicapped Services	Public Services	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	75	31	41.33%	10	10	100.00%

Health Services	Public Services	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	4000	2670	66.75%	1038	888	85.55%
HOME - CHDO - New Homeowner Housing	Affordable Housing	HOME: \$	Homeowner Housing Added	Household Housing Unit	60	36	60.00%	5	17	340.00%
HOME - Homeowner Housing Rehabilitation	Affordable Housing	HOME: \$	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	75	43	57.33%	20	8	40.00%
Other Public Services	Public Services	CDBG: \$ / CDBG-CV: \$1500000	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	75000	83284	111.05%	820575	67038	8.17%
Parking Facilities	Public Facilities	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	3875	0	0.00%			
Parks, Recreational Facilities	Public Facilities	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	50000	28010	56.02%	10710	8810	82.26%

Public Facilities & Improvements	Public Facilities	CDBG: \$ / CDBG-CV: \$3000000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	11000	0	0.00%	807860	0	0.00%
Rehab: Single-Unit Residential	Non-Homeless Special Needs	CDBG: \$	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	25	0	0.00%			
Senior Services	Public Services	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	750	490	65.33%	125	155	124.00%
Services for Abused & Neglected Children	Public Services	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	1500	2521	168.07%	506	887	175.30%
Services for Battered & Abused Spouses	Public Services	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	1500	1198	79.87%	350	477	136.29%
Street Improvements	Infrastructure	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	35000	472104	1,348.87%	107485	293780	273.32%

Transportation Services	Public Services	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	478645	3637730	760.01%	478645	2640975	551.76%
Water/Sewer Improvements	Infrastructure	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	25000	9610	38.44%	8400	0	0.00%

Table 1 - Accomplishments – Program Year & Strategic Plan to Date

DRAFT

Assess how the jurisdiction’s use of funds, particularly CDBG, addresses the priorities and specific objectives identified in the plan, giving special attention to the highest priority activities identified.

CDBG

Hidalgo County’s funding priorities are determined by a Needs Assessment in each city and each Precinct in the County. Hidalgo County is making progress towards meeting its goals identified in the Goals and Outcomes table. As this is the 1st year of the 5-year Consolidated Plan, Hidalgo County, with its limited funding, was able to focus only on a few of its high-priority areas. According to the Goals & Outcomes table, Water & Sewer Improvements, Street Improvements, Park and Recreational Facilities Improvements and Fire Station & Equipment were some of the high priority activities for the County. Under the public service category, providing services for Senior Services, Transportation Services, Battered and Abused Spouses, Health Services and Abused and Neglected are some of the high priority activities. Through the Needs Assessment Process, priorities are evaluated each year, and projects are selected based on meeting those priorities.

Public Facilities 17 projects completed - Spent \$5,815,430.14 includes Parks Rec. Fac., Flood Drainage Improvements, Water/Sewer, Streets and Fire Stations/Equipment. Public Services assisted 482,609 persons - spent \$739,450.90 includes abused & neglected children, Services for persons with disabilities, Senior Services, Transportation Services, and Services for Victims for Domestic Violence, Health Services, Food Banks and other Public Services not listed in 05.

HOME

This reporting period from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021, the Hidalgo County Urban County Program, through its HOME Investment Partnerships Program, expended a total of \$1,595,252.29. In order to address UCP’s high priority of increasing opportunities for low- and moderate-income residents to attain homeownership, including first time homebuyers, renters and single-head of households, the UCP expended \$713,726.05 in HOME funds within its Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) Program to develop seventeen (17) new single-family housing units. To assist in the development of these seventeen (17) new single-family housing units, the CHDOs leveraged a total of \$1,080,463.07 with other federal, state funds as well as private loans, CHDO Proceeds and CHDO revolving funds.

The UCP utilized its in-house Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Program (Rehab) to address the high priority of “preserving and rehabilitating the jurisdictions existing single-family housing stock, primarily for extremely low, low and moderate income owner occupant families (0-80 percent of median income).” The UCP expended \$656,869.13 in Rehab Program funds to eight (8) eligible households with housing rehabilitation or reconstruction assistance. The UCP is reporting that the Rehab Program generated \$159,633.33 in program income. \$135,634.35 of the program income went back into the program to fund rehabilitation and/or reconstruction projects. The remaining \$15,070.48 was allocated to administration. The locations for both the CHDO and Rehab Programs assisted families were located throughout the UCP

jurisdiction.

ESG

Hidalgo County continues to be a homeless prevention community. Homelessness and at risk of becoming homeless is a high priority in our community. Through collaboration with landlords and our neighboring nonprofit partnerships, we want to make homelessness rare, brief and non-occurring as best possible. For this program year, a total 166 persons we assisted with Homeless Prevention activities, 6,720 persons assisted with shelter services and a total of 86 households were served under Tenant Based Rental Assistance (Rapid). A total of 16,529 beds were utilized under Emergency Shelter at the Salvation Army of McAllen-Hidalgo County and Women Together Foundation Shelters.

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CR-10 - Racial and Ethnic composition of families assisted

Describe the families assisted (including the racial and ethnic status of families assisted).

91.520(a)

	CDBG	HOME	ESG
White	3,663	25	6,736
Black or African American	0	0	231
Asian	0	0	5
American Indian or American Native	0	0	0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Total	3,663	25	6,972
Hispanic	3,542	25	6,736
Not Hispanic	121	0	231

Table 2 – Table of assistance to racial and ethnic populations by source of funds

Narrative

CDBG

The Race and Ethnicity numbers were generated from the IDIS PR 23 report downloaded June 30, 2021.

HOME

The Race and Ethnicity numbers were generated from the IDIS PR 23 report downloaded June 30, 2021.

ESG

The Race and Ethnicity numbers were generated from the HMIS and OSNIUM client reports.

CR-15 - Resources and Investments 91.520(a)

Identify the resources made available

Source of Funds	Source	Resources Made Available	Amount Expended During Program Year
CDBG	public - federal	7,786,958	7,855,634
HOME	public - federal	2,268,986	1,595,252
ESG	public - federal	646,426	553,822
Other	public - federal	14,353,063	171,135

Table 3 - Resources Made Available

Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Target Area	Planned Percentage of Allocation	Actual Percentage of Allocation	Narrative Description

Table 4 – Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Narrative

Identify geographic distribution and locaiton of Investments.

CDBG

Hidalgo County does not have any targeted areas identified. The geographic funding is distributed by an agreed formula approved by our governing body for funding distribution to all participating cities and precincts in our consortium. The cities of Palmhurst and Progreso Lakes are not participating this fiscal year. The funding for the cities of Palmhurst and Progreso Lakes are distributed to their corresponding precinct.

HOME

Regarding the geographic distribution of the HOME Investment Partnerships Program grant, the Hidalgo County Urban County Program (UCP) administered two (2) programs during this reporting period. The first program is the Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Program that provides rehabilitation/reconstruction assistance on a first-come first-serve basis. The County maintains an interested applicant's waitlist from families throughout the UCP jurisdiction. The second program is the Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) Program. Historically, the County awards two (2) local non-profit organizations and on average allocates thirty percent (30%) of its annual HOME allocation to the CHDO Program. Both non-profits maintain a significant waitlist from applicants all over the County. As for geographic distribution, the non-profits develop new construction single-family housing units throughout the UCP jurisdiction

HOME Match

Regarding the HOME Program Match requirement, according to the U.S. Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) FY 2020 HOME Match Reductions report (See supporting documentation attached in the CR-00 Administration Section within Attachment #3 Titled "HOME Program - IDIS Reports and CR-50 Response"), the Hidalgo County meets the poverty area requirement and being fiscally distressed criteria. As such, the County of Hidalgo is exempt from the match requirement.

ESG Match

Hidalgo County complies with the matching funds requirement 576.201. The recipient must make matching contributions to supplement the recipient's ESG program in an amount that equals the recipient's fiscal year grant for ESG. In Kind Donations, Volunteer Work, Monetary, Fundraisers were obtained to match ESG program.

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Leveraging

Explain how federal funds leveraged additional resources (private, state and local funds), including a description of how matching requirements were satisfied, as well as how any publicly owned land or property located within the jurisdiction that were used to address the needs identified in the plan.

CDBG

CDBG leveraged matching funds used \$12,909.14 and \$32,496.71 (Program Income) totaling \$45,405.85. These leverage funds were from City of Sullivan \$12,909.14. In addition, Program Income was used for City of Palmview \$32,496.71 Street Improvements.

HOME

During the 2020 program year, a total of \$713,726.05 of HOME CHDO Program funds were utilized for the acquisition and new construction of seventeen (17) single-family homes that were sold to qualified buyers. The reported amount of leveraged funds injected into these projects totaled \$1,080,463.70. The leveraged resources used by the CHDO's included other federal & state funds as well as private loans, CHDO proceeds, and CHDO revolving funds.

ESG

Hidalgo County Urban County ESG Program Leveraged matching funds used \$553,822.35. These matching leveraged funds were from private monetary funds and non-ESG HUD funds. (In Kind Donations, volunteer work, monetary, fundraisers)

Publicly Owned Land or Property

The Hidalgo County Urban County Program does not own any land or have any property within the Hidalgo County jurisdiction, therefore these types of resources were not used to address the needs identified in this plan.

Fiscal Year Summary – HOME Match	
1. Excess match from prior Federal fiscal year	0
2. Match contributed during current Federal fiscal year	0
3. Total match available for current Federal fiscal year (Line 1 plus Line 2)	0
4. Match liability for current Federal fiscal year	0
5. Excess match carried over to next Federal fiscal year (Line 3 minus Line 4)	0

Table 5 – Fiscal Year Summary - HOME Match Report

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Match Contribution for the Federal Fiscal Year								
Project No. or Other ID	Date of Contribution	Cash (non-Federal sources)	Foregone Taxes, Fees, Charges	Appraised Land/Real Property	Required Infrastructure	Site Preparation, Construction Materials, Donated labor	Bond Financing	Total Match
N/A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 6 – Match Contribution for the Federal Fiscal Year

HOME MBE/WBE report

Program Income – Enter the program amounts for the reporting period				
Balance on hand at begin-ning of reporting period \$	Amount received during reporting period \$	Total amount expended during reporting period \$	Amount expended for TBRA \$	Balance on hand at end of reporting period \$
0	159,633	159,633	0	0

Table 7 – Program Income

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Minority Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises – Indicate the number and dollar value of contracts for HOME projects completed during the reporting period						
	Total	Minority Business Enterprises				White Non-Hispanic
		Alaskan Native or American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	Black Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	
Contracts						
Dollar Amount	489,094	0	0	0	489,094	0
Number	8	0	0	0	8	0
Sub-Contracts						
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dollar Amount	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	Women Business Enterprises	Male			
Contracts						
Dollar Amount	489,094	0	489,094			
Number	8	0	8			
Sub-Contracts						
Number	0	0	0			
Dollar Amount	0	0	0			

Table 8 - Minority Business and Women Business Enterprises

Minority Owners of Rental Property – Indicate the number of HOME assisted rental property owners and the total amount of HOME funds in these rental properties assisted						
	Total	Minority Property Owners				White Non-Hispanic
		Alaskan Native or American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	Black Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dollar Amount	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 9 – Minority Owners of Rental Property

Relocation and Real Property Acquisition – Indicate the number of persons displaced, the cost of relocation payments, the number of parcels acquired, and the cost of acquisition						
Parcels Acquired		0	0			
Businesses Displaced		0	0			
Nonprofit Organizations Displaced		0	0			
Households Temporarily Relocated, not Displaced		0	0			
Households Displaced	Total	Minority Property Enterprises				White Non-Hispanic
		Alaskan Native or American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	Black Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cost	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 10 – Relocation and Real Property Acquisition

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CR-20 - Affordable Housing 91.520(b)

Evaluation of the jurisdiction's progress in providing affordable housing, including the number and types of families served, the number of extremely low-income, low-income, moderate-income, and middle-income persons served.

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Number of Non-Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	12	25
Number of Special-Needs households to be provided affordable housing units	13	0
Total	25	25

Table 11 – Number of Households

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of households supported through Rental Assistance	0	0
Number of households supported through The Production of New Units	5	17
Number of households supported through Rehab of Existing Units	20	8
Number of households supported through Acquisition of Existing Units	0	0
Total	25	25

Table 12 – Number of Households Supported

Discuss the difference between goals and outcomes and problems encountered in meeting these goals.

The following data is the proposed beneficiaries to be served versus the actual beneficiaries served as it relates to the UCP’s 5 Year (FY2018-FY-2022) Consolidated Plan (Con Plan) and the UCP FY2020 One-Year Action Plan:

Goal	CON PLAN (5yr)			2020 ANNUAL PLAN		
	Proposed	Actual	% Complete	Proposed	Actual	% Complete
Rehab.	75	43	57%	20	8	40%
CHDO	60	36	60%	5	17	340%

UCP has completed its third program year (or sixty percent (60%) of its 5 Year FY2018-2022 Con Plan and as provided in the table above, UCP's HOME Program is on track with the proposed Con Plan housing goals. Regarding the 2020 One-Year Annual Plan, UCP exceeded its proposed (UCP) Community Housing Development Organization's (CHDOs) beneficiaries to be served but did not meet its Rehab. Program proposed beneficiaries. As previously provided, the Hidalgo County Urban County Program's reports that the unforeseen Coronavirus and the numerous ensuing Hidalgo County Emergency Shelter-At-Home Orders hindered housing applications and production.

Discuss how these outcomes will impact future annual action plans.

Both the Rehab Program and the CHDO Programs are on course with its proposed Con Plan beneficiaries and therefore, UCP does not anticipate any deviation from the HOME 2018-2022 5 Year Consolidated Plan or future Annual Action Plans regarding rehabilitation or homebuyer proposed beneficiaries. UCP does not anticipate any deviation from the HOME 2018-2022 5 Year Consolidated Plan or future Annual Action Plans regarding rehabilitation or homebuyer proposed beneficiaries.

HUD CAPER Checklist “Additional Question”

Does the number of owner households assisted meet the Section 215 definition of affordable housing included?

UCP certifies that all seventeen (17) of the newly constructed single-family housing units meet the “Homeownership” Section 215 definition of affordable housing.

Include the number of extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income persons served by each activity where information on income by family size is required to determine the eligibility of the activity.

Number of Households Served	CDBG Actual	HOME Actual
Extremely Low-income	0	3
Low-income	0	18
Moderate-income	0	4
Total	0	25

Table 13 – Number of Households Served

Narrative Information

Please note that the Hidalgo County Urban County Program (UCP) utilized the "Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report Completeness Checklist" prior to submitting this CAPER. This section, CR-20, contained a question asking, "Is there a summary of the efforts to address "worst case needs", and progress in meeting the needs of persons with disabilities? Worst-case housing needs are defined as low-income renter households who pay more than half of their income for rent, live in seriously substandard housing, which includes homeless people, or have been involuntarily displaced. The need of persons with disability does not include beds in nursing homes or other service-centered facilities." The County continuously strives to address "worst-case housing needs" through the Urban County Program's Community Housing Development Organization Program (CHDO) and the in-house Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program.

Each fiscal year the Urban County Program announces the allocation of funding and solicitation of CHDO Program proposals. This allows local non-profits to submit project proposals that include the development of single-family or multifamily developments, for home ownership or rental activities. In the past years, rental development proposals have lacked in project readiness in several ways, making them impracticable and not viable for funding. Fortunately, the County has been successful in continued partnerships with local CHDO's that develop single-family homes with the intent of homeownership for low to moderate income families. In the current market, together with the assisted families incomes, these developers are able to offer loan terms that otherwise would be unattainable through private lending institutions. Typically, families pay no more than 40% of their yearly income for low, and even zero interest, loans. The CHDO Program has allowed the County to fund projects that assist in abating low-income rental situations.

The UCP's Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program assists families living in substandard housing conditions by rehabilitating or reconstructing the housing unit to attain accessibility standards. Furthermore, as per annual records, half of the households assisted through this program have a disabled household member, most of which are the head of household.

The Hidalgo County Urban County Program utilizes the Public Housing/Section 8 income limits, in accordance with Section 3(b)(2) of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937, to determine the income eligibility for all HOME Investment Partnerships applicants. The following are the applicable Section 3 income definitions:

Extremely Low-Income (ELI) is defined as 30% of the area median household income; and

Low-Income (LI) is defined as 50% of the area median household income; and

Moderate-Income (MI) is defined as 80% of the median household income.

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CR-25 - Homeless and Other Special Needs 91.220(d, e); 91.320(d, e); 91.520(c)

Evaluate the jurisdiction's progress in meeting its specific objectives for reducing and ending homelessness through:

Reaching out to homeless persons (especially unsheltered persons) and assessing their individual needs

UCP addressed the requirements in 24 CFR §91.320 by using funds to reduce and end homelessness. Program services includes case management, emergency health services, emergency mental health services, transportation, and services for special populations. Special populations include homeless youth, victim services, and services for people living with HIV/AIDS.

Hidalgo County's partnership with ESG subrecipients service homeless persons who meet the homeless definition of homeless. There are several outreach workers who perform street outreach efforts throughout the Hidalgo County and who respond to requests for assistance from citizens, local businesses, neighborhood groups and legislative offices to homeless persons residing on the streets and homeless advocacy groups in our community. The ESG subrecipient's partners perform assessments for homeless persons in the field and link them to shelter and any available supportive services that are appropriate to meet their needs. Additionally, all the subrecipients awarded through Hidalgo County participate with the Texas Homeless Network-Continuum of Care (CoC), whereas all information is entered in the HMIS client track software system. Our domestic violence providers utilize the OSNIUM data software to document their victims of domestic violence. Hidalgo County continues to participate with the (CoC) and the Coordinated Entry system. This new system allows our community to quickly assess and evaluate the homeless population in our area including COVID affected persons.

These organizations provide outreach, emergency shelter, health care and behavior health care, rental and utility assistance, food and clothing, and other homeless services to individuals, families with children, veterans, unaccompanied youth, and including persons with HIV. Other services being provided are overnight emergency shelter, essential services, meals, and bathroom/shower facilities and attempts to engage homeless persons in case management to assess their homeless history and current needs and work to place them in appropriate longer emergency shelter or transitional housing programs so that they can work towards regaining their permanent housing.

Hidalgo County's ESG subrecipients practice different methods of reaching out to the homeless population. For example, some work closely with the Independent School District liaisons to make contact with homeless families or unaccompanied students. This is a good way to identify needs and to create housing plans. Subrecipients have built good relationships with their local law enforcement officials. This establishes awareness when there are persons who are unsheltered in our community. Other ways include, agencies working together in participating in the annual Point-In-Time count, and providing a list of agency referrals from our local 211 information services and sharing it on the coordinated entry reporting system.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

For 2020, Hidalgo County funds the operation of emergency shelters and homeless prevention programs serving individuals and families. Emergency shelters and homeless prevention programs are designed to focus their services to the needs of specific populations such as chronically homeless persons, victims of domestic violence, persons being evicted, persons with severe mental health disorders or substance abuse histories or those suffering from dual or multiple co-occurring disorders. So the ESG program will continue to provide support to these organizations who offer emergency shelter services.

In response to the HEARTH Act of 2009 and ESG guidelines, Hidalgo County, in collaboration with its subrecipients, continues to work and prevent homelessness in our community. This method aids and also refers persons to other available housing options that are not homeless shelters, and streamlines the intake of homeless persons seeking motel vouchers throughout the year. This coordination results in more families being redirected away from homelessness and more persons exiting homelessness into rapidly re-housed in permanent stable housing.

The transitional facility at Women Together Foundation, Inc., offers emergency services and shelter for adult victims who are homeless, going through a family violence, and/or sexual assault case, their children and other family members, including transportation, case advocacy and assistance in obtaining services from social service agencies. -Crisis Hotline 24 hour 7 days, -Long Term Transitional Housing, Homeless - sexual assault prevention services to survivors of sexual assault, abuse and incest: This includes group and individual counseling, accompaniment, transportation, professional training for assistance to such clients. -Outreach service programs with clients in outlying areas of Hidalgo County.

The continuous communication with other government agencies and non-profit partners provides a stronger coordinated entry assessment, housing and supportive services to homeless persons and families at-risk of becoming homeless throughout Hidalgo County. In combination with mainstream and targeted homeless resources, Hidalgo County with its subrecipients delivered the appropriate level of services and housing needs to each participant. Subrecipients will also be required to develop a plan to assist program participants to retain permanent housing after the ESG assistance ends.

Helping low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families and those who are: likely to become homeless after being discharged from publicly funded institutions and systems of care (such as health care facilities, mental health facilities, foster care and other youth facilities, and corrections programs and institutions); and, receiving assistance from public or private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education, or youth needs

Hidalgo County is focused on designing and implementing significant changes to our homeless delivery system through our Coordinated Entry tool development which is now operating. Hidalgo County and its ESG program partners receive and make referrals or get contacted via phone or email from community organizations. Agencies such as health care facilities, mental health facilities, corrections programs and

many other institutions requesting services are directed to the best service provider through this collaboration.

Hidalgo County is prioritizing those affected with COVID 19 and who are eligible to rapidly receive assistance. Hidalgo County continues to participate with the local Texas Balance of State-Continuum of Care (CoC) in the development and implementation of a homeless discharge policy. Hidalgo County does not have a written policy in place. However the County coordinates and collaborates with such agencies and facilities to prevent such discharge that results in homelessness. The County of Hidalgo as part of the Coordinated Entry requirements has a referral procedure that is in the written standards and Coordinated Entry policies and procedures. This procedure allows the County and its ESG partners to assess participants whom are being discharge through the VI-SPDAT assessment tool on HMIS Client track data software.

Many of the client participants are those whom are already are receiving a public assistance such as housing or social services and are of low-income who are at risk of becoming homeless or already experiencing homelessness. Hidalgo County will assist to the maximum extent practicable where appropriate all eligible participants. Through Homeless Prevention, the County will provide temporary rental assistance, rent deposits, utility payments and deposits, so that we can continue to make homelessness rare, brief and non-occurring in our community.

Helping homeless persons (especially chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth) make the transition to permanent housing and independent living, including shortening the period of time that individuals and families experience homelessness, facilitating access for homeless individuals and families to affordable housing units, and preventing individuals and families who were recently homeless from becoming homeless again

Individuals eligible for the ESG Program who are exiting from an institution will receive a housing plan and/or referrals to other housing resources from a case manager. This will lead to temporary shelters to households that are homeless as a bridge to permanent housing. This facilities will allow households an opportunity that will prepare them for permanent housing. It also develops an individual housing plan that guides them to permanent housing.

Diversion to housing and other services outside the traditional homeless services system is an integral part of the Coordinated Access and Assessment Program. One of the first interventions has been to determine if there are other housing options or resources available to the household rather than accessing shelter through the homeless system. Currently our local (CoC) is proposing a Rapid Resolution approach to better service our homeless population. For example case scenario could be that of family or friends that the client may be able to stay with while stabilizing their housing situation; which may be more beneficial for the household and simultaneously reserves homeless shelter resources for those with no other housing options. Additionally, for those households with extremely low barriers to housing, rapid re-housing assistance in the form of move-in assistance and short term rental subsidies may be all that

the household needs to regain and maintain their permanent housing. By using the VI-SPDAT standardized assessment that identifies the level of barriers to housing and targets the type of service intervention that best addresses those barriers, we are able to reduce the amount of time that an individual or family is homeless and increases their ability to maintain permanent housing. Hidalgo County works with the ESG subrecipients who meet with the program participants every three (3) months minimum or as needed to assist them with services that help address housing needs, health, social services, employment, education and youth needs.

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CR-30 - Public Housing 91.220(h); 91.320(j)

Actions taken to address the needs of public housing

Historically, Hidalgo County Urban County Program (UCP) provides the public housing agencies (PHAs) within its jurisdiction its Consolidated Plans, Annual Action Plans and Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH) strategies that provide a summary of actions, activities, and types of resources UCP will utilize to address the priority needs and specific goals listed in each of the plans. These plans assist the surrounding PHAs with the development of their annual plans that lists their proposed activities and projects that are regulatory required to be consistent with the county's Consolidated Plans. Based on the UCP consultations with PHAs in the South Texas region, many of them are working successfully with public agencies and community organizations to benefit low- and moderate-income residents in public housing. Several PHAs are coordinating their renovation activities with their local jurisdictions, reconstructing public housing properties to meet the most up-to-date living and design standards. Most of the local police and fire departments are working with PHAs to ensure the safety and security of public housing residents. And many PHAs are linking residents to family self-sufficiency programs, including on-site learning centers, job training programs, and opportunities for homeownership.

Actions taken to encourage public housing residents to become more involved in management and participate in homeownership

After our consultations with the PHA's, we understand that some of them conduct activities to increase resident involvement. One approach to this issue is having managers meet with the residents and talked about the program. Other PHA's rather meet with Council members and the Advisory Board to develop and implement initiatives for resident participation such as "Pathway to Homeownership and Family Self Sufficiency Program." However, the Hidalgo Housing Authority has another strategy they partnered with several non-profit agencies to provide tenants with information such as counseling, consumer credit, job training among many others.

Hidalgo County Urban County Program (UCP) staff completes public outreach throughout each fiscal year. One of the many outlets for this marketing is through our partnership with the Housing Authorities throughout the County. UCP staff members provide on-site presentations to Housing Authority (HA) residents regarding homeownership opportunities offered in-house, and in conjunction with local non-profit organizations. These non-profits are also invited to present to HA residents pertaining to the process of becoming a homeowner; from credit counseling to the construction process, purchasing the home and finally maintenance and sustainability. In addition to receiving this invaluable information and counseling regarding homeownership, the families are also exposed to other presenters and subjects such as Workforce Solutions for job opportunities, Texas Rural Legal Aid for assistance with legal issues and their rights, Hurricane Preparedness for safety and awareness as well as classes on health and nutrition. Our partnership with local HAs is valued immensely, as we are able to reach out to families in a small group setting and if requested, one-on-one sessions. The UCP is also extremely confident that the HA residents attending these sessions throughout the year are receiving a well-rounded concept of healthy, happy and

independent living. Our mission is to assist the residents in becoming better informed in an effort to promote homeownership through our partnership with the HA's and other local agencies.

Actions taken to provide assistance to troubled PHAs

During this 2020 Program Year reporting period, UCP visited U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) web-page for Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) that provides the public with the latest PHAs Scores Report. The most current PHAs Scores Report revealed that the City of La Joya and the City of Donna Public Housing Authorities were designated as "Troubled". Consequently, UCP mailed letters to the City of La Joya and the City of Donna's Mayor's Office and both Public Housing Authority Administrators requesting a copy of their improvement plans and offered the PHAs technical assistance. However, UCP has not received a response for any type of assistance.

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CR-35 - Other Actions 91.220(j)-(k); 91.320(i)-(j)

Actions taken to remove or ameliorate the negative effects of public policies that serve as barriers to affordable housing such as land use controls, tax policies affecting land, zoning ordinances, building codes, fees and charges, growth limitations, and policies affecting the return on residential investment. 91.220 (j); 91.320 (i)

Factors that are barriers to affordable housing include land costs, construction costs, financing costs, and the availability of land.

1. Land Costs. The increasing scarcity of land serves only to increase the ultimate cost of the housing unit. Most developers feel there is relatively little they can cut from current projects to reduce the price, yet still be competitive with housing built by developers in other cities. Part of the increase in land prices can be attributed to general inflation. However, a significant portion of the increase is due to land price appreciation, as the demand for housing has continuously expanded due to population growth.
2. Construction Costs, Labor, and Material add substantially to the cost of housing. The major components of the increased construction cost have been the steadily rising cost of energy, lumber, and other building materials. The price of building materials has continued to increase, making homes more expensive. Increased construction costs make it difficult for developers and builders to attempt to realize a profit on low and moderately priced homes.
3. Financing Costs are not subject to local influence. The control of interest rates is largely determined by national policies and economic conditions. Interest rates greatly influence the housing market for homebuyers and indirectly for renters. Construction financing also results in much higher housing costs to the consumer.
4. Underwriting Guidelines. Due to the increase in foreclosure rates, stiffer underwriting guidelines have been implemented. This action limits the ability of lower income persons to access conventional mortgage rates. As such, lower income persons may be more vulnerable to predatory lending practices.

The availability of affordable housing in the County is further impacted by local factors such as the availability of land for new construction, the income of residents, the supply of housing, and of course, housing costs. Bedroom size is another factor that must be considered when evaluating the availability of affordable housing for families. As the housing stock and housing market analysis indicate, much of the housing stock is single family detached and designed for smaller families. As such, large or multi-generational families must oftentimes live in overcrowded conditions or find a larger unit that may exceed their budget. The housing constraints that affect affordable housing are primarily economic. Rising costs within the construction industry, the cost and availability of financing, and the high demand for a limited amount of land have combined to limit housing production, particularly for low and moderate income persons. The net result is significantly higher costs for housing during a period when incomes may not be rising at the same pace. However, Hidalgo County Urban County Program annually partners with two (2) local non-profits, Affordable Homes of South Texas, Inc. (AHSTI) and Proyecto Azteca, which provides new

affordable single-family housing which assists in ameliorating these barriers is through its Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDO) Program. The County has also chosen to allow these non-profits to retain proceeds from the development of new housing with the condition that they create more affordable housing with those proceeds.

The County continues to analyze its local policies, standards and jurisdictional cities ordinances yearly in order to identify any item that may adversely affect the access or availability of affordable housing opportunities. This is accomplished by UCP personnel meeting with County Planning staff to review local cities ordinances and policies that have been instituted each year. This method of evaluation was chosen because the County Planning Department is responsible for the enforcement of housing related ordinances and any complaints or grievances resulting from these ordinances, are handled administratively by Planning. As such, planning staff is well positioned to provide insight into any problem area. In addition, a review public policies and cities ordinances adopted by cities within UCPs jurisdiction is also performed. No areas of concern were identified in this year's evaluation.

Actions taken to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

The following obstacles to meeting underserved needs were identified and actions to address follow suit:

1. Hidalgo County is one of the fastest-growing counties in the United States, and its population growth threatens to outstrip the existing capacity of local housing and community development organizations. With ongoing cutbacks to public services, individuals and families are hard pressed to meet their needs for affordable housing and other community development assistance.

- The County attempted to maximize the amount available to public service agencies
- The County encouraged subrecipients to leverage federal resources

2. As a result of the County's lower income levels, few extremely-low and low-income residents can afford a median priced home, or the rent for a market-rate two-bedroom apartment.

- Homeless Prevention projects were funded which helped remedy short-term needs; in addition, utility and rent deposits were also made available

3. Much of the region continues to struggle with twice the unemployment rate of the rest of the state.

- While no CDBG funds were used to address economic development, funds are provided by the municipalities to address economic development

4. A major contributor to the region's high unemployment and poverty rates is its low educational attainment levels.

- The University of Texas has merged the local university (University of Texas-Pan American) with

the University of Texas-Brownsville as well as created a medical school at the University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley. This merger increased the university's population and allows for more diverse fields of study

- The development of the Texas A&M University campus which is located within the County; the new campus provides Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics classes for the region
- Lastly, an initiative was adopted to increase the extents of South Texas College

Campuses were built/classes are being held throughout the County. Further, in order to overcome the identified obstacles, the County has designated social services, housing and infrastructure, public facilities and economic development activities as "High" priorities. As such, HUD awarded funds continue to be utilized to further these types of activities for the benefit of low- and moderate-income persons.

Actions taken to reduce lead-based paint hazards. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

As a matter of internal policy, the Hidalgo County Urban County Program (UCP) continues to inform each applicant in its Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program about the hazards that lead-based paint present. This is accomplished through the dissemination of literature concerning the hazards of lead-based paint to all its applicants. All housing units that the County rehabilitates or reconstructs are done so in accordance with the standards set under 24 CFR Part 35, Subpart J Rehabilitation Section 35.900. Also, all housing rehabilitation projects comply with the lead based paint requirements. If paint is disturbed, it is presumed to be lead paint and appropriate clean-up and dust-free practices must be followed. All contractors must have the EPA Firm Certification to Conduct Lead-Based Paint Activities and/or Renovations. In addition, each worker must be trained in lead-safe practices. Lastly, UCP Administration has increased training efforts in this area by sending housing rehabilitation staff to HUD-sponsored training in this field.

Actions taken to reduce the number of poverty-level families. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

The County's anti-poverty strategy continues to concentrate on the very-low and low-income population. In recognition that the most effective manner in which to address the conditions that perpetuate and foster poverty-like conditions, we acknowledge the need to coordinate resources among several service providers. Hidalgo County funded nineteen (19) public services agencies that provide extremely-low, very-low and low-income families with direct services that includes: 1) health services, 2) handicap services, 3) senior services, 4) food banks, 5) abuse and neglected children, 6) battered and abused spouses and 7) Other Public Services (General: Boys and Girls Clubs and Youth Centers). The County actively supports and participates in programs that aspire to address these conditions. As noted in previous CAPER's, the County continues to participate with the local Workforce Development Board to provide training opportunities for participants under Welfare to Work Programs and the Workforce Investment Act. The use of HUD funds is restricted for use in identified low and moderate-income areas or where the benefit can be clearly documented to serve a low or moderate-income person. The County also recognizes the need to develop more economic development projects that will stimulate job creation and induce business creation or relocation as means to combat poverty.

Actions taken to develop institutional structure. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

Actions taken to enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

Hidalgo County continues to develop coordination efforts by providing technical assistance and supportive services to other entities undertaking community development efforts. While not always providing direct funding towards these efforts, the County does provide support in terms of technical assistance. Some examples of which are:

- Technical assistance for the preparation of State grant applications for parks
- The formation of regional meetings to address and identify water, drainage and wastewater needs
- Coordination efforts with the Secretary of State's office to address living conditions in colonia areas
- Membership in the Border Infrastructure Committee
- Provide letters of support for housing development

Hidalgo County's actions that affect awareness and that enhances coordination between public housing and social service agencies occurs during the Citizen Participation process (5 Year Consolidation Plan and One Year Action Plan). Every five (5) years and every year the process involves conducting public hearings/needs assessments in which the public is informed of eligible activities and public comments are taken with regards to their recommendations/needs. Many non-profit, public housing agencies and social service agencies attend these public hearings which allows them to promote, inform and make public requests for funding. It also allows these agencies to collaborate between the agencies for the services being proposed.

Identify actions taken to overcome the effects of any impediments identified in the jurisdictions analysis of impediments to fair housing choice. 91.520(a)

The County's comprehensive Analysis of Impediments (AI) to Fair Housing resulted in the identification of several barriers the County's low and moderate-income populace face in their efforts to acquire housing.

Listed below are some of the primary impediments identified:

- Deterioration of the local housing stock
- Lack of knowledge about the traditional mortgage loan process
- Lack of homeownership opportunities for low and moderate-income families

The County continues to address these issues through the UCP's HOME Division. The Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program serves to ameliorate the deterioration of the present housing stock. Given the

large number of the County's housing stock in need of rehabilitation, this need remains a high priority for present and future funding resources.

The County also continues to process fair housing complaints through the Urban County Program structure. Similarly, outreach and educational initiatives continue to be imparted through the Urban County Program even though grant funds that established the Fair Housing Center have long since been expended. This continued effort on the County's behalf is done so in recognition of the importance the County places on fair housing issues.

In terms of community outreach to promote fair housing and disseminate information about the County's housing programs, the following activities were undertaken:

- The UCP has developed an outreach plan that includes advertisements in local newspapers, distribution of fair housing brochures at relevant events, community presentations, and other outreach activities to inform the community and annual CDBG event in different cities.
- The UCP periodically posts flyers and brochures which describe fair housing laws and services, in the city hall offices (throughout the County of Hidalgo) and its county precincts which are open to the public.
- The UCP uses the Equal Housing Opportunity logo on all correspondence and advertising prepared for all its housing programs.
- The UCP prominently displays in all offices in which housing activities takes place using the HUD-approved Fair Housing poster.
- The HOME Division mailed letters to all Hidalgo County City Mayors, within its jurisdictions, and offered to make a presentation to all city staff in an effort to provide Homebuyer (CHDO) Program information. Attachments to letter included program guidelines and contact information to post in their City Hall bulletin boards.
- The UCP maintains information on the race, sex and ethnicity of applicants and tenants to demonstrate the results of the owner's affirmative marketing efforts. In instances of noncompliance by a project owner, a finding will be issued and corrective action taken will be required by the project owner in the time specified. The project owner will for the period of affordability maintain information demonstrating compliance with the requirements in this marketing plan.
- When applicable, staff will perform house visits for those applicants who have a disability and/or who have no means of transportation.
- Applications are taken by bilingual staff.
- The UCP constructs/rehabilitates handicap accessible housing for those households that require it.
- In addition, the County's web site continues to play a vital role in targeting information to the public and ensuring program information reaches a broad audience.
- UCP Office and its web site provide contact information to individuals/applicants who feel they have been discriminated against regarding fair housing.

CR-40 - Monitoring 91.220 and 91.230

Describe the standards and procedures used to monitor activities carried out in furtherance of the plan and used to ensure long-term compliance with requirements of the programs involved, including minority business outreach and the comprehensive planning requirements

The goal of the Hidalgo County Urban County Program's (UCP) Monitoring Division is to assess federal and state funded projects and activities in the areas of day-to-day operations, program performance, financial and administrative compliance with applicable federal, state and local regulations and program guidelines. One of UCP's Monitoring Division's objective is to monitor subrecipients, contractors, Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs) and developers. Another objective is to monitor active contracts and conduct long-term monitoring for completed projects. These objectives are achieved by the UCP Monitoring Division utilizing its Risk Analysis Model to evaluate grant performance and determine the level of monitoring. The assessment criteria utilized in the risk assessment includes the program capacity, project complexity, level of funding, recipient capacity, staff capacity, quality of reporting, documentation and past compliance problems. The assessment scale is used to evaluate risks and subsequently rank projects in categories ranging from High to Low risk. The monitoring level may be increased if we identify performance problems during our review of progress reports, financial drawdowns or site inspections. The Monitoring Division then conducts monitoring visits, performs interviews, reviews on-site project and financial files to ensure consistency with subrecipient, contractor, CHDO and developer contracts and UCP's 5 Year Con Plan and the applicable One Year Action Plan. *Please note that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, on-site monitoring visits have significantly decreased.* This reporting period, 90% of its CDBG subrecipient projects, ESG Program and HOME's Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation and CHDO Programs were monitored.

An annual assessment of Urban County Program's required program compliance with minority business outreach and comprehensive planning requirements exhibited outreach compliance and did not identify comprehensive planning weaknesses. The assessment included the review of applicable MBE/WBE language the various programs: 1) Publications for the solicitation for bidders, contractors and subcontractors 2.) Policies (Hidalgo County Purchasing Policies and Procedures and CHDO in-house Policy) 3.) Contracts/agreements 4.) UCP's Web-Page. Regarding the comprehensive planning requirements, the assessment of the numerous annual programmatic monitoring reviews, day-to-day operations of UCP Coordinators, written correspondence, meetings and progress reports identified no areas of weakness.

UCP has adopted a revised Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) in order to adhere to planning requirements. The UCP has recently revised its CPP in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. An item of note, in-person public hearings are not required. The county met this requirement by offering virtual and/or telephonic public hearings. The CPP details the numbers days the County must notify the public of upcoming hearings, prescribes the places where notifications must be placed and contact information to submit their concerns and/or comments.

Citizen Participation Plan 91.105(d); 91.115(d)

Describe the efforts to provide citizens with reasonable notice and an opportunity to comment on performance reports.

During the comment period, citizens will be provided the opportunity to comment, express concerns, reveal latest needs or trends in their communities that can be impacted by the use of CDBG, HOME, and HESG funds. Also, citizens are afforded an opportunity to provide written comments to various plans, reports, initiatives and council directives that involved the use of HUD funds. Some Public Hearings have already occurred. The current publication for this comment period and public hearing will be published in the McAllen Monitor Newspaper and El Periodico (Spanish only publication) and posted at local city halls, precinct offices, UCP office and public libraries. Additionally, both notices are posted on the Hidalgo County website and included language that disabled persons would be accommodated as requested, as well as translation being available, and services for the hearing impaired.

No comments have been received, however, when or if they are, the Hidalgo County Urban County Program (UCP) will update this section accordingly.

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CR-45 - CDBG 91.520(c)

Specify the nature of, and reasons for, any changes in the jurisdiction's program objectives and indications of how the jurisdiction would change its programs as a result of its experiences.

There have not been any changes to the Hidalgo County Program objectives.

Does this Jurisdiction have any open Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) grants?

No

[BEDI grantees] Describe accomplishments and program outcomes during the last year.

DRAFT

CR-50 - HOME 91.520(d)

Include the results of on-site inspections of affordable rental housing assisted under the program to determine compliance with housing codes and other applicable regulations

Please list those projects that should have been inspected on-site this program year based upon the schedule in §92.504(d). Indicate which of these were inspected and a summary of issues that were detected during the inspection. For those that were not inspected, please indicate the reason and how you will remedy the situation.

The Hidalgo County Urban County Program (UCP) has one (1) project that requires on-site inspections of affordable rental housing. The project is a multi-family rental development, constructed by Rufino Contreras Affordable Housing Corp. (non-profit), called Casa Messina. Casa Messina has 76 multi-family rental residential housing units, two (2) of which are HOME units. Regulation stipulates that the Urban County Program must perform an inspection every three (3) years. The last on-site inspection performed by UCP was March 20, 2020 which resulted in no items needing resolution or requiring corrective action.

Provide an assessment of the jurisdiction's affirmative marketing actions for HOME units. 92.351(b)

The County's effort towards affirmative marketing utilizes the HOME Division to ensure that eligible households have access and opportunity to participate in its programs and services. The Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program serves to ameliorate the deterioration of the present housing stock. Given the large number of the County's housing stock in need of rehabilitation, this need remains a high priority for present and future funding resources. The County also continues to process fair housing complaints through the Urban County Program structure. Similarly, outreach and educational initiatives continue to be imparted through the Urban County Program even though grant funds that established the Fair Housing Center have long since been expended. Homebuyer, Renter Assistance, and Homeowner Assistance programs and services are marketed to residents in low- to moderate-income neighborhoods and those with limited English proficiency. Also, the HOME Division has two full-time equivalent (FTE) employees that are bilingual and offer assistance with clients with limited English proficiency. This continued effort on the County's behalf is done so in recognition of the importance the County places on fair housing issues.

In terms of community outreach to promote fair housing and disseminate information about the County's housing programs, the following activities were undertaken:

- Recipients are informed of the County's affirmative marketing policy by having it referenced in the agreements.
- The UCP has developed an outreach plan that includes advertisements in local newspapers, distribution of fair housing brochures at relevant events, community presentations, and other outreach activities to inform the community and annual CDBG event in different cities.
- The UCP carries out outreach and provides tenants and rental property owners with copies of the

fair housing brochures (in English and Spanish).

- The UCP periodically posts flyers and brochures which describe fair housing laws and services, in the city hall offices (throughout the County of Hidalgo) and its county precincts which are open to the public.
- The UCP uses the Equal Housing Opportunity logo on all correspondence and advertising prepared for all its housing programs.
- The UCP prominently displays in all offices in which housing activities takes place using the HUD-approved Fair Housing poster.
- The UCP posts in a conspicuous position, on the project site, a sign displaying prominently the Equal Housing Opportunity and statement.
- The UCP and its CHDOs maintain copies of advertisements, brochures, flyers, and letters to community contacts.
- The UCP maintains information on the race, sex and ethnicity of applicants and tenants to demonstrate the results of the owner's affirmative marketing efforts. In instances of noncompliance by a project owner, a finding will be issued and corrective action taken will be required by the project owner in the time specified. The project owner will for the period of affordability maintain information demonstrating compliance with the requirements in this marketing plan.
- When applicable, staff will perform house visits for those applicants who have a disability and/or who have no means of transportation.
- Applications are taken by bilingual staff.
- The UCP constructs/rehabilitates handicap accessible housing for those households that require it.
- In addition, the County's web site continues to play a vital role in targeting information to the public and ensuring program information reaches a broad audience.
- UCP Office and its web site provide contact information to individuals/applicants who feel they have been discriminated against regarding fair housing.
- If necessary, UCP staff will record complaint information and file in Fair Housing binder to report to the HUD Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Office.
- The UCP website, at <https://www.hidalgocounty.us/1196/Fair-HousingDiscrimination-Complaint>, provides the following web-link for residents to learn how to file a fair housing complaint:

http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/topics/housing_discrimination

Refer to IDIS reports to describe the amount and use of program income for projects, including the number of projects and owner and tenant characteristics

PROGRAM INCOME, RECAPTURED AND REPAYMENT FUNDS

During this reporting period, UCP was in receipt of a total of \$159,633.33 from program income, recaptured and repayment funds. \$150,704.83 of the \$159,633.33 was program income, generated from Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation (Rehab) Program loan payments made from families assisted. A total of \$135,634.35 program income was reused on four (4) of the eight (8) assisted Rehab Program assisted units and on one (1) CHDO Program assisted unit during this reporting period. The remaining balance of \$15,070.48 was spent on administration staff overhead. Regarding recaptured or repayment funds, \$8,928.50 of repayment funds were returned to the UCP from an Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) Program. The repayment of funds was due to a project where Urban County overpaid on a project and the CHDO returned the funds. The re-use of these funds went back into a CHDO Program project.

PROJECT # AND HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

The following are the characteristics of the eight (8) assisted Rehab Program units:

0-30% AMI	31%-60% AMI	61-80% AMI	Ethnicity	Elderly	Disabled
3	5	0	8-Hispanic	7	0

The following are the characteristics of the seventeen (17) assisted CHDO Program units:

0-30% AMI	31%-60% AMI	61-80% AMI	Ethnicity
0	13	4	17-Hispanic

Describe other actions taken to foster and maintain affordable housing. 91.220(k) (STATES ONLY: Including the coordination of LIHTC with the development of affordable housing). 91.320(j)

The County of Hidalgo continues to seek opportunities that could potentially increase and expand funding availability for both its Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation (Rehab) and Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) Programs. The County’s continual funding for these programs, allows for a revolving cash flow that fosters and maintains the affordable housing mechanism throughout our

communities.

In this reporting year, the County's Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation (Rehab) Program generated \$159,633.33 in program income, which was utilized for eligible program activities. As such, the County will continue to allocate Rehab Program funding in an effort to continue to generate capital. Additionally, the County's CHDO Program allows non-profits to retain CHDO Proceeds generated, with the stipulation that they are used for HOME-eligible or other housing activities that will benefit low-income families.

The County acknowledges the importance of a stable and consistent affordable housing system, as many of the homes in our jurisdiction are in grave need of rehabilitation, not to mention the numerous families that could benefit from housing assistance. The County's highest, most critical priorities are exactly these and we will continue to utilize this device to ensure that assistance is offered to as many families as possible.

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CR-60 - ESG 91.520(g) (ESG Recipients only)

ESG Supplement to the CAPER in *e-snaps*

For Paperwork Reduction Act

1. Recipient Information—All Recipients Complete

Basic Grant Information

Recipient Name	HIDALGO COUNTY
Organizational DUNS Number	103110834
EIN/TIN Number	746000717
Identify the Field Office	SAN ANTONIO
Identify CoC(s) in which the recipient or subrecipient(s) will provide ESG assistance	Texas Balance of State CoC

ESG Contact Name

Prefix	Mr
First Name	Patricio "P.R." Avila
Middle Name	0
Last Name	Avila
Suffix	0
Title	Director

ESG Contact Address

Street Address 1	1916 Tesoro St.
Street Address 2	0
City	Pharr
State	TX
ZIP Code	-
Phone Number	9567878127
Extension	0
Fax Number	9563182988
Email Address	patricio.avila@co.hidalgo.tx.us

ESG Secondary Contact

Prefix	Mr
First Name	Antonio
Last Name	Barco
Suffix	0
Title	Assistant Director
Phone Number	9567878127
Extension	0
Email Address	antonio.barco@co.hidalgo.tx.us

2. Reporting Period—All Recipients Complete

Program Year Start Date 07/01/2020
Program Year End Date 06/30/2021

3a. Subrecipient Form – Complete one form for each subrecipient

Subrecipient or Contractor Name: CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF RGV

City: San Juan

State: TX

Zip Code: 78589,

DUNS Number: 956016075

Is subrecipient a victim services provider: N

Subrecipient Organization Type: Faith-Based Organization

ESG Subgrant or Contract Award Amount: 160700

Subrecipient or Contractor Name: Women Together Foundation, Inc.

City: McAllen

State: TX

Zip Code: 78501, 8712

DUNS Number: 170221972

Is subrecipient a victim services provider: Y

Subrecipient Organization Type: Other Non-Profit Organization

ESG Subgrant or Contract Award Amount: 211824.07

Subrecipient or Contractor Name: The Salvation Army McAllen-Hidalgo County

City: McAllen

State: TX

Zip Code: 78501, 6737

DUNS Number: 830704834

Is subrecipient a victim services provider: N

Subrecipient Organization Type: Faith-Based Organization

ESG Subgrant or Contract Award Amount: 238900

CR-65 - Persons Assisted

4. Persons Served

4a. Complete for Homelessness Prevention Activities

Number of Persons in Households	Total
Adults	
Children	
Don't Know/Refused/Other	
Missing Information	
Total	

Table 16 – Household Information for Homeless Prevention Activities

4b. Complete for Rapid Re-Housing Activities

Number of Persons in Households	Total
Adults	
Children	
Don't Know/Refused/Other	
Missing Information	
Total	

Table 17 – Household Information for Rapid Re-Housing Activities

4c. Complete for Shelter

Number of Persons in Households	Total
Adults	
Children	
Don't Know/Refused/Other	
Missing Information	
Total	

Table 18 – Shelter Information

4d. Street Outreach

Number of Persons in Households	Total
Adults	
Children	
Don't Know/Refused/Other	
Missing Information	
Total	

Table 19 – Household Information for Street Outreach

4e. Totals for all Persons Served with ESG

Number of Persons in Households	Total
Adults	
Children	
Don't Know/Refused/Other	
Missing Information	
Total	

Table 20 – Household Information for Persons Served with ESG

5. Gender—Complete for All Activities

	Total
Male	
Female	
Transgender	
Don't Know/Refused/Other	
Missing Information	
Total	

Table 21 – Gender Information

6. Age—Complete for All Activities

	Total
Under 18	
18-24	
25 and over	
Don't Know/Refused/Other	
Missing Information	
Total	

Table 22 – Age Information

7. Special Populations Served—Complete for All Activities

Number of Persons in Households

Subpopulation	Total	Total Persons Served – Prevention	Total Persons Served – RRH	Total Persons Served in Emergency Shelters
Veterans				
Victims of Domestic Violence				
Elderly				
HIV/AIDS				
Chronically Homeless				
Persons with Disabilities:				
Severely Mentally Ill				
Chronic Substance Abuse				
Other Disability				
Total (unduplicated if possible)				

Table 23 – Special Population Served

CR-70 – ESG 91.520(g) - Assistance Provided and Outcomes

10. Shelter Utilization

Number of New Units - Rehabbed	0
Number of New Units - Conversion	0
Total Number of bed-nights available	38,325
Total Number of bed-nights provided	16,529
Capacity Utilization	43.13%

Table 24 – Shelter Capacity

11. Project Outcomes Data measured under the performance standards developed in consultation with the CoC(s)

CoCs were invited to participate in all requests for input. Changes to the scoring items were made in response feedback received during the drafting phase. In addition, TDHCA solicited formal public comment through rulemaking, and the CoCs were notified for the public comment period. No public comment was received during the public comment period. In general, TDHCA strives to have its performance measures closely resemble the measures in the CAPER in order to ensure that federal requirements are met and minimize time ESG subrecipients spend reporting.

In 2020 the County of Hidalgo evaluated and codified in administrative rule its scoring targets for performance standards. The process is to continue engagement and coordination with the Texas Homeless Network (CoC). CoCs are invited to participate in this process for their input. In addition, the Hidalgo County solicited formal public comments. No public comments were received during the public comment period. In general, Hidalgo County strives to have its performance measures resemble the measures in the CAPER to ensure that federal requirements are met.

In coordination and consultation with our CoC, Hidalgo County Program utilizes the HMIS software to obtain the outcomes data measured under the performance standards currently in place. For our victims of domestic violence, Women Together Foundation, Inc., (Victim Service Provider) utilizes the Osnum client track software.

Overall our (3) ESG partners were able to perform and stay consistent. 100% of ESG funds were spent within the HUD deadline. The ESG subrecipients were able to deliver Emergency Shelter, Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing services in Hidalgo County. They served 166 persons, 86 Households with Rental Assistance and utility deposits and payments through the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Activities. A total of 16,529 bed nights were provided to persons staying in shelters and 6,720 were also served under Emergency Shelter ESG component. For 2020 there is similar need for beds by the funded agencies and no incidents or issues were reported.

The data measures and performance outcomes are generated from HMIS and OSNIUM software then uploaded on the SAGE report which is attached on CR-00 of the CAPER on IDIS e-Con Suite.

CR-75 – Expenditures

11. Expenditures

11a. ESG Expenditures for Homelessness Prevention

	Dollar Amount of Expenditures in Program Year		
	2018	2019	2020
Expenditures for Rental Assistance	0	100,224	0
Expenditures for Housing Relocation and Stabilization Services - Financial Assistance	0	4,125	0
Expenditures for Housing Relocation & Stabilization Services - Services	0	39,328	0
Expenditures for Homeless Prevention under Emergency Shelter Grants Program	0	0	0
Subtotal Homelessness Prevention	0	143,677	0

Table 25 – ESG Expenditures for Homelessness Prevention

11b. ESG Expenditures for Rapid Re-Housing

	Dollar Amount of Expenditures in Program Year		
	2018	2019	2020
Expenditures for Rental Assistance	0	32,219	0
Expenditures for Housing Relocation and Stabilization Services - Financial Assistance	0	3,708	0
Expenditures for Housing Relocation & Stabilization Services - Services	0	7,899	0
Expenditures for Homeless Assistance under Emergency Shelter Grants Program	0	0	0
Subtotal Rapid Re-Housing	0	43,826	0

Table 26 – ESG Expenditures for Rapid Re-Housing

11c. ESG Expenditures for Emergency Shelter

	Dollar Amount of Expenditures in Program Year		
	2018	2019	2020
Essential Services	0	22,069	0
Operations	0	257,061	0
Renovation	0	0	0
Major Rehab	0	0	0
Conversion	0	0	0
Subtotal	0	279,130	0

Table 27 – ESG Expenditures for Emergency Shelter

11d. Other Grant Expenditures

	Dollar Amount of Expenditures in Program Year		
	2018	2019	2020
Street Outreach	0	0	0
HMIS	0	38,564	0
Administration	0	29,405	19,219

Table 28 - Other Grant Expenditures

11e. Total ESG Grant Funds

Total ESG Funds Expended	2018	2019	2020
	0	534,602	19,219

Table 29 - Total ESG Funds Expended

11f. Match Source

	2018	2019	2020
Other Non-ESG HUD Funds	0	0	0
Other Federal Funds	0	69,498	0
State Government	0	0	0
Local Government	0	0	0
Private Funds	0	465,104	19,219
Other	0	0	0
Fees	0	0	0
Program Income	0	0	0
Total Match Amount	0	534,602	19,219

Table 30 - Other Funds Expended on Eligible ESG Activities

11g. Total

Total Amount of Funds Expended on ESG Activities	2018	2019	2020
	0	1,069,204	38,438

Table 31 - Total Amount of Funds Expended on ESG Activities