

## AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Commissioner Court – October 19, 2021

### **AI Number: 82971**

**Information:** Requesting authority to approve expenditure made or to be made in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency as necessary and eligible under the America Rescue Plan Act.

**Description of AI:** (1) Approval of expenditures; (2) Approval of funds transfer

**Funding Source:** American Rescue Plan Act Fund

**Account No.** 1-1290-441-XX-115-101-1-XXX

**Requested by:** Sergio Cruz, Budget Officer

**Department:** Budget & Management

**Prepared by:** Joely Garza, Accountant

**Department:** Budget & Management

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### **Background:**

On May 10, 2021 the U.S. The Department of the Treasury announced the launch of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, established by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, to provide \$350 billion in emergency funding for state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments. Which allows recipients to use funds to mitigate the spread of COVID.

The purpose of this action is to approve the purchases that are needed to ensure the effectiveness of Hidalgo County's response in all aspects of the County operation in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Examples of purchases made or to be made include, but are not limited to:

- Personal Protective Equipment
- KN95 masks
- Hand sanitizer
- COVID-Testing
- COVID-Vaccination

### **Compliance:**

The purchases were or will be procured in an effort to protect and reduce the spread of COVID-19. The Purchasing Department followed compliance with Texas Local Government Code 262.024(2), Discretionary Exemption, which allows the County to procure goods and services as necessary without the

requirement of a competitive solicitation process. Services were also made utilizing the County's adopted procurement process, such as utilization of competitive quotes and purchasing cooperatives. Expenditures exceeding a threshold were also subject to price verification and the procurement of services complies with 2 CFR 200 requirements.

**Administration:**

Approval of the item is consistent with Hidalgo County's intended purpose of mitigating the spread of COVID-19. Hidalgo County is taking the lead in responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency for our community as a whole.

**Agenda Item Caption:**

ARPA - American Rescue Plan Act Funds (1290):

1. Discussion, consideration, and action to approve the payment of ARPA Relief Fund expenditures for a period in which the COVID-19 Public Health and Economic crisis is in effect, as necessary, to cover costs not accounted for in the current budget and cannot be lawfully funded by line item, allotment or allocation, for the following: public health expenses for acquisition and distribution of medical and personal protective supplies and equipment, public health expenses for public safety measures including testing kits, vaccination services, and other related expenses as reasonable necessary to the function of government in connection with the ongoing COVID-19 public health and economic crisis; the Court having reviewed the Agenda Item Briefing, herein finds that such expenditures are reasonable and necessary for the intended use.
2. Approval of intradepartmental transfer.

**Recommendations:**

The Department of Budget and Management recommends approval of various purchases made or to be made, as they are reasonable and necessary expenditures to address the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency. Expenditures will be charged to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) available to address the COVID-19 health emergency.