

HIDALGO COUNTY HEAD START §
POLICY COUNCIL §
HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS §
§

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-01

A RESOLUTION CALLING UPON THE HIDALGO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT TO AUTHORIZE HEAD START'S PARTICIPATION IN THE HIDALGO COUNTY PREMIUM PAY PROGRAM FURTHER RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE HIDALGO COUNTY HEAD START PROGRAM AND ITS EMPLOYEES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC TO THE ECONOMICALLY AND SITUATIONALLY DISADVANTAGE RESIDENTS OF HIDALGO COUNTY.

WHEREAS, the Head Start Program was one of the primary initiatives of President Lyndon Baines Johnson's "War on Poverty Legislation;"

WHEREAS, the Hidalgo County Head Start Program has been in existence since 1965 and currently serves 3,690 children and their families;

WHEREAS, the Hidalgo County Head Start Program during County Judge Cortez' Stay-at-Home Order as an "Essential Service" continued to provide services at home through June, 2020; transitioned to in person services beginning August, 2020 to the present. Head Start facilitated 3490 children's receipt of medical services; 2161 children received update immunization and served over 960, 887 meals;

WHEREAS, the Head Start Program retained the employment of 752 employees during the pandemic. These "Essential Workers" placed their wellbeing at risk to meet the daily needs of Head Start children and families in providing essential services;

WHEREAS, The American Rescue Plan Act authorizes "Premium Pay" (Final Rule, 31CFR Part 35, pp. 40, 48.) to essential employees who have been and continue to be relied upon to maintain continuity of operations of "essential critical infrastructure sectors including healthcare, public health and safety, childcare, education, sanitation, transportation and food production among others."

WHEREAS, The "American Rescue Plan Act" also addressed education disparities and defined eligible services to include new, expanding or enhancing early learning services such as Head Start;

WHEREAS, the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court approved on September 7, 2021 the "Hidalgo County Premium Pay Program" authorizing "Premium Pay" compensation to all regular full time employees of the county; and

WHEREAS, the Head Start Program is managed and co-governed by the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court and the Hidalgo County Head Start Policy Council.

NOW THEREFORE, be it **RESOLVED** by the Hidalgo County Head Start Policy Council Board, as follows:

1. The Hidalgo County Head Start Policy Council has authorized this Resolution;
2. Hidalgo County Head Start Policy Council supports Head Start employees as essential workers who placed their physical wellbeing at risk to meet the daily needs of children and families served by the Hidalgo County Head Start Program;
3. The Hidalgo County Head Start Policy Council calls upon the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court to authorize Head Start participation in the Hidalgo County Premium Pay Program.

PASSED AND APPROVED at a Special Called Meeting of the Hidalgo County Head Start Policy Council on the 8th day of December, 2021 at which a quorum was present and which meeting was properly posted and in compliance with the Texas Government Code Section 551, by a 8 to 0 vote.

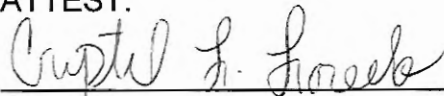
SIGNED AND EFFECTIVE ON THIS THE 8th OF DECEMBER, 2021.

APPROVED:



Humberto Chavez, Chair Person

ATTEST:



Crystal Loredo
Policy Council Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Ricardo Gonzalez
Policy Council Attorney