



**Agenda Item Briefing**  
**Commissioners Court - December 14, 2021**

**AI Number:** 83762

**Project Names:**

1. Hidalgo County Precinct 1 Hike & Bike Trail
2. Hidalgo County Precinct 4 JR. Milo Ponce Park Improvements Project
3. Hidalgo County Precinct 4 Pueblo De Palmas Park Improvements Project

**Project Numbers:**

1. ARPA-21-121-037
2. ARPA-21-124-029
3. ARPA-21-124-031

**Project Department Name:** Budget & Management

**Funding Source:** American Rescue Plan Act Relief Funds

1. Fiscal Impact : 1-1290-441-39-115-230-740
2. Fiscal Impact : 1-1290-441-39-115-222-740
3. Fiscal Impact : 1-1290-441-39-115-224-740

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**Department:** Budget & Management

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**Background Information**

On May 10, 2021, the U.S. 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. The bill allows governments to address socioeconomic disparities by providing services to disproportionately impacted communities.

The COVID-19 public health emergency has collectively impaired the wellbeing of the U.S. citizens. Pandemic-related stress has exacerbated behavioral health difficulties. As isolation and distancing guidelines have become the norm, depression, anxiety and substance abuse cases have risen. The importance of regularly engaging in any type of physical activity for both physical and mental health is well established and may be particularly beneficial in protecting the body in limiting the damage caused by COVID-19. Exposure to nature or green space also has positive physical and behavioral health benefits.

By creating access to more recreational space, the hike and bike trails are intended to provide outdoor recreational spaces that will be responsive to the needs of disproportionately impacted communities by promoting healthier living environments and socialization which helps to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 throughout and beyond the ongoing public health emergency.



## Hidalgo County • Department of Budget & Management

### American Rescue Plan Act 2021

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#### **Compliance**

In compliance with all procurement requirements such as the 2 CFR 200 requirements, as well as any census Qualified Census Tracts (QCT) requirements.

#### **Administration**

Approval of the item is consistent with Hidalgo County's intended purpose of addressing longstanding disparities by providing recreational spaces to disproportionately impacted communities to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency, and in compliance with the U.S. Treasury's Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Interim Final Rule.

#### **Agenda Item Caption**

ARPA - American Rescue Plan Act Funds (1290):

Discussion, consideration, and action to approve the following projects under the Hidalgo County American Rescue Plan Act Recreational Development Program.

1. Hidalgo County Precinct 1 Hike & Bike Trail - Project Number: ARPA-21-121-037.
2. Hidalgo County Precinct 4 JR. Milo Ponce Park Improvements Project - Project Number: ARPA-21-124-029.
3. Hidalgo County Precinct 4 Pueblo De Palmas Park Improvements Project - Project Number: ARPA-21-124-031.

#### **Recommendations**

The Department of Budget & Management recommends approval of the use of ARPA Relief Funds to address the social determinants of health in disproportionately impacted communities by improving and/or expanding the Precinct 1 Hike & Bike Trail, Precinct 4 JR. Milo Ponce Park, and precinct 4 Pueblo de Palmas Park.