



**Hidalgo County • Department of Budget & Management**  
American Rescue Plan Act 2021

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

**AI Number:** 83831

**Project Name:** MEDCARE EMS Assistance

**Project Numbers:** ARPA-21-125-039

**Project Department Name:** Budget & Management

**Funding Source:** American Rescue Plan Act Relief Funds 1-1290-441-12-115-232-1-843

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**Background Information**

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. The bill allows governments to provide funding to critical life-saving services to respond to the negative economic impacts of the ongoing public health emergency.

The COVID-19 public health emergency has placed a substantial amount of pressure on the emergency medical service sector and the first responder personnel due to the vast number of patients with COVID-19 who are in need of quality medical care. As COVID-19 cases continue to rise, more obstacles are placed upon medical services such as MEDCARE EMS. The program is intended to be for emergency medical services in the unincorporated areas of the County. By supporting MEDCARE EMS, it will help them recover and mitigate the negative impacts of the public health emergency Covid-19, and they will be able to continue providing life-saving services to Hidalgo County specially to underserved communities.

**Compliance**

The Memorandum of Understanding has been made in compliance with the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Interim Final Rules issued by the U.S. Treasury, which allows the use of American Rescue Plan Act funds for the purpose of supporting the public health response through emergence by aiding critical life-saving services that have been hit particularly hard by the COVID-19 public health emergency.

**Administration**

Approval of the item is consistent with Hidalgo County's intended purpose of supporting emergency services providers 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.



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#### **Agenda Item Caption**

ARPA - American Rescue Plan Act (1290):

A. Discussion, consideration, and action to approve the Hidalgo County American Rescue Plan Act Emergency Medical Services Program for projects following the American Rescue Plan Act guidelines for the purpose of supporting emergency medical service providers to continue to provide critical life-saving services to Hidalgo County residents and address the COVID-19 public health emergency.

B. Discussion, consideration and action to approve the following projects under the Hidalgo County American Rescue Plan Act Emergency Medical Services Program.

1. MEDCARE EMS Assistance - Project Number: ARPA-21-125-039.

C. Discussion, consideration, and approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between MEDCARE EMS and the County of Hidalgo to provide funding to MEDCARE EMS to allow the emergency service provider to continue providing critical life-saving services to Hidalgo County residents to continue to providing critical life-saving services to Hidalgo County residents and address the COVID-19 public health emergency, with authority for the County Judge, as authorized official, to sign the Memorandum of Understanding.

#### **Recommendations**

The Department of Budget & Management recommends approval of the use of ARPA Relief Funds to address the negative impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency.