



## Hidalgo County • Department of Budget & Management

### American Rescue Plan Act 2021

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### Project Description

**Project Name:**

Emergency Management Facility

**Project Number:**

ARPA-22-110-078

**Department Name:**

County Judge's Office

**ARPA Expenditure Category Group:**

1. Public Health

**ARPA Expenditure Category:**

1.7 Capital Investments or Physical Plant Changes to Public Facilities that respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

**Project Description:**

In the last two years, COVID-19 has greatly impacted the nation and, in particular, regions of low socioeconomic status. Currently, 26.9% of Hidalgo County's population lives below the poverty line, and the pandemic's impact on the county's public health is evident.<sup>1</sup> The rise in COVID-19 cases has increased COVID-19 related emergency response services. An Emergency Management Facility will provide crucial benefits to underserved populations in Hidalgo County. Furthermore, this facility will provide a centralized location to manage ongoing emergency operations and will bring together experts to coordinate emergency operations, including, but not limited to, resources, information, crisis, and emergency risk communication to strengthen the county's ability to detect and effectively respond to the ongoing and future public health emergencies.

The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) Final Rule allows for the construction or improvements to public facilities that respond directly to COVID-19 under the expenditure category 1.7, *Public Health: Capital Investments or Physical Plant Changes to Public Facilities that respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency*<sup>2</sup>. Based on the Final Rule, construction and improvements to an Emergency Management Facility and Emergency Operations Center are eligible expenditures when the project is related and reasonably proportional to the public health impact of the pandemic.<sup>3</sup> Therefore, the Coronavirus SLFRF Final Rule allows for the construction of facilities to respond to the ongoing public health emergency and any future public health emergencies more effectively.

**Fiscal Impact:**

Estimated Budget: \$6,700,000.00

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<sup>1</sup> Malini DeSilva, Association of the COVID-19 Pandemic with Routine Childhood Vaccination Rates and Proportion Up to Date with Vaccination across 8 US Health Systems in the Vaccine Safety Datalink. Retrieved November 18, 2021.

<sup>2</sup> Department of the treasury rin 1505-AC77] action summary ... (n.d.). Retrieved March 22, 2022, from <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRF-Final-Rule.pdf> (pg 60)

<sup>3</sup> Department of the treasury rin 1505-AC77] action summary ... (n.d.). Retrieved March 22, 2022, from <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRF-Final-Rule.pdf> (pg 192)