



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

Project Description

Project Name:

Hidalgo County Rental Relief Project

Project Number:

ARPA-22-901-121

Department Name:

Hidalgo County Community Service Agency

ARPA Expenditure Category:

2: Negative Economic Impacts

ARPA Eligibility Category:

2.2: Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid*^

Project Description:

The Hidalgo County Rent Relief Project is an assistance project designed to provide rental and utility assistance to qualifying Hidalgo County residents who have been adversely affected by the COVID-19 public health emergency. The eligibility requirements for all households are as follows: Proof of 1) Hidalgo County Residency; 2) Low-income Household (80% AMI), and 3) have been economically/physically impacted by COVID-19. The Hidalgo County Rental Relief Project will assist low-income households that meet the eligibility requirement, by providing rental assistance for past and future rent costs.

Furthermore, the project will assist families and individuals with utility costs (water, electricity, gas, trash, and sewage). The requested funding will also allow the Hidalgo County Rental Relief project to continue to render aid to households challenged by the sharp impact that inflation has on the costs of gas, food, water and electricity. The life of the Rental Relief Project results has shown that this project has positively benefited the Hidalgo County community by assisting 2,352 households in the amount of \$11.4 million spent. The Rental Relief project has reached its peak with 1,030 applications for the month of June 2022 and 1,072 for the month of July. It has maximized its funding. As per the Final Rule, assistance for responses to the immediate negative economic impacts of the pandemic through services like financial assistance for rental arrears or mortgage payments, is an eligible use for assistance to households.¹

Fiscal Impact:

\$3,000,000

¹ Department of the Treasury (n. d.) Federal Register, Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (Pg. 4365)