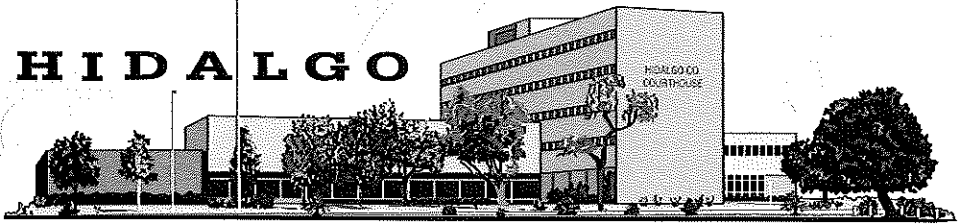


COUNTY of HIDALGO



EDINBURG, TEXAS 78539

HIDALGO COUNTY AUDITOR'S OFFICE
Hidalgo County Administration Building
2808 South Business Highway 281
Edinburg, Texas 78539-6243
PHONE: (956) 318-2511
FAX: (956) 318-2577
WEBSITE: www.co.hidalgo.tx.us/auditor

September 27, 2022

The Honorable Richard F. Cortez, Hidalgo County Judge
The Honorable David Fuentes, Commissioner, Precinct No. 1
The Honorable Eduardo Cantu, Commissioner, Precinct No. 2
The Honorable Everardo Villarreal, Commissioner, Precinct No. 3
The Honorable Ellie Torres, Commissioner, Precinct No. 4

RE: Certification of Revenue

Dear Judge and Commissioners:

Pursuant to Local Government Code § 111.0706 SPECIAL BUDGET FOR GRANT OR AID MONEY:

The county auditor shall certify to the commissioner's court the receipt of all public or private grant or aid money that is available for disbursement in a fiscal year but not included in the budget for that fiscal year. On certification, the court shall adopt a special budget for the limited purpose of spending the grant or aid money for its intended purpose.

I, Linda Fong, County Auditor of Hidalgo County, certify to the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court the amount of \$460,000.00 of grant money from Office of Court Administration FY2022 to reduce court Backlog. These funds may now be made available by creating a new special budget or amending a current budget for its intended purposes.

AMOUNT
\$ 460,000.00

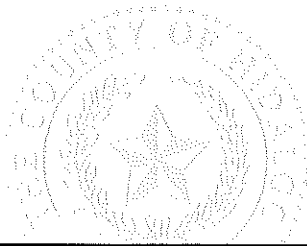
PROJECT NO.
Office of Court Administration ARPA Fund Award
FY2022-ARPA-CFDA#21.027 Felony Criminal Backlog Cases

CERTIFIED BY:

Linda Fong, CPFO
Hidalgo County Auditor

Date

09/27/2022




HIDALGO COUNTY DISTRICT JUDGES

LUIS M. SHSLETERAY JUDGE, 32 nd D.C.	FERNANDO MANCINAS JUDGE, 32 nd D.C.	J. R. "BOBBY" FLORES JUDGE, 131 st D.C.	ROSE GUERRA REYNA JUDGE, 204 th D.C.	MARLA CUELLAR JUDGE, 215 th D.C.	MARIO E. RAMIREZ, JR. JUDGE, 332 nd D.C.	NOE GONZALEZ JUDGE, 310 th D.C. OVERSEER	LETICIA LOPEZ JUDGE, 381 st D.C.	L. KENO VASQUEZ JUDGE, 391 st D.C.	ISRAEL RAMON, JR. JUDGE, 430 th D.C.	RENEE R. BETANCOURT JUDGE, 448 th D.C.	JOE RAMIREZ JUDGE, 464 th D.C.
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DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET & MANAGEMENT

O: (956) 292-7025
F: (956) 292-7034


 www.co.hidalgo.tx.us/budget

 505 S. McColl Rd., Suite C
Edinburg, Texas 78539



MEMORANDUM

To: Linda Fong, CPFO, Interim County Auditor

From: Vidal Roman, Hidalgo County Budget Officer 

Date: Thursday, September 22, 2022

Subject: Certification of Revenues- 370th District Court-Office of Court Administration (OCA) Court Backlog Action Plan Grant

CC: Letty Chavez, First Assistant County Auditor
Deborah Fischer, Director of Accounting
Minerva Diaz, Grants Accounting Supervisor
Honorable Noe Gonzalez, 370th District Court Judge

Juan Romeo Rodriguez, Court Coordinator
Damaris SanMiguel, Division Manager
Ivan Cantu, Budget Analyst
Maria Munoz, Grants Accountant

On behalf of the 370th District Court, please let this memo serve as a request for a Certification of Revenues letter from your office in relation to the grant award from the Office of Court Administration (OCA) Court Backlog Action Plan in the amount of \$460,000.00.

Please be advised that an agenda item to appropriate these funds will be presented in the next Commissioners Court meeting of Tuesday, September 27, 2022 (AI-87252). All pertinent supporting documentation will be attached to the agenda item.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ivan Cantu, Budget Analyst at ext. 5425 or Damaris SanMiguel, Division Manager at ext. 5410.

AI-87252

Budget and Management 46. C.
Other

CC REGULAR AGENDA REGULAR MTG

Meeting Date: 09/27/2022

Submitted For: Damaris San Miguel, BUDGET & MANAGEMENT

Submitted By: Ivan Cantu, BUDGET & MANAGEMENT

Department: BUDGET & MANAGEMENT

CAPTION

370th District Court-Court Backlog Action Plan (1286):

1. Approval to accept grant award from the Texas Office of Court Administration (OCA) in the amount of \$460,000.00 in relation to the Court Backlog Action Plan for Hidalgo County.
2. Approval of certification of revenues, as certified by Co. Auditor, in the amount of \$460,000.00 and appropriation of same.

BACKGROUND

The purpose of the Court Backlog Action Plan grant from the Texas Office of Court Administration (OCA) is to reduce the felony criminal backlog cases in Hidalgo County. Grant term is from 8-1-2022 to 7-31-2024.

Fiscal Impact

CALENDAR YEAR: 2022

ACCT. #: 2-1286-412-XX-007-XXX-X-XXX

FUNDS AVAILABLE Y/N?: Y **MATCHING FUNDS Y/N?:**

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

Appropriation of funds in relation to the Texas Office of Court Administration (OCA) Court Backlog Plan grant in the amount of \$460,000.00, pending COR by Co. Auditor.

Attachments

OCA Award Letter-Court Backlog Grant

Form Review

Inbox	Reviewed By	Date
Ivan Cantu (Originator)	Ivan Cantu	09/02/2022 03:35 PM
Budget & Management	Veronica Ortiz	09/02/2022 03:48 PM
Ivan Cantu (Originator)		
Budget & Management		
Final Approval		
Form Started By: Ivan Cantu		Started On: 08/30/2022 01:09 PM



OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION

MEGAN LAVOIE
Administrative Director

July 22, 2022

Judge Noe Gonzalez
Local Administrative Judge
Hidalgo County
100 N. Closner
Edinburg, TX 78539

Sent Via Email

Re: ARPA Funding Award

Hidalgo County Judiciary,

After reviewing your funding request with the Regional Presiding Judges, we are pleased to inform you that the Hidalgo County Judiciary is awarded **\$460,000** in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to support reducing the court backlog. This funding is to be utilized for reducing the felony backlog in your jurisdiction.

Enclosed you will find the grant agreement that includes reporting requirements, performance requirements and spreadsheets to assist in reporting.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Leonard.Higgins@cpa.texas.gov and Kelly.Thibodeau@txcourts.gov.

Thank you for submitting your plan for consideration. We appreciate your work and dedication in reducing the felony court backlog.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Megan LaVoie".

Megan LaVoie
Administrative Director

ARPA FUNDING AWARD DETAILS

Awarded funding is for felony criminal backlog cases. If your county requested Visiting Judge or Associate Judge Funding in your ARPA request, regular Visiting Judge appropriations from the Comptroller Judiciary Section Strategy A.1.2. can be used, and this line item was removed from your ARPA request. Minor adjustments between the Annual Salary and Benefits categories are allowed. If any amendments to the award are necessary, please contact Leonard.Higgins@cpa.texas.gov and Kelly.Thibodeau@txcourts.gov with questions and documentation of the changes.

Hidalgo County Award-\$460,000

Funded Position	Quantity	Total Awarded
Magistrates	1-2	\$ 300,000
Pre-Trial Service Coordinator	2	\$ 160,000
TOTAL ARPA Funded:		\$ 460,000

Reporting Requirements

Submit ARPA Grant Expenditure Reports on a state fiscal year **quarterly basis** to Leonard.Higgins@cpa.texas.gov and Jennifer.Henry@txcourts.gov to receive reimbursement. Please provide proof of expenditures along with the report. In addition to this information, please be prepared to answer whether the county is registered with Sam.gov, and provide the Unique Entity Identifier from the Sam.gov profile. If the county is not registered with Sam.gov, please notify Leonard Higgins. Additional information may be required. Subrecipients of these federal funds are responsible for ensuring compliance with all federal and state laws and guidance from the United States Department of the Treasury <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRF-Compliance-and-Reporting-Guidance.pdf>. Subrecipients may also be requested to provide additional information for future federal audits of these funds.

Performance Requirements

Grant recipients are required to send an Excel or csv file to the Office of Court Administration's Judicial Information Section at JudInfo@txcourts.gov on a **monthly basis** containing statistics by **district court** on:

- The number of active criminal cases pending in the court at the beginning of the month.
- The number of criminal cases added to the court's docket during the month.
- The number of criminal cases disposed of by the court during the month.
- The number of active criminal cases pending in the court at the end of the month.

Reports are due on the 20th day of the month for the month preceding. For example, September monthly reports are due by October 20th.



Maria Munoz <maria.munoz@auditor.co.hidalgo.tx.us>

ARPA Funds for Hidalgo County

Kelly Thibodeau <Kelly.Thibodeau@txcourts.gov>

Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 11:17 AM

To: Maria Munoz <maria.munoz@auditor.co.hidalgo.tx.us>

Cc: Jennifer Henry <Jennifer.Henry@txcourts.gov>, Megan LaVoie <Megan.LaVoie@txcourts.gov>, "Leonard.Higgins@cpa.texas.gov" <Leonard.Higgins@cpa.texas.gov>

Good morning Ms. Munoz,

The grant agreement is on page 2 of the award letter title "ARPA Funding Award Details" outlining the funding amount and requirements. This is our grant agreement. The CPA-Judiciary will also have one outlining the full award of \$7 million that is being distributed. If this grant agreement is also needed, Leonard should be able to provide that to you.

The CFDA number will also be coming from Leonard.

The award dates are based on request from Hidalgo County in the application, 2 years, starting August 1, 2022 – July 31, 2024.

Please let me know if you have further questions.

Thank you,

Kelly

Kelly Thibodeau

Special Projects Manager

Executive Assistant

Office of Court Administration

PO Box 12066

Austin, TX 78711-2066

512-936-7554

From: Maria Munoz <maria.munoz@auditor.co.hidalgo.tx.us>

Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2022 5:23 PM

To: Kelly Thibodeau <Kelly.Thibodeau@txcourts.gov>

Subject: Re: ARPA Funds for Hidalgo County

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Texas Judicial Branch email system.
DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you expect them from the sender and know the content is safe.

[Quoted text hidden]



Maria Munoz <maria.munoz@auditor.co.hidalgo.tx.us>

ARPA Funds for Hidalgo County

Kelly Thibodeau <Kelly.Thibodeau@txcourts.gov>

Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 11:35 AM

To: Maria Munoz <maria.munoz@auditor.co.hidalgo.tx.us>

Cc: Jennifer Henry <Jennifer.Henry@txcourts.gov>, "Leonard.Higgins@cpa.texas.gov" <Leonard.Higgins@cpa.texas.gov>

I was just given the CFDA, 21.027.

In addition, I can provide you with our Statement of Grant Award. This is for OCA only. As the CPA Judiciary will have their own.

Kelly

Kelly Thibodeau

Special Projects Manager

Executive Assistant

Office of Court Administration

PO Box 12066

Austin, TX 78711-2066

512-936-7554

[Quoted text hidden]

 **ARPA Grant Award.pdf**
85K



Maria Munoz <maria.munoz@auditor.co.hidalgo.tx.us>

ARPA Funds for Hidalgo County

Maria Munoz <maria.munoz@auditor.co.hidalgo.tx.us>

Wed, Sep 21, 2022 at 12:01 PM

To: leonard.higgins@cpa.texas.gov

Cc: "Ms. Linda C. Fong" <linda.fong@auditor.co.hidalgo.tx.us>, Letty Chavez <letty.chavez@auditor.co.hidalgo.tx.us>, Deborah Fischer <Deborah.Fischer@auditor.co.hidalgo.tx.us>, Minerva Diaz <Minerva.diaz@auditor.co.hidalgo.tx.us>, Juan Rodriguez <juanr.rodriguez@co.hidalgo.tx.us>, Lisa Ruiz <lisa.ruiz@co.hidalgo.tx.us>, fifth.region@co.jim-wells.tx.us, kelly.thibodeau@txcourts.gov

Good morning Mr. Leonard Higgins,

I would like to thank you for responding to my telephone call this morning and would like to recap the points discussed:
As per our conversation,

- Hidalgo County will not receive an additional document with additional information regarding the ARPA funds awarded by The Office of Court Administration.
- Hidalgo County will not receive any additional document from the Comptroller's Office Judiciary that will need to be signed to accept the award from The Office of Court Administration for ARPA funds.
- In regards to the email sent from Ms. Kelly Thibodeau the grant award of \$460,000.00 will be to fund a period of 2 years and will start on August 1, 2022 and end on July 31, 2022.
- Hidalgo County is required to submit a request for reimbursements on expenses for a Court Magistrate and two Pretrial Service Coordinators incurred during each of the quarters billed.

Please let me know if I am missing anything.

I would like to ask if you would please respond to this email and acknowledge this conversation.

Thank you,

[Quoted text hidden]



Maria Munoz <maria.munoz@auditor.co.hidalgo.tx.us>

ARPA Funds for Hidalgo County

Maria Munoz <maria.munoz@auditor.co.hidalgo.tx.us>

Wed, Sep 21, 2022 at 2:01 PM

To: leonard.higgins@cpa.texas.gov

Cc: "Ms. Linda C. Fong" <linda.fong@auditor.co.hidalgo.tx.us>, Letty Chavez <letty.chavez@auditor.co.hidalgo.tx.us>, Deborah Fischer <Deborah.Fischer@auditor.co.hidalgo.tx.us>, Minerva Diaz <Minerva.diaz@auditor.co.hidalgo.tx.us>, Juan Rodriguez <juanr.rodriguez@co.hidalgo.tx.us>, Lisa Ruiz <lisa.ruiz@co.hidalgo.tx.us>, kelly.thibodeau@txcourts.gov, fifth.region@co.jim-wells.tx.us

Good afternoon Mr. Leonard Higgins,

I would like to make a correction to the following bullet point on the email in regards to the recap of our telephone conversation.

- In regards to the email sent from Ms. Kelly Thibodeau the grant award of \$460,000.00 will be to fund a period of 2 years and will start on August 1, 2022 and end on July 31, 2022.

should read as follows:

- In regards to the email sent from Ms. Kelly Thibodeau the grant award of \$460,000.00 will be to fund a period of 2 years and will start on August 1, 2022 and end on July 31, 2024.

In addition, I would like to mention the following information received on the email dated September 14, 2022 from Ms. Kelly Thibodeau:

It states that the CFDA number for the ARPA Fund Award is CFDA#21.027.

I would like to ask if you would please respond to acknowledge the correction to the previously sent email and to the CFDA Number for the ARPA funding.

Thank you,

[Quoted text hidden]



Maria Munoz <maria.munoz@auditor.co.hidalgo.tx.us>

Read: ARPA Funds for Hidalgo County

1 message

Leonard Higgins <Leonard.Higgins@cpa.texas.gov>

Fri, Sep 23, 2022 at 11:20 AM

To: "maria.munoz@auditor.co.hidalgo.tx.us" <maria.munoz@auditor.co.hidalgo.tx.us>

Your message

To: Leonard Higgins

Subject: Re: ARPA Funds for Hidalgo County

Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2022 2:01:55 PM (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)

was read on Friday, September 23, 2022 11:19:08 AM (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada).

