



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

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## **Project Description**

**Project Name:**

Communication Interoperability

**Project Number:**

ARPA-22-110-090

**Department Name:**

Hidalgo County Office of Emergency Management

**ARPA Expenditure Category:**

1: Public Health

**ARPA Eligibility Category:**

1.7: Other COVID 19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)

**Project Description:**

Expand EOC Interoperability communication capabilities during Pandemic related responses. The purpose of this project is to connect public-safety radio systems to non public-safety radios using an interoperability patching system. This system will leverage the use of low cost radios to communicate with the higher cost public safety radio. In order to make the systems connect with each other, there is a need to purchase data card services to install in one radio system to connect with the other to make the system operable. Project will be administered through the Office of Emergency Management for county-wide use as applicable. The Expected Timeline for project completion will be 3 to 6 months, based on any supply line issues for equipment.

Treasury enumerates Improvements to or construction of emergency operations centers and acquisition of emergency response equipment (e.g., emergency response radio systems) and Costs of establishing public health data systems, including technology infrastructure.<sup>1</sup> The system will assist in COVID-19 response and mitigation efforts by facilitating timely information exchange in the Operations Exchange Center vital in coordinating response efforts to vaccination, testing and distribution locations related to public health measures and the ongoing COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. Pursuant to the Final Rule, commenters asked whether “enhancement of public health data systems” could include investments in software, databases and other information technology resources that support responses to the COVID-19 public health emergency but also provide benefits for other use cases and long-term capacity of public health departments and systems. According to the Treasury, these are permissible uses of funds under the interim final rule and remain eligible under the final rule.

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<sup>1</sup> Department of the Treasury. (n.d.) Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. (p. 61 )

**Fiscal Impact:**

Estimated Budget: \$62,993.91

AI-86139 CC 06/09/22 Hidalgo County Communication Interoperability Project