



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

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.¹ 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

¹ Department of the Treasury. (2022) Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18) p. 4354

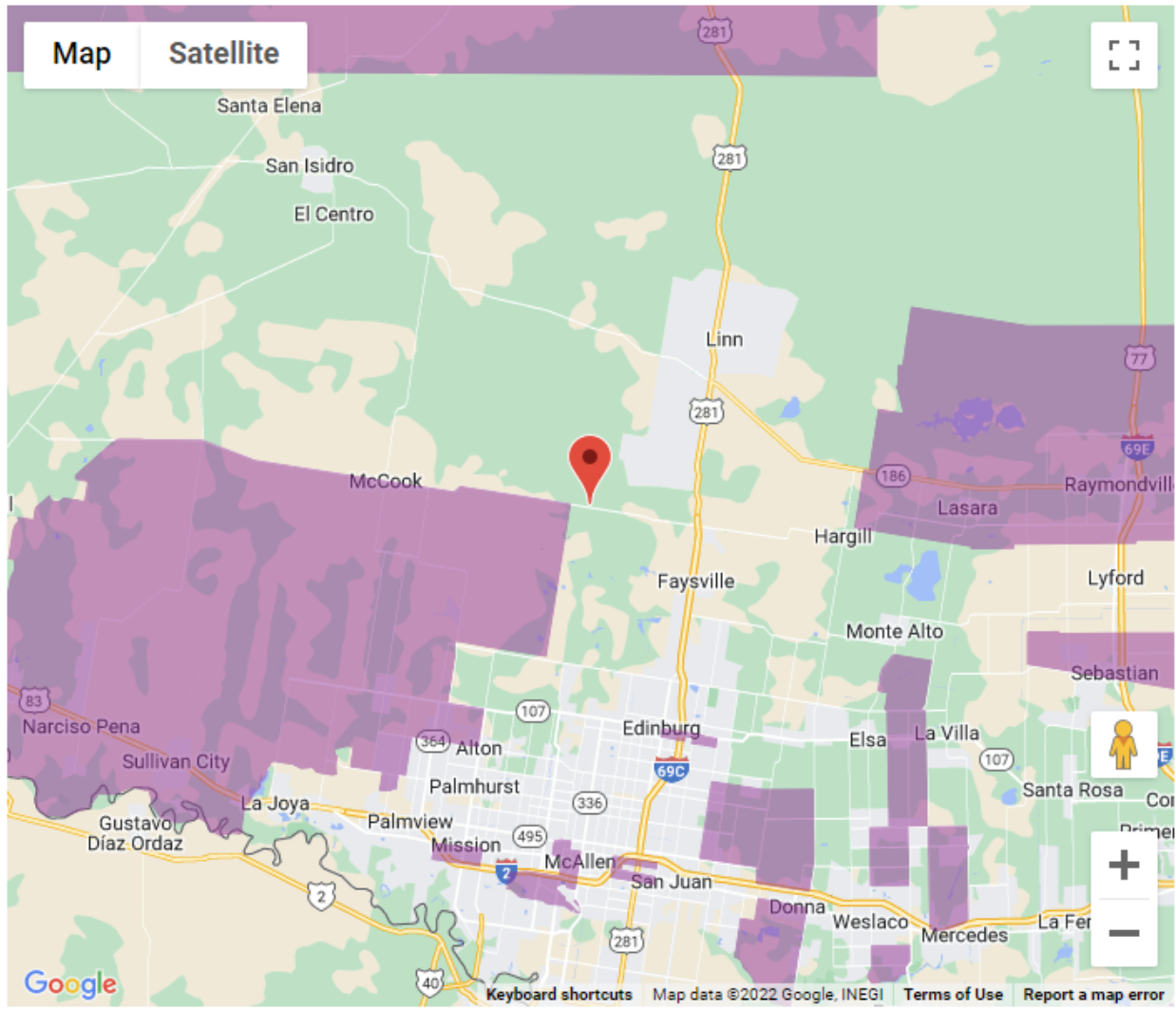
health departments and systems. According to the Treasury, these are permissible uses of funds under the interim final rule and remain eligible under the final rule.²

Fiscal Impact:

Estimated Budget: ~~\$62,993.91~~ \$64,000.00

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

Below is the 2022 Qualified Census Tract Analysis for Hidalgo County.



Source: Office of Policy Development and Research 2021 and 2022 Small Difficult Development Areas (DDAs) and Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs)

² Department of the Treasury. (2022) Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18) p. 4354