



Project Description

Project Name:

Broadband Feasibility Study

Project Number:

ARPA-23-110-321

Department Name:

County Judge's Office

ARPA Expenditure Category:

3: Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity

ARPA Eligibility Category:

3.4: Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

Project Description:

Because of the importance of internet accessibility in today's technologically-driven world, this project aims to fund a study that will detail the County's Internet accessibility throughout its jurisdiction. Hidalgo County will utilize study results to identify areas that meet the criteria for unincorporated, underserved or unserved, maximize resources, and expand broadband capability to these impacted areas to improve health and life outcomes during the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency.

Governments with high capacity to use data and evidence to administer programs are more likely to be responsive to the needs of their community, more transparent about their community impact, and more resilient to emergencies such as the pandemic and its economic impacts. Treasury recognizes that collecting high-quality data and developing community-driven, evidence-based programs requires resources to hire and build the capacity of staff, adopt new processes and systems, and use new technology and tools in order to effectively develop, execute, and evaluate programs. The Final Rule states that recipients may use SLFRF funds to address the data, evidence, and program administration needs of recipients, including "capacity building resources to support using data and evidence in designing, executing, and evaluating programs...that respond to the public health emergency and its negative economic impacts."¹

Fiscal Impact:

Estimated Budget: \$ 330,466.75

¹ Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4388