



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

Project Description

Project Name:

Assistance to the UTRGV School of Medicine - Integrated Behavioral Healthcare with Pediatrics and Psychiatry

Project Number:

ARPA-23-124-327

Department Name:

Hidalgo County Precinct 4

ARPA Expenditure Category:

1: Public Health

ARPA Eligibility Category:

1.12: Mental Health Services*^

Project Description:

Hidalgo County has seen an increase in the request for mental health care support. The impact of the pandemic has left residents facing serious behavioral health challenges. The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) School of Medicine has been providing these essential services via the John Austin Peña Clinic located at 3341 E. Richardson Rd., Edinburg, TX. Personnel treat primarily youth with mental health issues, addiction and illnesses such as diabetes. UT Health RGV aims to promote and sustain mental, emotional and physical health for children to become empowered responsible citizens in our communities. Hidalgo County will provide financial support to continue the operation of these vital community services and provide a safe, nurturing, and supportive response to the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency.

In the final rule, Treasury is maintaining this enumerated eligible use category and clarifying that it covers an expansive array of services for prevention, treatment, recovery, and harm reduction for mental health, substance use, and other behavioral health challenges caused or exacerbated by the public health emergency. The specific services listed in the interim final rule also remain eligible. Treasury is further clarifying that when providing behavioral health services, recipients can identify the impacted population as the general public and, as with all enumerated eligible uses, presume that all programs and services are reasonably proportional responses to the harm identified unless a response is grossly disproportionate to the type or extent of harm experienced.¹

¹ Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4355

In the final rule, to further decrease administrative burden and enhance recipient flexibility, Treasury is allowing recipients to also presume that low-income households were disproportionately impacted. Treasury anticipates that adding low-income households as a presumed eligible population will maintain targeting of funds to populations and communities most likely to have experienced severe pandemic impacts, while providing a more flexible approach for recipients.²

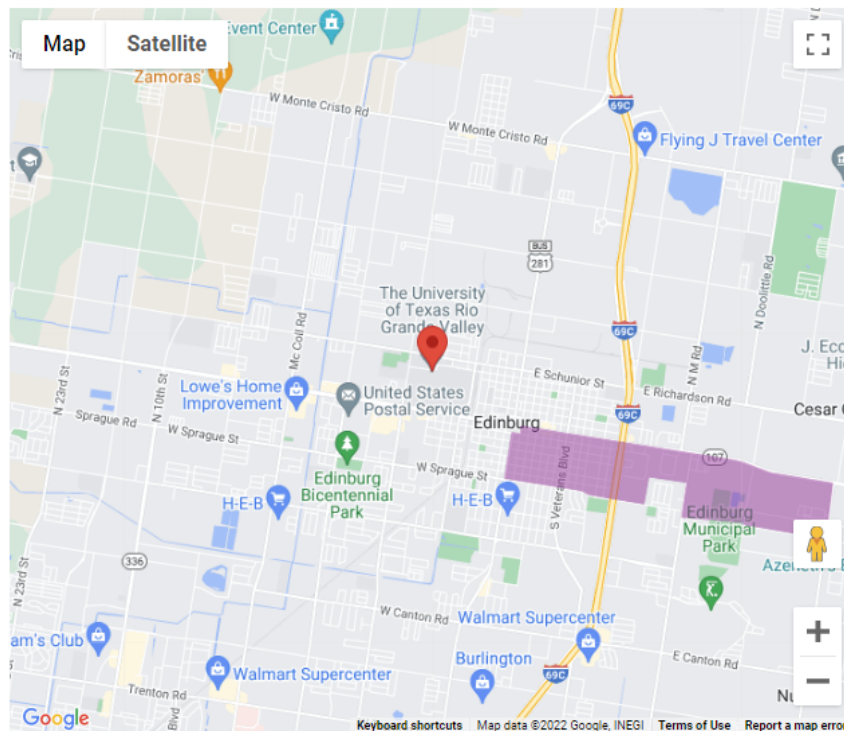
Fiscal Impact:

Estimated Budget: \$177,000.00

Evidence-Based:

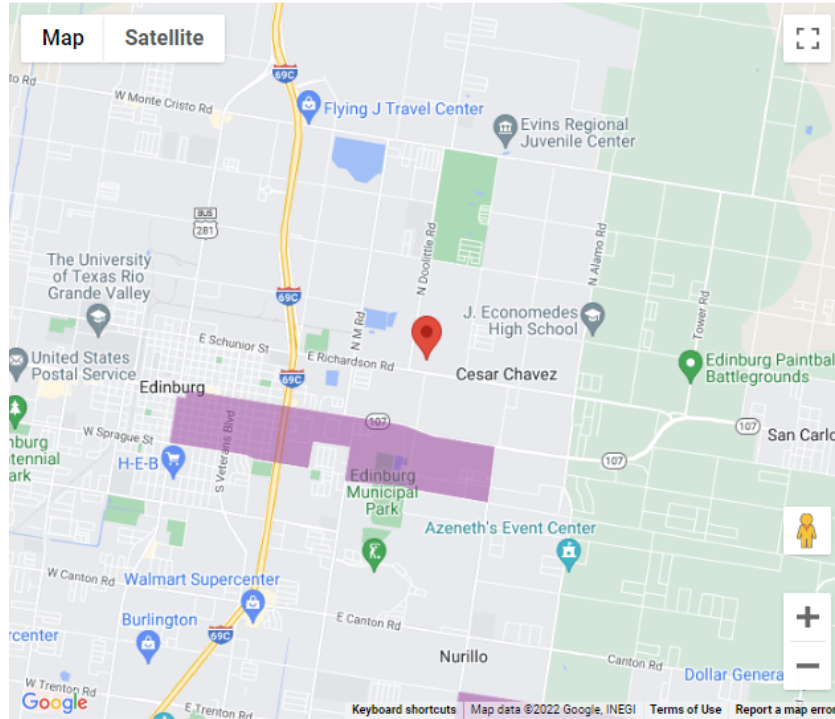
<https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/take-action-to-improve-health/what-works-for-health/strategies/behavioral-health-primary-care-integration>

Below is the 2022 Qualified Census Tract Analysis for the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley - School of Medicine, located at 1201 W University Dr, Edinburg, TX 78539, which is approximately 1 mile from the nearest QCT area.



² Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4441

John Austin Pena Memorial Center, 3341 E Richardson Rd., Edinburg, TX, 78539, is also located 1 mile from the nearest QCT area and is in a 62.12% Low and Moderate Income Area.



Source: Office of Policy and Development and Research (PD&R) - Maps of Qualified Census Tracts and Difficult Development Areas huduser.gov/sadda/sadda/qct_html

LMISD by Block Group: Block Group 5, Census Tract 236, Hidalgo County, Texas

Source	2015ACS
geoname	Block Group 5, Census Tract 236, Hidalgo County, Texas
Stusab	TX
Countyname	Hidalgo County
State	48
County	215
Tract	023600
Blckgrp	5
Low	1160
Lowmod	1525
Lmmi	1950
Lowmoduniv	2455
Lowmod_pct	62.12
ucLowmod	
ucLowmod_p	0.00
MOE_Lowmod	+/-30.63
MOE_ucLowm	

Source: HUD Exchange Low and Moderate Income Survey Data (LMISD) Map Application (<https://hud.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ffd0597e8af24f88b501b7e7f326bedd>)