



October 11, 2022

Judge Richard F. Cortez
Office of County Judge Richard F. Cortez
County of Hidalgo
100 E. Cano 2nd Floor
Edinburg, TX. 78539

**Subject: Contract Renewal for Higher Education Training and Workforce Development Skills for Hidalgo County Residents
Request for FY 22-23: \$200,000.00 Benchmark 40**

Dear Judge Cortez,

First and foremost, thank you very much for the continued partnership between the County of Hidalgo and VIDA to provide financial assistance and support services to economically disadvantaged Hidalgo County residents to achieve career success. This partnership ensures Hidalgo County residents have equitable education and workforce development opportunities in target demand occupations. With your continued support, we are in a unique position to provide much needed support services to our underserved demographic as we continue to recover from the long-term effects of a global pandemic. As you begin budget planning for next calendar year, we would like to share the outcomes and deliverables of our current grant project.

Enclosed please find:

- Hidalgo County Progress Report year to date for current funding.
- VIDA's FY 21-22: Closing Annual Summary: 534 Valley residents were served during FY 21-22 with an average income after graduation of **\$48,755** per year with benefits.

A recent Economic Impact Study conducted by UTRGV demonstrates that VIDA's work has a positive incremental economic impact in the Rio Grande Valley. The study reports that for every \$1 invested in VIDA and its participants, there is a **\$14.74** return on investment to the communities that we serve. **This translates to a return on the community's investment of \$29.6 million dollars in additional jobs, income, taxes and output in the local economy.**

Your commitment to empowering our at risk youth and adult learners demographic with the necessary resources and tools to break the cycle of poverty and pave the way to self-sufficiency is critical for enhancing employment opportunities and responding to the needs of local industry. **VIDA respectfully requests your consideration for an increased investment from \$100,000 to \$200,000 to serve 40 Hidalgo County residents in FY 22-23 and have the opportunity to double our benchmark and impact.** We look forward to continuing the work that we do in partnership with the County of Hidalgo to impact sustainable economic growth in the region...one VIDA at a time.

Respectfully,

Felida Villarreal, CPA
President & CEO

Enclosures: Progress Report, Annual Summary

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