



Project Description

Project Name:

Hidalgo County Precinct 1 Administrative Offices Indoor Air Quality Equipment

Project Number:

ARPA-23-121-348

Department Name:

Hidalgo County Precinct 1

ARPA Expenditure Category:

1: Public Health

ARPA Eligibility Category:

1.4: Prevention in Congregate Settings (Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, Child care facilities, etc.)*^

Project Description:

The COVID-19 pandemic has posed unprecedented challenges for public health. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the virus that causes COVID-19 is always changing, and protection from COVID-19 vaccines declines over time.¹ The COVID-19 pandemic has made it important to keep workplaces safe as viruses, like COVID-19, can easily spread in enclosed indoor spaces with poor ventilation. Although vaccination may be the best protection against hospitalization, other joint mitigation strategies are recommended for both home and work. One recommendation is the use of a portable air cleaner. Using a portable high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) cleaner can improve filtration with an existing Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC).² To reduce the risk of COVID-19 spreading, Hidalgo County Precinct 1 aims to provide Indoor Air Quality Equipment to improve ventilation in its administrative buildings which include but is not limited to Commissioner Precinct 1 Offices, Justice of the Peace Offices, Constable Offices, and the Tax Office. By taking this course of action, Hidalgo County Precinct 1 is ensuring that offices are safer for everyone, employees and visitors, especially those who may need more support.

Recognizing the broad range of services and programming needed to contain COVID-19, the interim final rule provided an extensive list of enumerated eligible uses to prevent and mitigate COVID-19 and made clear that the public health response to the virus is expected to continue to evolve over time, necessitating different uses of funds. Enumerated eligible uses of funds in this category included: ventilation improvements in congregate settings, health care settings, or

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2023/p0912-COVID-19-Vaccine.html>

² <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/Improving-Ventilation-Home.html>



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other key locations. These enumerated uses are consistent with guidance from public health authorities, including the CDC.³

Fiscal Impact:

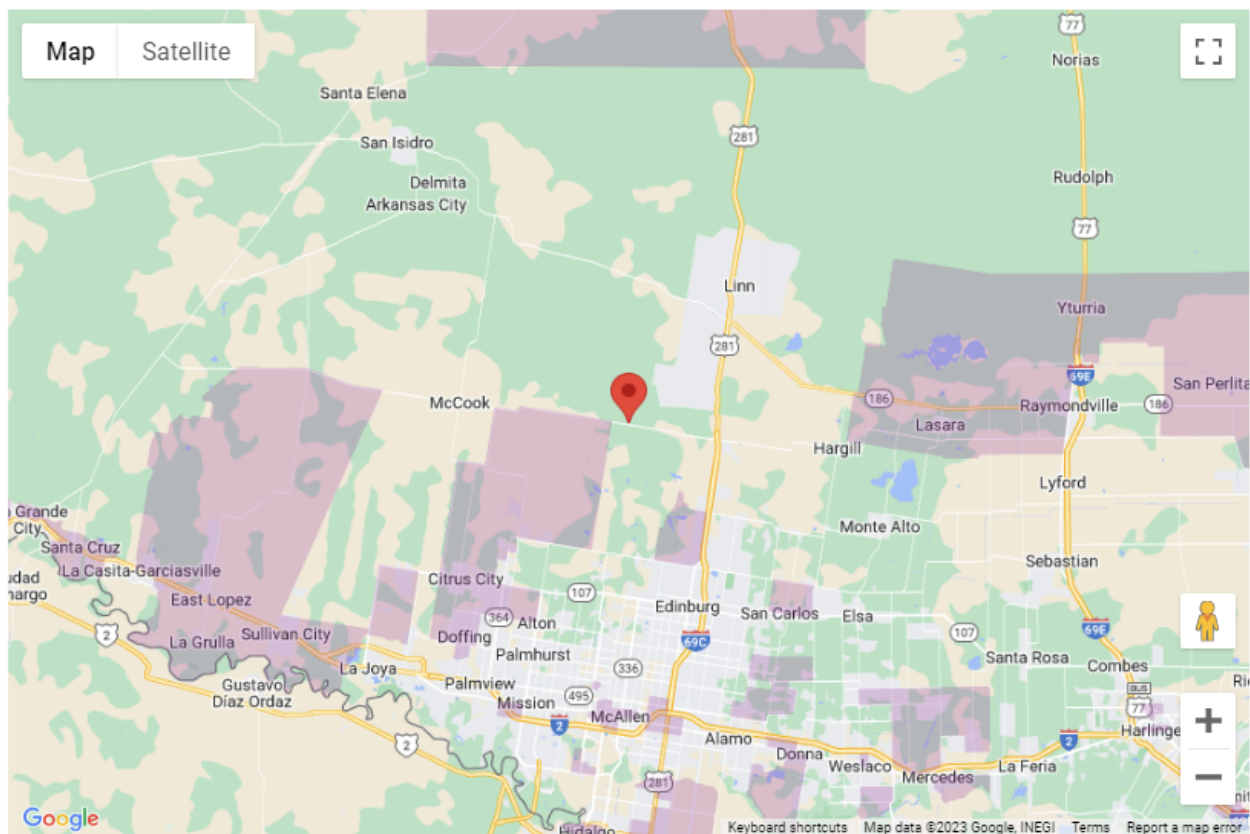
Estimated Budget: \$175,000.00

* Evidence-Based:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/ostp/news-updates/2022/12/08/clean-indoor-air-benefits-everyone/>

https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-03/508-cleanairbuildings_factsheet_v5_508.pdf

^Below is the 2024 Qualified Census Tract Analysis for Hidalgo County.



Source: Office of Policy Development and Research 2023 and 2024 Small Difficult Development Areas (DDAs) and Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs):

https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sadda/sadda_qct.html

³ Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4441