



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

Project Description

Project Name:

Hidalgo County Prevention of Inmate Overcrowding Efforts

Project Number:

ARPA-21-280-061

Department Name:

Sheriff

ARPA Expenditure Category:

1: Public Health

ARPA Eligibility Category:

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

Project Description:

The Hidalgo County Prevention Inmate Overcrowding Efforts project serves to address and offer alternative solutions to the COVID-19 public health emergency in correctional facilities. The overcrowding of the Hidalgo County jail is in part due to the extensive backlog of criminal jury trials and court cases that has developed and persists as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency. Although mitigation measures have been implemented, overcrowding persists. Therefore, the County of Hidalgo will utilize leasing as an alternative method to avoid and improve congregate settings in correctional facilities by transferring/ relocating inmates to other facilities to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and its new variants.

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. An enumerated eligible use of funds is support for prevention, mitigation, or other services in congregate living facilities (e.g., nursing homes, incarceration settings, homeless shelters, group living facilities) and other key settings like schools.¹ In the final rule, Treasury is maintaining an expansive list of enumerated eligible uses to mitigate and prevent COVID-19, given the wide-ranging activities that governments may take to further these goals, including “other public health responses.”²

¹ Department of the Treasury (n.d.) Federal Register, Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (p. 4352)

² Department of the Treasury (n.d.) Federal Register, Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (p. 4353)

Fiscal Impact:

Estimated Budget: \$26,000,000.00

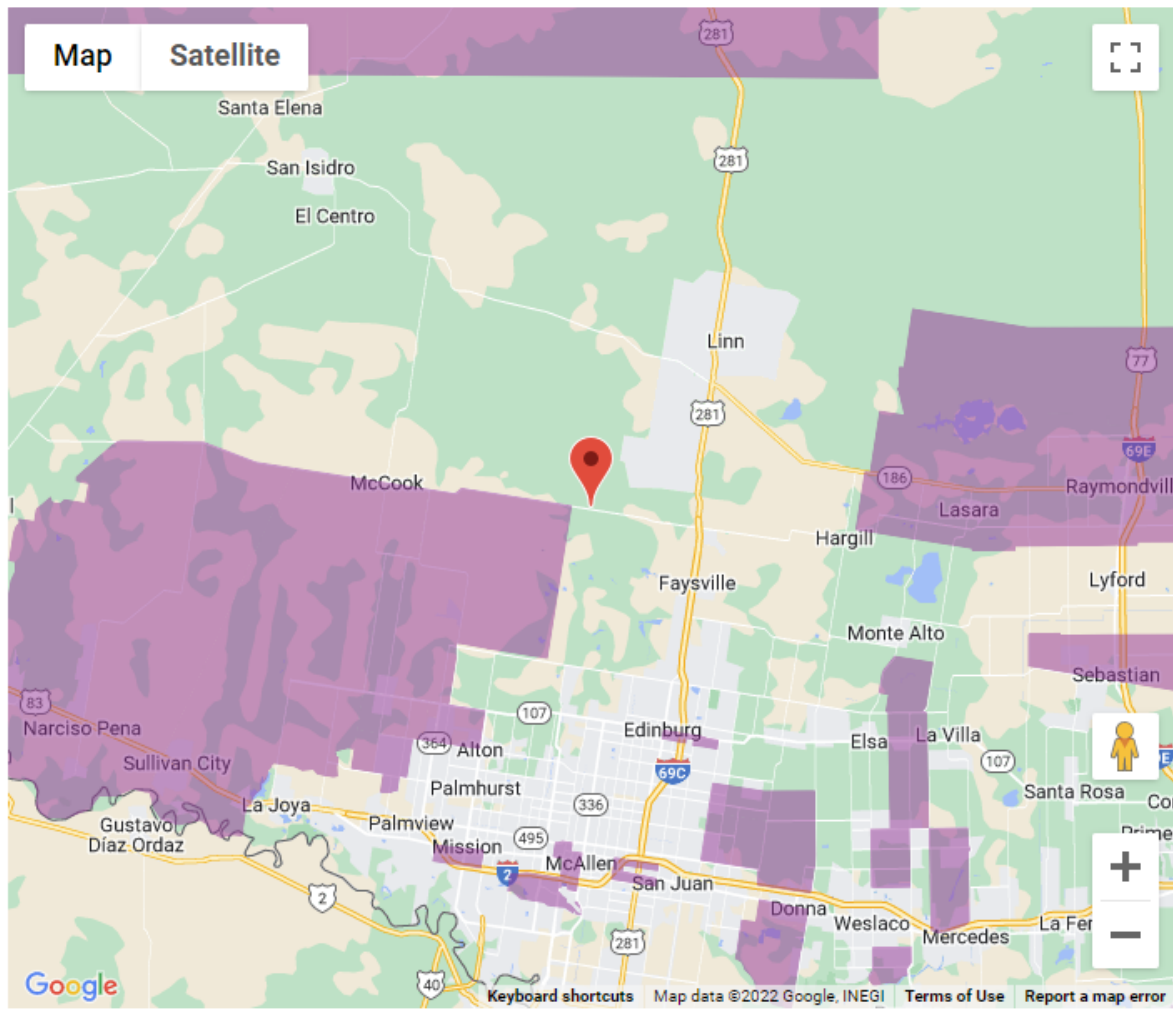
AI-87482 CC 09/20/22 Hidalgo County Prevention of Inmate Overcrowding Efforts

AI-81234 CC 06/15/21 Appropriation of Funds

*Evidence-Base

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/sr-truth-justice-reparation-and-non-recurrence/information-note-covid-19-prison-overcrowding-and-serving-sentences-serious-human-rights-violations>

^Below is the 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)