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By: J. J. J.  
County Judge

January 8, 2024

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 of Evidence-Based Workforce Development Program  
for Hidalgo County Residents  
Request for CY 2024: \$100,000.00 Benchmark 20**

Dear Judge Cortez,

Thank you for the continued partnership between the County of Hidalgo and VIDA to provide customized 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 high-demand occupations.

As we initiate a new year, we hope you may review VIDA's proposed project as a valuable initiative for funding consideration. With Hidalgo County's continued investment, VIDA will have the opportunity to provide essential services to our underserved demographic, ensuring training program persistence and completion. To highlight the positive outcomes and deliverables of our current grant project please find enclosed the following:

- Hidalgo County's Project Update Report for Calendar Year 2023
- VIDA's 2023 Program Summary & Outcomes

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 our communities. **This information translates to a return on the community's investment of \$29.6 million in additional jobs, income, taxes, and output in the local economy.**

**VIDA respectfully requests a continued investment of \$100,000 to serve 20 Hidalgo County residents in CY 2024.** Your commitment to empowering our at-risk demographic with the necessary resources and tools to break the cycle of poverty and promote economic mobility is critical for enhancing employment opportunities and responding to the needs of local industry. We look forward to continuing our work in partnership with the County of Hidalgo to impact sustainable economic growth in the region, one VIDA at a time.

Sincerely,

Felida Villarreal, CPA  
President & CEO