



## **Project Description**

**Project Name:**

Assistance to St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church

**Project Number:**

ARPA-24-122-350

**Program:**

The Hidalgo County Precinct 2 Assistance to St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church will be part of the Hidalgo County American Rescue Plan Food Insecurity Assistance Program

**Department Name:**

Hidalgo County Precinct 2

**ARPA Expenditure Category:**

2: Negative Economic Impacts

**ARPA Eligibility Category:**

2.34: Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)^

**Project Description:**

Food insecurity is defined as the persistent concern about access to sufficient and affordable food at all times. Food insecurity causes stress in people. One of the most important reasons for people's stress is where and how to get enough food due to unemployment and low income during the COVID-19 epidemic.<sup>1</sup> From 2020-2022, food insecurity in Texas was above the 11.2% US average.<sup>2</sup> The pandemic significantly changed food conditions. It exacerbated unemployment, interrupted the food supply chain and caused long lines at food banks. Hidalgo County, too, felt the demand and need for action to ensure that its most vulnerable residents, 30% of whom live in poverty, are provided with opportunities to access nutritional meals to support a healthy quality of life. St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church currently serves approximately 800 families weekly (Monday thru Friday, 11:00 a.m - 2:00 p.m.) and is located in a qualified census tract (900 S. 23rd St., McAllen, TX, 78501). To that end, Hidalgo County Precinct 2 aims to assist St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church with a food pantry facility, including necessary expenses for implementation and operation, in response to the ongoing effects of COVID-19 to ensure that vital food services continue.

The interim final rule included an enumerated eligible use for food assistance. Treasury is maintaining this enumerated eligible use without change. Recipients may, as was the case under

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9335023/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-u-s/key-statistics-graphics/>



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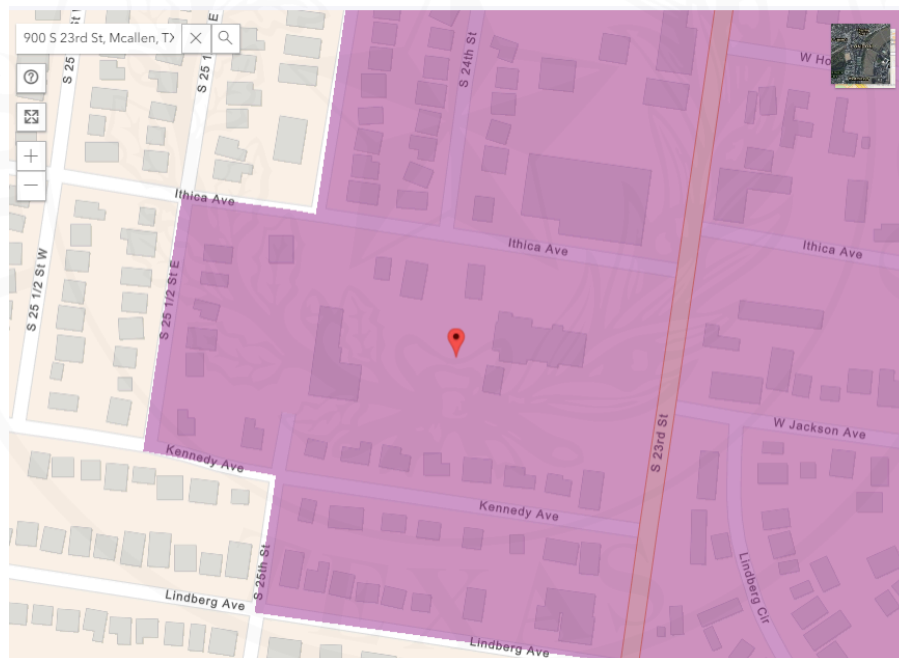
### American Rescue Plan Act

the interim final rule, administer programs through a wide range of entities, including nonprofit and for-profit entities, to carry out eligible uses on behalf of the recipient government. Further, Treasury is clarifying that capital expenditures related to food banks and other facilities primarily dedicated to addressing food insecurity are eligible.<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup>

#### **Fiscal Impact:**

Estimated Budget: \$200,750.00 (as presented in the estimate provided)

^Below is the Qualified Census Tract Analysis for St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church located at 900 S. 23rd St., McAllen, TX, 78501.



Source: Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R): [2023 and 2024 Small Difficult Development Areas \(DDAs\) and Qualified Census Tracts \(QCTs\)](#)

<sup>3</sup> Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4359

<sup>4</sup> Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4441