



## Project Description

**Project Name:**

Assistance to Women Together Foundation, Inc.

**Project Number:**

ARPA-24-115-353

**Program:**

The Hidalgo County Assistance to Women Together Foundation, Inc., will be part of the Hidalgo County American Rescue Plan Act Nonprofit Negative Economic Impacts Program

**Department Name:**

Hidalgo County Budget and Management

**ARPA Expenditure Category:**

2: Negative Economic Impacts

**ARPA Eligibility Category:**

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

**Project Description:**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, reports of domestic violence across the United States increased from 21% to 35%. Stay-at-home orders, designed to protect the public against the spread of COVID-19, along with heightened societal stressors as a result of the global pandemic, inadvertently increased rates of illicit drug and alcohol use, job loss, and isolation, resulting in increased stress and nonphysical (e.g., psychological, emotional, economic, technological) abuse that often escalated to physical violence.<sup>1</sup> As per the Texas Department of Public Safety Crime in Texas Reports, Hidalgo County had approximately 8,600 incidents of family violence and abuse in 2021 alone.<sup>2</sup> The impacts of COVID-19 continued as reports in 2022 increased to approximately 8,800 incidents. Women Together, a non-profit organization, whose mission is to provide shelter and support services to victims of domestic violence and survivors of assault and their families, has had increased costs to continue to provide critical services and has experienced loss in revenues, donations and other financial assistance. Thus, Hidalgo County

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10282862/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.dps.texas.gov/section/crime-records/crime-texas>



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Precinct 2 aims to assist Women Together, located in a qualified census tract, 511 N. Cynthia St., McAllen, TX, 78501, due to decreased revenues to continue to provide critical services and provide adequate and proper housing to victims of family violence and their children in response to the negative economic impacts of COVID-19.

The interim final rule provided significant flexibility for recipients to determine which households, populations, communities, or small businesses have been impacted and/or disproportionately impacted by the pandemic and to identify appropriate responses.<sup>3</sup> In other words, recipients can provide any COVID-19 prevention or mitigation service to small businesses, nonprofits, and businesses in impacted industries without any further analysis of impacts of the pandemic on those entities and whether the service is responsive.<sup>4</sup> Treasury has provided further guidance that services may include housing related services for survivors of domestic abuse.<sup>5</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>6</sup>

#### **Fiscal Impact:**

Estimated Budget: \$285,243.00

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<sup>3</sup> Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4342

<sup>4</sup> Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4354

<sup>5</sup> Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4360

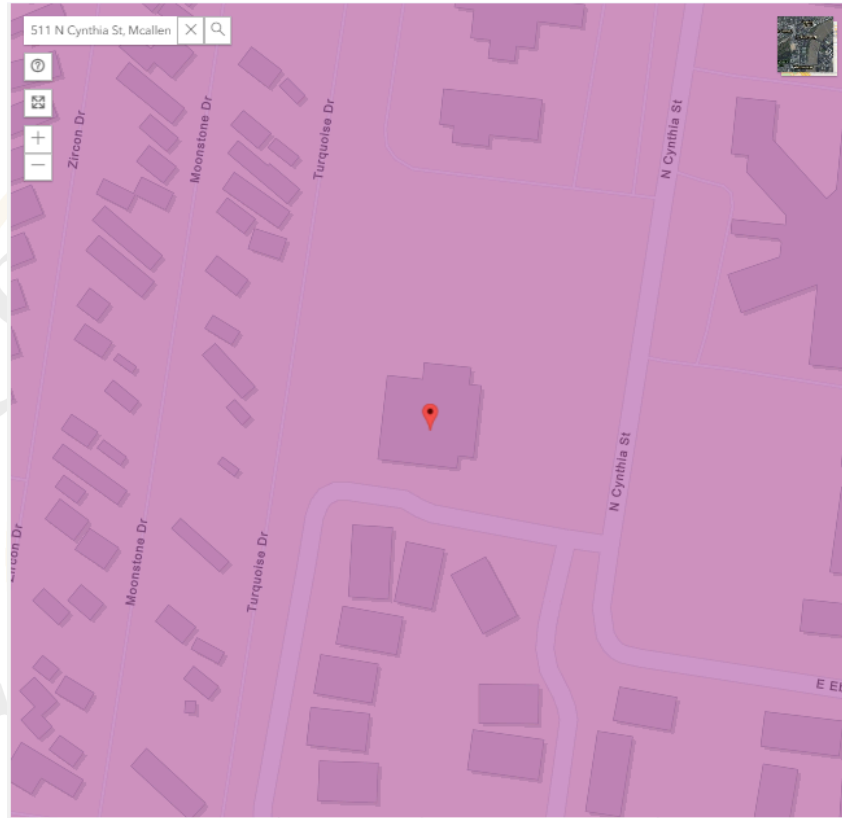
<sup>6</sup> Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4441



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^Below is the Qualified Census Tract Analysis for Women Together located at 511 N. Cynthia 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 \(QCTs\)](#)