



Project Description

Project Name:

Emergency Remote Operations Centers

Project Number:

ARPA-24-115-356

Department Name:

County Judge's Office

ARPA Expenditure Category:

1: Public Health

ARPA Eligibility Category:

1.14: Other Public Health Services^

Project Description:

The US Government Accountability Office (GAO) found that rural communities may have characteristics that can make recovering from a disaster difficult as they do not have the capacity and resources to support recovery activities.¹ It is important to remember that some communities have experienced substantial and pervasive historical inequities, which can pose challenges. For our most vulnerable populations to receive immediate and direct support, Hidalgo County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is in need of two emergency remote operations facilities in Eastern and Western Hidalgo County to mitigate the challenges of COVID-19 and its negative economic impacts, specifically in these rural and unincorporated areas in the community within Precincts 1 and 3. The development of two new locations, especially for those who are unable to travel, would ease the burden of access for emergency services so that individuals and families are able to access direct services closer to home and when they need them to speed up economic and social recovery and allow the community to resume normalcy. The location in Western Hidalgo County, 8066 N Los Ebanos Rd, Alton, TX, 78573, is in a qualified census tract area (QCT), and the Eastern Hidalgo County location, 708 East Edinburg Ave., Elsa, TX, 78543, is situated in a low to moderate area. These facilities will permit staff to remain in a safe environment during an emergency response and recovery and ensure the continuity of operations and government in major disasters or emergencies by protecting the health and resilience of families and communities in these marginalized areas in response to the negative effects of COVID-19.

For clarity, Treasury has addressed the eligibility standard for capital expenditures, or investments in property, facilities, or equipment. Treasury has enumerated the improvements to

1

<https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-24-106755#:~:text=The%20Disaster%20Assistance%20for%20Rural.sseeking%20disaster%20assistance%20from%20SBA.>



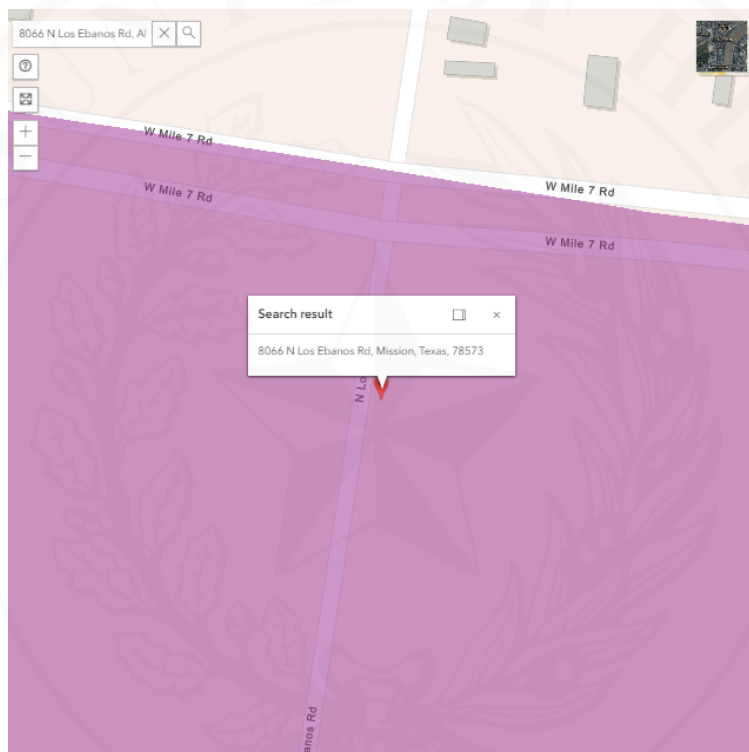
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or construction of emergency operations centers and acquisition of emergency response equipment (e.g., emergency response radio systems).²

Fiscal Impact:

Estimated Budget: \$3,000,000.00

^Below is the Qualified Census Tract for 8066 N Los Ebanos Rd, Alton, TX, 78573



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

² Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4354



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^Below is the Low-to-Moderate Income Area Information for 708 East Edinburg Ave., Elsa, TX, 78543

LMISD by Place: Elsa city

GEOID	4824036
NAME	Elsa city
PLACE_TYPE	Incorporated City/Town
STATE	48
STUSAB	TX
LOW	3,385.00
LOWMOD	4,660.00
LMMI	5,495.00
LOWMODUNIV	6,445.00
LOWMOD_PCT	72.30
UCLOWMOD	
UCLOWMOD_P	0.00