



Project Description

Project Name:

Hidalgo County Precinct 4 2812 Community Resource Center

Project Number:

ARPA-24-124-359

Department Name:

Hidalgo County Precinct 4

ARPA Expenditure Category:

2: Negative Economic Impacts

ARPA Eligibility Category:

2.10: Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers (e.g. job training, subsidized employment, employment supports or incentives)*^

Project Description:

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly exacerbated economic disparities in rural areas, leading to heightened unemployment rates, particularly in low economic populations peaking at 17.8% in April 2020 nationally. Hidalgo County faced significant socio-economic challenges, saw a notable increase in unemployment rates during the pandemic and experienced similar national trends but was more severely impacted due to its economic structure and pre-existing conditions. Although the unemployment rate began to decline across the country and in Texas, Hidalgo County did not have the same outcomes. In fact, Hidalgo County is above the current Texas unemployment rate of 3.9% at a steady 40% at 6.1%. There is a continued need for response efforts to reduce poverty and provide comprehensive assistance that include access to services, resources and job training programs. To adequately address and mitigate the negative economic impacts for our vulnerable population who experienced unemployment and other socio economic challenges, Hidalgo County Precinct 4 aims to provide the 2812 Community Resource Center, to be located in rural low-to-moderate income area, 10187 Carmen Avila Road, Edinburg, TX, 78542, in response to the negative economic impacts of COVID-19.

In addition to programs and services, the final rule clarifies that recipients may use funds for capital expenditures that support an eligible COVID-19 public health or economic response.¹ In the Final Rule, Commenters also requested use of funds for capital expenditures that support community needs apart from health care, such as new construction or improvements to schools,

¹ Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4339



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affordable housing (beyond presumed disproportionately impacted communities), childcare facilities, and community centers.² The Treasury is also enumerating that job and workforce training centers are eligible capital expenditures...³ 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.⁴

Fiscal Impact: \$3,003,010.00

*Evidence-Based:

<https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/take-action-to-improve-health/what-works-for-health/strategies/adult-vocational-training>

^Below is the data for Low to Moderate Income Area for 10187 Carmen Avila Road, Edinburg, TX, 78542

LMISD by Block Group: Block Group 2, Census Tract 235.11, Hidalgo County, Texas

Source	2015ACS
geoname	Block Group 2, Census Tract 235.11, Hidalgo County, Texas
Stusab	TX
Countyname	Hidalgo County
State	48
County	215
Tract	023511
Blckgrp	2
Low	1630
Lowmod	2405
Lmmi	2520
Lowmoduniv	2890
Lowmod_pct	83.22
ucLowmod	
ucLowmod_p	0.00
MOE_Lowmod	+/-25.64
MOE_ucLowm	

Source: HUD Exchange Low and Moderate Income Survey Data (LMISD) Map Application (<https://hud.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ffd0597e8af24f88b501b7e7f326bedd>)

² Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4389

³ Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4369

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