

# CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER OF HIDALGO AND STARR COUNTIES

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Jesus A. Sanchez



March 29, 2024

Mr. Eduardo "Eddie" Cantu  
Precinct 2 Commissioner  
300 W. Hall Acres, Suite G  
Pharr, TX 78596  
**RE: Request for ARPA Funding**

Dear Commissioner Cantu,

As you know, the Children's Advocacy Center of Hidalgo County (CAC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that strives to restore the lives of abused children by providing forensic interviews, victim support, immediate crisis intervention, counseling services, and forensic medical evaluations. Our CAC is 1 of 70 centers in Texas and the only one of its kind serving Hidalgo County residents. The Center has experienced an increase of **14.3%** in service demand since the COVID-19 pandemic. Last year, CAC served 2,147 clients with **91%** coming from **low-income** households. We need your support to maintain the level of services to the most vulnerable population of our community, our children.

We respectfully request funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) in the amount of **\$350,000** for urgent repairs and enhancements needed to our Edinburg facility. We are facing significant infrastructure challenges that threaten our ability to continue serving those in need effectively. The requested funding will be allocated towards addressing three critical areas of improvement:

- 1. Roof Replacement:** Our current facility's roof has deteriorated over time, resulting in leaks and structural issues. A new roof is imperative to ensure the safety of our staff and clients and to protect our valuable resources from damage caused by water infiltration.
- 2. HVAC System Upgrades:** By investing in new air conditioning units, we aim to decrease maintenance costs and create a more comfortable and conducive environment for both our staff and the families we serve.
- 3. Building Expansion:** With the growing demand for mental health support services in our community, it has become evident that our current facility lacks adequate space to accommodate additional counselors and support staff.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we thank you for your time, your consideration, and your support. Do not hesitate to contact me at (956) 287-9754 if you have any questions.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Jesus A. Sanchez  
Executive Director