



## **Project Description**

**Project Name:**

Assistance to Children’s Advocacy Center of Hidalgo County

**Project Number:**

ARPA-24-115-360

**Program:**

The Hidalgo County Assistance to Children’s Advocacy Center of Hidalgo County, will be part of the Hidalgo County American Rescue Plan Act Nonprofit Negative Economic Impacts Program

**Department Name:**

Department of 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:**

As quarantine and stay-at-home efforts were prolonged, a second, silent pandemic escalated. Evidence shows that rates of sexual misconduct increase during states of emergency, including natural disasters, active conflict and health crises. Even without the added burden of a global pandemic, only 23% of sexual assaults are reported to the police and victims are finding it difficult to access the resources they need. There is an urgent need for funding crisis centers to respond to survivors seeking assistance.<sup>1</sup> During the COVID-19 pandemic, reports of sexual misconduct across the United States increased. As per the Texas Department of Public Safety Crime in Texas Reports, Hidalgo County had approximately 700 incidents in 2021.<sup>2</sup> The impacts of COVID-19 continued as reports in 2022 increased to 752 incidents. The Children’s Advocacy Center of Hidalgo County, a non-profit organization, whose purpose is to ensure that all available resources are utilized to make victims of child abuse feel safe, heard, and protected, has had increased costs to continue to provide critical victim support and intervention services and has experienced loss in revenues and other financial assistance. Thus, Hidalgo County aims

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<sup>1</sup> <https://info.primarycare.hms.harvard.edu/perspectives/articles/sexual-violence-and-covid>

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



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to assist the Children’s Advocacy Center of Hidalgo County, located at 525 W. Wisconsin Rd., Edinburg, TX, 78539, due to decreased revenues to continue to provide critical services and provide adequate space with safety measures such as ventilation to support 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 enumerated eligible uses to support survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking who experience public health or economic impacts due to the pandemic.<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:** \$350,000.00

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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. 4356

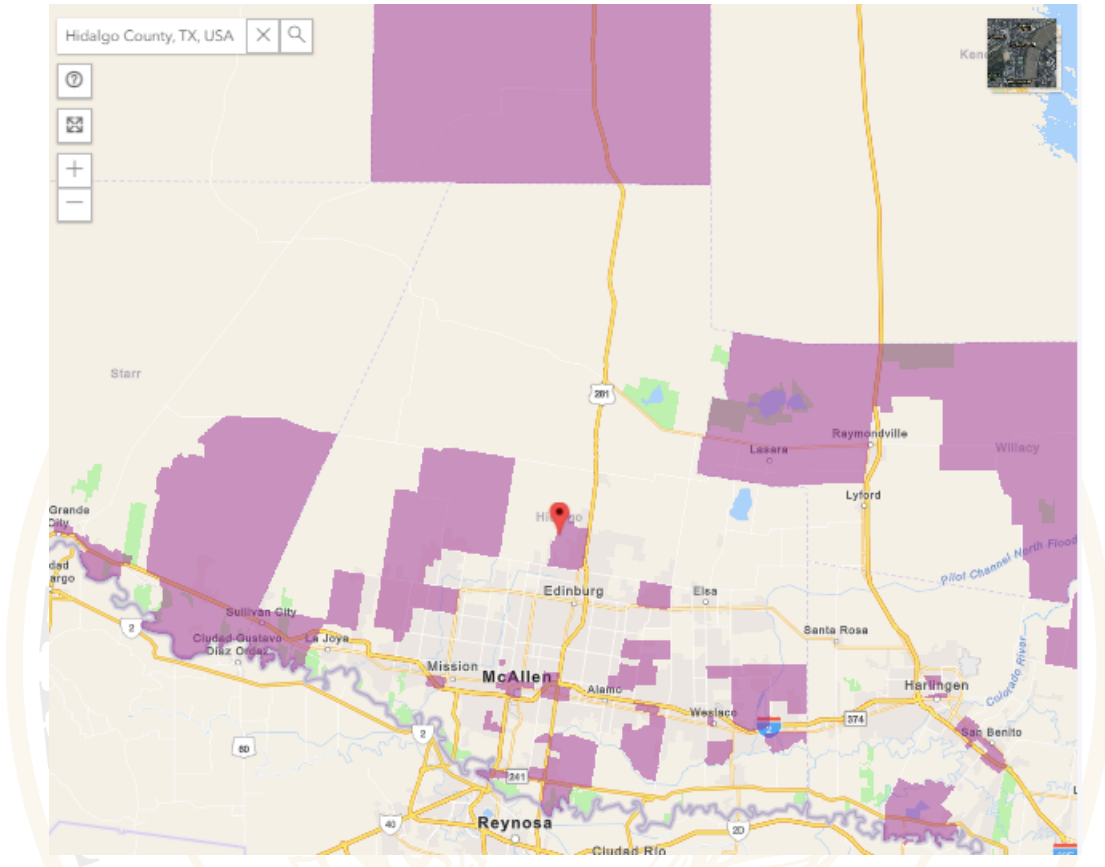
<sup>6</sup> Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4441



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^Below is the Qualified Census Tract Analysis for Hidalgo County.



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