



Project Description

Project Name:

Hidalgo County Precinct 1 Sunset Park Improvements

Project Number:

ARPA-24-121-363

Department Name:

Hidalgo County Precinct 1

ARPA Expenditure Category:

2: Negative Economic Impacts

ARPA Eligibility Category:

2.22: Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety[^]

Project Description:

The COVID-19 pandemic has made it clear that parks are crucial to a community's quality of life. People turned to parks for fresh air, exercise and solace from pandemic-related stressors. The Hidalgo County Precinct 1 Sunrise Hill Park is in need of improvements. The project will directly benefit this underserved community as the park, located at Mile 1 ½ W, Mercedes, TX, 78570, is in a qualified census tract area. The Hidalgo County Precinct 1 Sunrise Hill Park Improvements Project aims to create safe spaces that will promote health and safety outcomes for its residents by providing healthy play, wellness, and recreation areas to help mitigate the ongoing effects of COVID-19. The project includes but is not limited to professional services, safety features, supplies, materials, and other necessary provisions.

Treasury recognizes the connection between neighborhood built environment and physical health outcomes as discussed in the research and analysis provided by commenters, including risk factors that may have contributed to disproportionate COVID-19 health impacts in low-income communities. The final rule includes enumerated eligible uses in disproportionately impacted communities for developing neighborhood features that promote improved health and safety outcomes, such as parks, green spaces, recreational facilities, sidewalks, pedestrian safety features like crosswalks, projects that increase access to healthy foods, streetlights, neighborhood cleanup, and other projects to revitalize public spaces.¹ 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

¹ Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4373

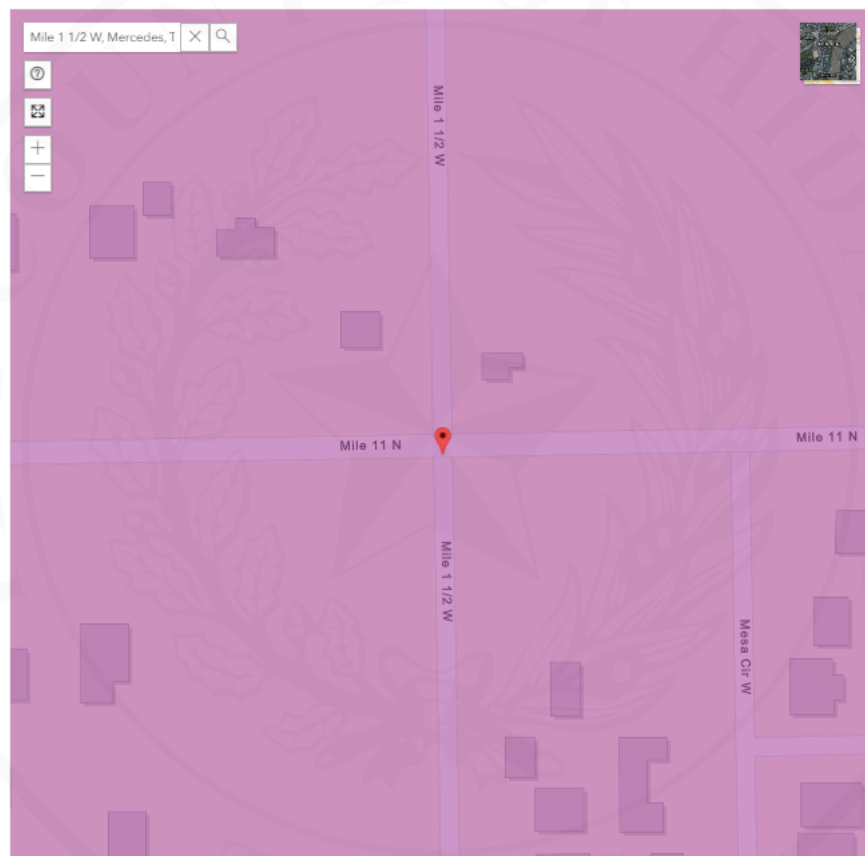


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targeting of funds to populations and communities most likely to have experienced severe pandemic impacts, while providing a more flexible approach for recipients.²

Fiscal Impact: \$100,000.00

^Below is the 2023 Qualified Census Tract Analysis for Sunrise Hill Park, located at Mile 1 1/2 W, Mercedes, TX, 78570.



Source: Office of Policy Development and Research 2023 and 2024 Small Difficult Development Areas (DDAs) and Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs):

https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sadda/sadda_qct.html

² Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4441