



Project Description

Project Name:

Hidalgo County Emergency Services Preparedness Equipment

Project Number:

ARPA-24-110-370

Program Name:

Hidalgo County Emergency Services Program

Department Name:

Hidalgo County Office of Emergency Management

ARPA Expenditure Category:

1: Public Health

ARPA Eligibility Category:

1:7 Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)^

Project Description:

Pursuant to Section 381.004 (b) of the Texas Local Government Code, Hidalgo County established the Hidalgo County Emergency Services Program which was approved by the Commissioner's Court as Agenda Item 88792 on December 13, 2022. The Hidalgo County Emergency Services Program shall be focused on providing services and assisting residents and businesses in Hidalgo County.

Hidalgo County has been on a continuous response mode for the COVID-19 pandemic since March 2020. Although it may seem that the worst of the COVID-19 crisis has passed, it is imperative for preventative measures to be taken in order to be prepared for future global disasters. The COVID-19 pandemic has proven how its effects overwhelmed the capacity of the healthcare system¹. In those situations, both communication and transportation were disrupted. When it becomes necessary to mobilize emergency resources to disaster sites because rescue work is in progress and the health and safety of the community are threatened, specific procedures must be followed in order to prevent further spread of deadly, contagious diseases such as COVID-19. The provision and management of mass decedents proved difficult as hospital morgues reached full capacity.² Therefore, it is important that action be taken in order

¹ <https://www.penncaire.net/2021/11/mobile-morgue-trailers-and-the-covid-19-pandemic/>

²

[https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8178665/#:~:text=The%20COVID%2D19%20pandemic%20is,Body%20Collection%20Point%20\(BCP\)](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8178665/#:~:text=The%20COVID%2D19%20pandemic%20is,Body%20Collection%20Point%20(BCP))



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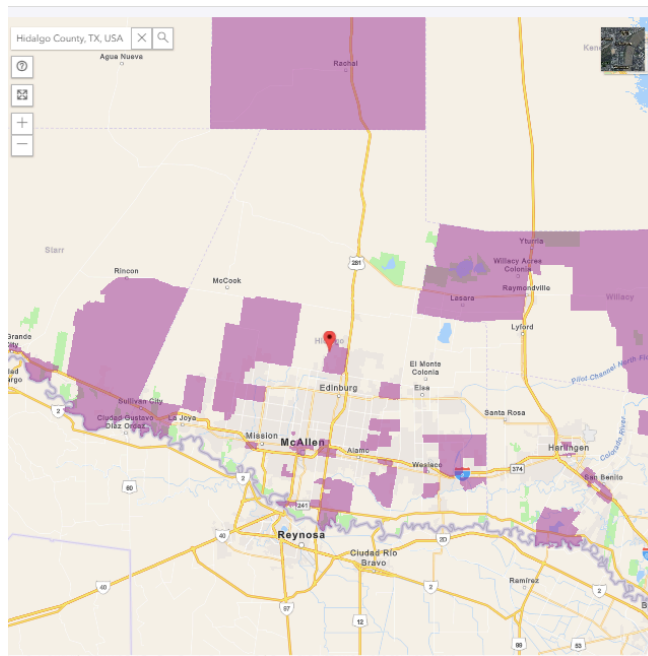
American Rescue Plan Act 2021

to ensure the County is properly equipped for the safe, respectful storage and handling of decedents. Hidalgo County intends to meet surge capacity by ensuring adequate emergency preparedness equipment is at hand to meet increased numbers of sick and injured and implement core public health activities due to continuous and substantial utilization. The acquisition of emergency preparedness equipment such as refrigerated units and other necessary provisions will assist in fatality management and will provide the County with measures to address vital community based surge capacity. Such equipment will supplement the public health and the health care facility response.³

Treasury has addressed the eligibility standard for capital expenditures, or investments in property, facilities, or equipment...Acquisition of equipment for COVID-19 prevention and treatment, including ventilators, ambulances, and other medical or emergency services equipment is an enumerated eligible use.⁴

Fiscal Impact: \$50,000.00

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



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

³ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1525264/>

⁴ Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4354