

Program Narrative

The Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) intends to utilize monetary awards from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Association Grant Year 2023 to address violent crime and enhance officer safety in the South Texas region, which is the HCSO's area of responsibility (AOR).

In Hidalgo County, high-speed pursuits linked to smuggling and other crimes have led to numerous injuries and fatalities. These pursuits often involve vehicles carrying drugs or smuggling humans, and can escalate to dangerous, high-speed chases that sometimes end in crashes or severe accidents.

Due to the significant risk posed by these pursuits, including the possibility of injury or death to both suspects and bystanders, Hidalgo County is seeking to enhance its safety measures. The introduction of "Stop Sticks," or spike strips, is one such initiative aimed at safely ending pursuits by disabling fleeing vehicles, reducing the likelihood of serious accidents and fatalities.

The HCSO will spend \$36,403.00 to purchase 75 "Stop Sticks" which will be issued to officers on the road to be utilized to stop pursuits before they become a danger to our citizens.

Hidalgo County Judge
Richard F. Cortez