



Project Description

Project Name:

Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Interoperable Communications Equipment

Project Number:

ARPA-24-110-375

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:

The need for robust communication systems in emergency management cannot be overstated. COVID-19 holds important lessons for preparing for and responding to future public health emergencies. First responders must be able to communicate during day to day incidents and large scale emergencies. Recent events, such as severe flooding and wildfires have highlighted the challenges in multi-agency coordination. For this reason, Hidalgo County EOC will invest in interoperability equipment. This system enhancement will address these challenges by: 1) enabling the integration of radio and other communication technologies to create a unified communication platform; 2) allowing multiple agencies to patch into the system simultaneously, thereby enhancing collaborative efforts during emergency operations; and 3) improving response times and operational efficiency during critical incidents. The system also facilitates real-time data sharing and communication linkage among first responders, including police, fire, and emergency medical services, ensuring a coordinated and timely response during emergencies. Enhancing our EOC's capabilities with interoperability equipment gateways will significantly bolster our region's emergency response infrastructure to insure our frontline continues to protect and serve the community effectively due to the long-term effects of COVID-19 and other disasters.

Treasury enumerates Improvements to or construction of emergency operations centers and acquisition of emergency response equipment (e.g., emergency response radio systems) and costs of establishing public health data systems, including technology infrastructure.¹ Treasury

¹ Department of the Treasury. (2022) Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18) p. 4354

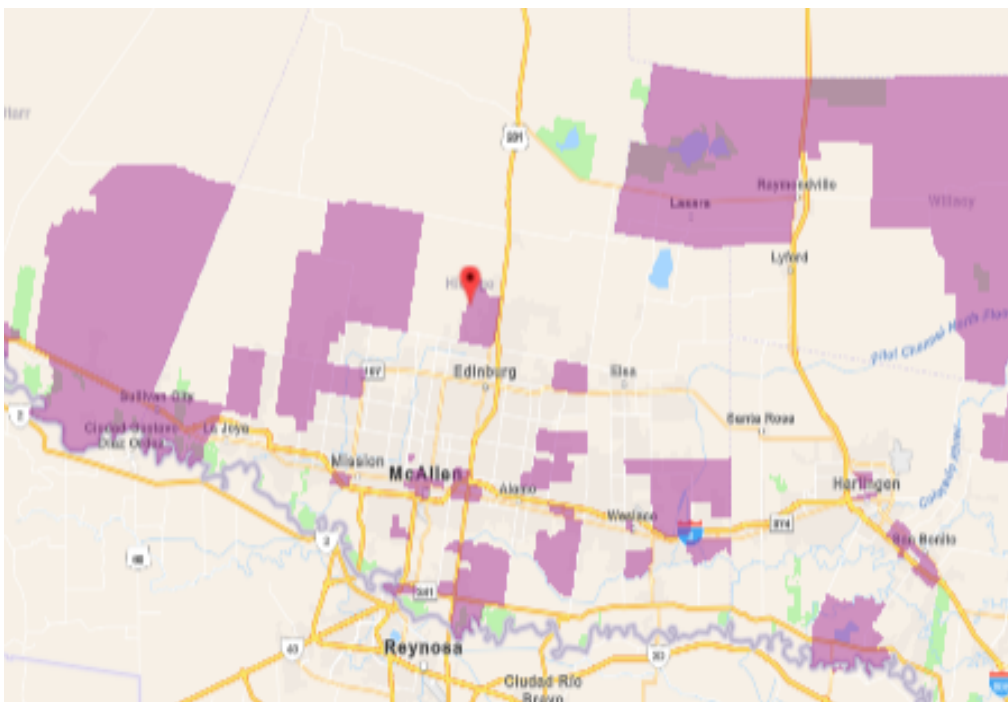


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has addressed the eligibility standard for capital expenditures, or investments in property, facilities, or equipment...Acquisition of equipment for COVID-19 prevention and treatment, including ventilators, ambulances, and other medical or emergency services equipment is an enumerated eligible use.²

Fiscal Impact: \$20,739.00

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



Source: Office of Policy Development and Research 2024 and 2025 Small Difficult Development Areas (DDAs) and Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs)

² Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4354