



Hidalgo County • Department of Budget & Management
American Rescue Plan Act

Exhibit A - Budget Amendments

#	ARPA Project No.	ARPA Project Name	Prior Budget	New Budget
1	22-124-049	Hidalgo County Precinct 4 Mile 17 Rd Stormwater Project	\$752,657.14	\$593,838.39
2	22-123-075	Hidalgo County Precinct 3 El Paraiso Community Resource Center	\$5,000,000.00	\$5,578,106.17
3	22-110-113	City of Mercedes: Paramedic Initiative	\$46,000.75	\$45,352.42



Project Description

Project Name:

Hidalgo County Precinct 4 Mile 17 Rd Stormwater Project

Project Number:

ARPA-22-124-049

Program:

The Hidalgo County Precinct 4 Mile 17 Rd Stormwater Project will be part of the Hidalgo County Stormwater System Improvement Program.

Precinct/Department Name:

Hidalgo County Precinct 4

ARPA Expenditure Category:

5. Infrastructure 5.6 Clean Water: Stormwater

ARPA Eligibility Category:

5.6 Clean Water: Stormwater

Project Description:

The Hidalgo County Precinct 4 Mile 17 Rd Stormwater Project will manage and reduce stormwater for the project area. The project is located along Mile 17 and Terry Road from Alamo Road to the North Branch Drain. Project consists of a pipe network with inlets improvements and roadside grading from Alamo Road due east along Mile 17 Road with an ultimate outfall into the North Branch Drain system. Inlets will be placed throughout the project limits along with roadside grading to manage stormwater during and after rain events.

As per the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds FAQ document, in question 6.15, recipients are able to use ARPA funds for road repairs and upgrades directly related to an eligible water or sewer project. Efficient sewage services directly translate into a healthier community by providing clean water and avoiding potential environmental disasters. These basic needs are critical to the health and ability to work and learn of the residents of the County of Hidalgo, particularly for the disadvantaged and low-income minorities.

Fiscal Impact

Estimated Budget: \$593,838.39



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Project Description

Project Name:

Hidalgo County Precinct 3 El Paraiso Community Resource Center

Project Number:

ARPA-22-123-075

Precinct/Department Name:

Hidalgo County Precinct 3

ARPA Expenditure Category:

2: Negative Economic Impacts

ARPA Eligibility Category:

2.10: Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers (e.g. job training, subsidized employment, employment supports or incentives)*^

Project Description:

The Hidalgo County Precinct 3 El Paraiso Community Resource Center (CRC) intends to utilize ARPA Relief funds to construct a community resource center located in a Qualified Census Tract (QCT) area. The CRC's objective is to respond to the negative effects that the pandemic has exacerbated in terms of unemployed and underemployed community members. The Community Resource Center would provide learning opportunities, training and other related services (special lectures, guest speakers, career fairs, counseling, etc.) to all community members within the vicinity of the center. The programs are intended to improve the opportunities of the disadvantaged and most vulnerable Hidalgo County Community members during and after the COVID-19 public health emergency through assistance to unemployed workers including job training, rehiring efforts, and childcare assistance to assist in the reduction of the unemployment rate within the community.

In addition to programs and services, the final rule clarifies that recipients may use funds for capital expenditures that support an eligible COVID-19 public health or economic response.¹ In the Final Rule, Commenters also requested use of funds for capital expenditures that support community needs apart from health care, such as new construction or improvements to schools, affordable housing (beyond presumed disproportionately impacted communities), childcare facilities, and community centers.² The Treasury is also enumerating that job and workforce

¹ Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4339

² Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4389

training centers are eligible capital expenditures...³

Fiscal Impact: \$5,578,106.17

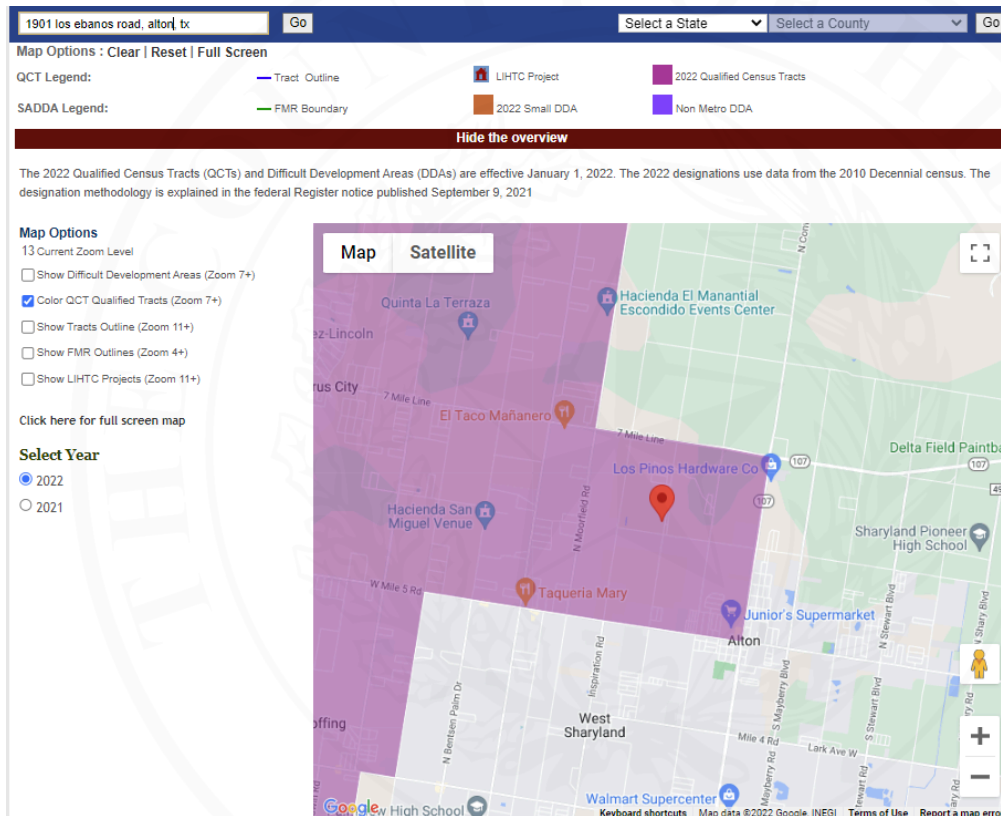
Site: \$5,000,000.00

Personnel: \$578,106.17

*Evidence-Based:

<https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/take-action-to-improve-health/what-works-for-health/strategies/adult-vocational-training>

^Below is the 2022 Qualified Census Tract Analysis for El Paraiso Community Resource Center which is located at 1901 N. Los Ebanos Rd. Alton, Texas, 78573, within a QCT area.



Source: Office of Policy Development and Research 2021 and 2022 Small Difficult Development Areas (DDAs) and Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs)

³ Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4369



Project Description

Project Name:

City of Mercedes: Paramedic Initiative

Project Number:

ARPA-22-110-113

Program Name:

Hidalgo County Emergency Services Program

Department Name:

Hidalgo County Judge's Office

ARPA Expenditure Category:

1: Public Health

ARPA Eligibility Category:

1:14 Other Public Health Services^

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.

In the last two years, COVID-19 has greatly impacted the nation and, in particular, regions of low socioeconomic status. Currently, 26.9% of Hidalgo County's population lives below the poverty line, and the pandemic's impact on the county's public health is evident. The need for additional first responders has become apparent with the ongoing public health emergency. The rising COVID-19 cases have resulted in a rise in paramedic services and have taken a toll on emergency response services. With an increase in COVID-19 cases, a 2019 study showed a job outlook of a 6% increase for EMTs and Paramedics. A recent 2020 study showed a job outlook of 11%. This increase demonstrates the rise in demand for EMTs and Paramedics due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Providing a first responder training program will be an investment in the underserved Hidalgo County population and will produce more first responders. The need for first responders is dire, and the training program will ensure underserved residents who have been impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency continue to receive critical lifesaving services.

This initiative will provide funds to the City of Mercedes to initiate a paramedic training program in Hidalgo County. This program has been developed in conjunction with every municipally operated emergency medical service in Hidalgo County, including the City of



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Mercedes, the City of Mission, the City of Palmview, the City of Pharr, the City of Weslaco, and the City of Alton. The municipalities collectively agreed that the City of Mercedes is best suited to serve as the operations center for this initiative. The project will assist in the tuition and training materials for the paramedic candidates and other costs associated with the training. Hidalgo County OEM has already partnered with the Texas A&M University System, the Texas Workforce Commission and the City of Mercedes to provide the paramedic project. This project also provides an economic and regional benefit opportunity as it creates emergency medicine jobs for our community and increases the supply of trained individuals. This project provides modern education techniques and opportunities for advancement.

This program includes training for County and City personnel to reach licensed paramedic statuses and serve our communities as trained paramedic first responders. Licensed paramedics are critical in providing quality emergency medical services to our residents and businesses in different emergencies. The use of this project in conjunction with our other current projects will be critical in order to reduce the effects of Covid-19 and increase our emergency medical response capabilities to our community.

This new paramedic training program not only provides an opportunity, but also is an investment into our residents in Hidalgo County. Newly trained paramedics in this program will be able to serve different cities and rural communities in Hidalgo County who may have difficulty accessing medical care and treatment. It is our duty as local government to continue to enhance opportunities and serve the community to improve the quality of life and medical care for residents. Hidalgo County is excited to experience the benefits of this project along with other projects and plans to continue these projects in the future.

The Final Rule recognizes the broad range of services and programming needed to contain COVID-19, the interim final rule provided an extensive list of enumerated eligible uses to prevent and mitigate COVID-19 and made clear that the public health response to the virus is expected to continue to evolve over time, necessitating different uses of funds. Enumerated eligible uses of funds in this category include other public health responses.¹

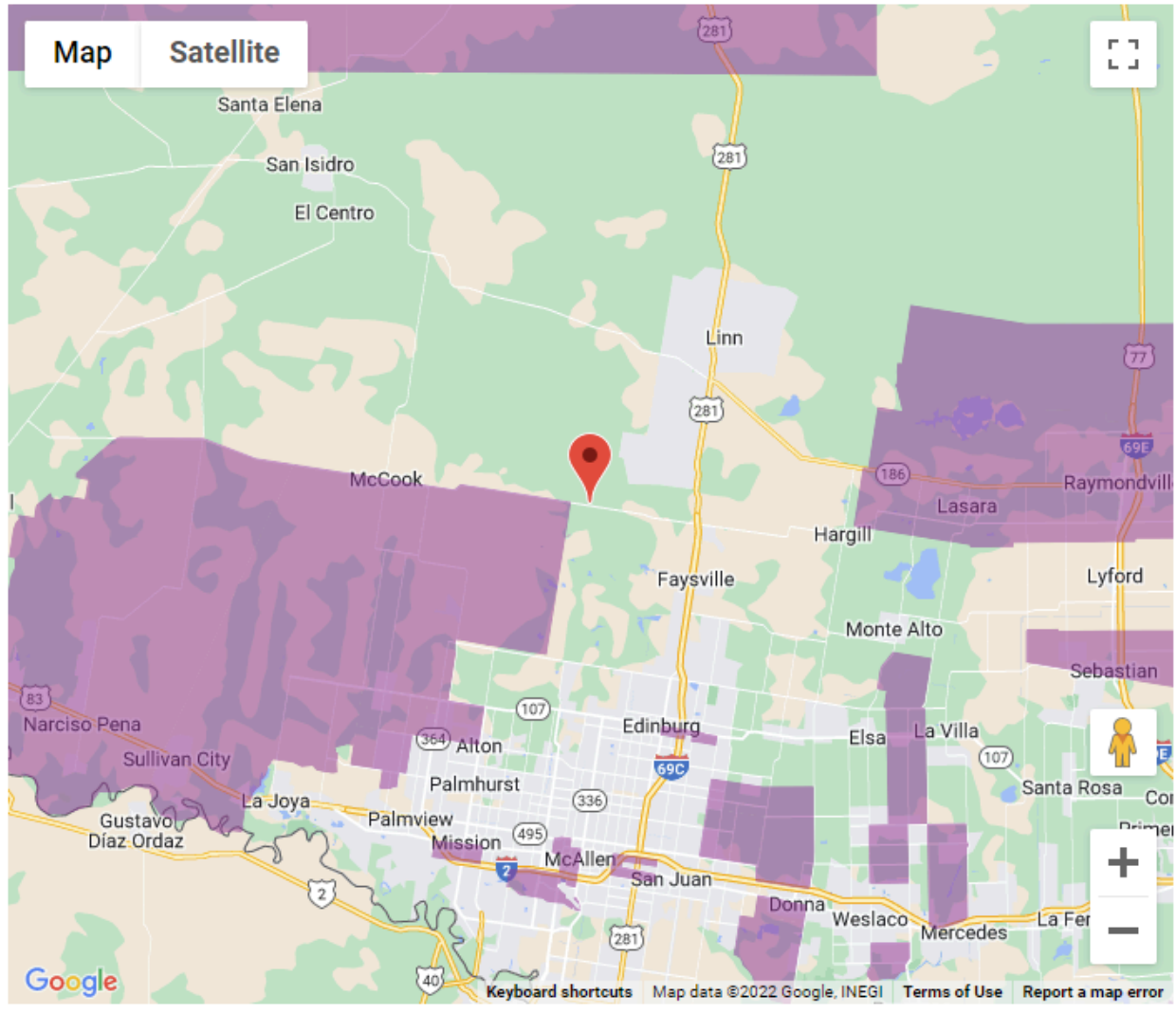
Fiscal Impact: \$45,352.42

¹ Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4352-4353



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Below is the Qualified Census Tract Analysis for Hidalgo County.



Source: Office of Policy Development and Research 2021 and 2022 Small Difficult Development Areas (DDAs) and Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs)