



Hidalgo County Head Start Program
P.O. Box 0117
Edinburg, TX 78540-0117

MEMORANDUM

Date: October 2, 2024

To: Hidalgo County Commissioner's Court
Hidalgo County Head Start Policy Council

From: Irma Pena, Executive Director

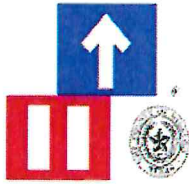
RE: Supplemental Funding Application for One-Time Funds

Our Region VI Program Specialist, Dr. Coleone Taylor Davis, has informed us of the availability of One-Time funds. These funds are usually unappropriated and remain available for other grantees to request, with the understanding that they will not be part of the regular grant appropriation.

The Hidalgo County Head Start Program (HCHSP) is requesting authorization to submit a One Time Funding Application to the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (ACF) in the amount of \$5,498,213. These funds will enable our Program to strengthen and improve transportation services and replace and upgrade classroom furniture/supplies in all Head Start classrooms. Enhancing HCHSP's transportation services and classroom environments aligns perfectly with our Program Goals and Objectives outlined in our Annual Funding Application. Similarly, this application will support HCHSP's learning environment as nurturing spaces that support the development of all Head Start children with age-appropriate equipment, materials, and supplies.

Funding from this application will address the transportation uncertainties afflicting our Head Start parents as a result of socio-economic issues impacting our County. HCHSP will replace outdated transportation equipment, create additional transportation routes, sustain desirable attendance levels and reinforce transportation coordination with local school district partners. Please refer to Table #1 which includes a list of buses to be replaced and a brief description for your reference.

HCHSP will also purchase classroom supplies to replace old broken furniture that is no longer suitable for a proper classroom environment. HCHSP proposes to invest in age-appropriate equipment, materials, and supplies for 154 Head Start classrooms. Classes must continue to nurture a safe physical and social environment that is conducive to learning and reflective of the different stages of development of each child. HCHSP's existing classroom furniture is old, in poor condition, and no longer conducive to an invigorating classroom environment. HCHSP proposes to use funding from this supplemental application to invest in the purchase of classroom supplies/furniture. Please refer to Table #2 which includes classroom furniture/supplies and total estimated costs.



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Budget Federal Share

All costs are reasonable and allowable under 45CFR Part §75.439 Equipment and Other Capital Expenditure, §75.320 Equipment and §75.453 Materials and supplies costs, including costs of computing devices. All procurement procedures and standards comply local state and federal regulations; 45CFR Parts §75.327 General Procurement Standards. §75.328 Competition and §75.329 Procurement Procedures.

<u>Equipment (Object class category 6.d)</u>	<u>Unit Cost</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
20ea. 47-Passenger School Buses with child restraints and camera system.	\$120,000	\$2,400,000

<u>Supplies (Object Class Category 6.e)</u>	<u>Estimated Total Cost</u>
Classroom furniture/supplies for 154 classrooms	\$1,998,570

Budget Non-Federal Share

The following is the proposed Non-Federal Resource to be provided by the Hidalgo County Head Start Program. The listed resource meets the requirements for In-Kind contributions as per 45 CFR Part §75.306 Cost Sharing or Matching, sections (e) and (f). Our School Readiness Partnerships, Teaching Together, with local school districts continues to yield great benefits to our families, and highly individualized instruction to our children. Similarly, they also generate Non-Federal in-kind matching contributions to the Program. We currently have 114 public school early childhood state certified teachers in our Head Start classrooms, funded by local school districts co-teaching with our Head Start teachers in all our classrooms.

1. Personnel (Object Class Category 6.a)

Volunteer	Service Provided	Rate	Non-Federal Match
School Teachers under the School Readiness Program	Classroom instruction to our children	18 teacher(s) x \$358.40/day x 174 service days = \$1,122,508.80	\$1,099,643

Total	\$5,498,213
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Table #1 – List of Buses to be replaced

Asset ID	Description	VIN Number	Acquisition Date	Mileage	Status
00002197	1997 Bus #11	1HVBBAAAN2VH470665	1/1/1997	142,433	out of service
00002195	2001 Bus #20	1HVBBABM01H396727	1/1/2000	196,381	out of service
00002063	2001 Bus #21	1HVBBABM21H396728	1/1/2000	197,191	out of service
00002064	2001 Bus #22	1HVBBABM41H396729	1/1/2000	211,111	out of service
00001054	2002 Bus #29	1GDJG31F021223491	3/19/2004	138,184	out of service
00002820	2012 Bus #41	4DRBUSKN3CB605281	5/17/2011	No Motor	Out of Service
00002816	1999 Bus #16	1HVBBABP0XH209845	1/1/1999	300,000	In service
00002058	2003 Bus #10	4DRBBABM93B579101	1/1/2000	165,443	In service
00001492	2002 Bus #24	1HVBRABM22A945768	1/1/2001	128,090	In service
00002025	2002 Bus #25	1HVBRABM02A945767	1/1/2001	183,634	In service
00002814	2001 Bus #23	1HVBBABM91H396726	1/1/2001	116,611	In service
00001520	2003 Bus #27	4DRBBABM03B579102	2/4/2003	160,000	In service
00002815	2002 Bus #26	1HVBRABM92A945766	2/4/2003	170,000	In service
00002817	2003 Bus #28	4DRBBABM23N579103	2/4/2003	134,553	In service
00002273	2005 Bus #32	1BAKDKKH75F222017	5/18/2004	164,821	In service
00002274	2007 Bus #33	4UZAAWDD27CW74690	1/31/2006	164,821	In service
00002818	2012 Bus #36	4DRBUSKMOCB385850	10/5/2010	106,064	In service
00001043	2010 Bus #34	1GB9G5AG9A1167372	11/2/2010	84,399	In service
00001055	2010 Bus #35	1GB9G5AG9A1165265	11/2/2010	112,903	In service
00001047	2012 Bus #37	1GB3G3BG9B1144894	5/3/2011	135,627	In service

Table #2 - Classroom Furniture/Supplies – Estimated Costs

Description	QTY	Amount	Extension
Heavy-Duty Adjustable Round Table - 42" Diameter	1	\$ 339.00	339
Heavy-Duty Adjustable Rectangular Table - 30" x 36"	4	\$ 289.00	1,156
Classic Birch Space-Saver Writing Center	1	\$ 599.00	599
Heavy-Duty Storage & Communication Center	2	\$1,199.00	2,398
Calming Colors® Soft Seats - Set of 5 Colors	1	\$ 109.00	109
Flex-Space Comfy Rectangular Classroom Carpet - 4' x 6' - Gray	1	\$ 129.00	129
Indoor/Outdoor 3-Station Easel	1	\$ 279.00	279
Flex-Space Designer Accents Classroom Carpet- 9' x 12' - Gray	1	\$ 549.00	549
All-In-One Kitchen	1	\$1,079.00	1,079
Classic Birch Preschool Storage Unit	5	\$ 479.00	2,395
Flex-Space Jr.® Ergo Stacking Chair - 13 1/2"	10	\$ 84.99	850
Flex-Space Jr.® Ergo Stacking Chair - 11 1/2"	14	\$ 74.99	1,050
Flex-Space Premium Floor Seat - Gray	1	\$ 79.99	80
Flex-Space Ergo Bounce Cantilever Chair - 17 1/2" - Gray	2	\$ 169.00	338
Classic Birch Reading Nook	1	\$1,179.00	1,179
Heavy-Duty Adjustable Round Table - 30" Diameter - Low	1	\$ 279.00	279
Flex-Space Jr.® Ergo Stacking Chair - 13 1/2"	2	\$ 84.99	170
Total			12,978
Number of classrooms			154
Total Funding			1,998,570



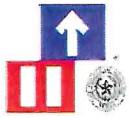
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2025 One Time Funding Application
Budget Narrative

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The Hidalgo County Head Start Program (HCHSP) is submitting a One Time Funding Application for the continued improvement of transportation services and the replacement and upgrade of classroom supplies/furniture in all Head Start classrooms. Funding from this application will address the transportation uncertainties afflicting our Head Start parents as a result of socio-economic issues impacting our community today. Similarly, approval of this application will support HCHSP's learning environment as nurturing spaces that support the development of all Head Start children with age-appropriate equipment, materials, and supplies. Enhancing HCHSP's transportation services and classroom environments, aligns perfectly with our Program Goals and Objectives outlined in our Annual Funding Application and in our approved Change in Scope initiative. HCHSP will replace outdated transportation equipment, create additional transportation routes, sustain desirable attendance levels and reinforce transportation coordination with local school district partners. HCHSP will also purchase classroom supplies to replace old broken furniture that is no longer suitable for the proper classroom environment.

Transportation

The Hidalgo County Head Start Program (HCHSP) service area encompasses all 1,571 square miles in the County of Hidalgo. In 1982, 91% of the land was farms and ranches, with 52% of farmland under cultivation and 85 % irrigated; 51 to 60% of the county was considered prime farmland (Texas Almanac 2011). Today, agriculture is still vibrant in parts of the area and other industries have evolved bringing with them the need for highway and transportation improvements. While these infrastructure enhancements provide better accessibility to markets and ease commuting issues for valley residents, there are still socio-economic factors plaguing Head Start parents' transportation capabilities. In documenting the Head Start family's



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transportation dilemma, HCHSP reviewed data from the 2022 Rio Grande Valley Coordinated Transportation Plan (FYCTP), sponsored by the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) along with data from our Community Assessment (CA) and Self-Assessment. The FYCTP focuses on mobility and transportation for the tri-County area that includes Cameron County, Hidalgo County, and Willacy County. The plan quantifies data for each individual County and outlines the socio-economic factors impacting the Rio Grande Valley. For Example, in Hidalgo County, the FYCTP points to segments of the population that are classified as “ride-dependent”, and “Auto-less” homes, which makes getting around for some family’s dependent on others to meet their transportation needs. The FYCTP indicates that Hidalgo County has a large population of youths. Youths represent one of the demographic cohorts which is historically ride-dependent. The FYCTP further informs that while many youths may have access to a vehicle after obtaining a driver’s license, an increasing number of youths postpone learning to drive to age 18 or beyond. School-provided transportation is an important means of travel for many within this demographic group. Our Community Assessment (CA), indicates that 274,746 (31.6%) of Hidalgo County’s population is under 18, which is much higher than both Texas (25,2%) and the U.S. (21.7%). Similar to the youth, persons age 65 and older also represent a traditional ride-dependent population. In Hidalgo County, 97,866 persons or 11.2% of the population is 65 and older. While many seniors retain both the ability to drive and access to a vehicle past age 65, this demographic cohorts includes those who have lost this ability, whether due to health or absence of a vehicle. The FYCTP also indicates that persons with disabilities often rely on family or friends for transportation causing further strain on the family’s transportation efforts. The American Community Survey (ACS) categorizes disabilities to include hearing, vision, cognitive, ambulatory, self-care, and independent living challenges. Some persons with disabilities may experience difficulties in multiple categories, and individual transportation needs often vary.



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Social service organizations sometimes provide transportation services to the clients they serve. Household income is also a major indicator of ride-dependency, especially when income translates to lack of access to a personal vehicle. Our CA indicates that the Poverty rates in Hidalgo County (27.7%) is significantly higher than Texas (14.0%) and the U.S. (12.5%). According to ACS data, 37.9% of children under 18 in Hidalgo County were living in poverty, significantly higher than Texas (19.2%) and the U.S. (16.7%). Hidalgo County's child poverty rate for children 3-5 at 37.9%, is also substantially higher than Texas (19.2%) and the U.S. (16.7%). Data from the FYCTP points out that not being able to afford access to a personal vehicle can be a significant indicator of ride-dependency. Households with no vehicles are the most impacted, although depending on the number of household residents of driving age and the condition of the vehicle, households with a single vehicle may also have one or more individuals who are ride-dependent. Nation-wide, nine percent of all households indicated no vehicle ownership, while 33.5 percent reported owning one vehicle. In Hidalgo County 33.1% of households are a single-vehicle home while 5.9% are considered Zero-vehicle homes. These households, rely on public or private transportation, or assistance from family and friends, to access essential services like healthcare, appointments, and work. Feedback from Head Start parents informs us that 66% of them own only one vehicle, which is mainly used for work, and 20.4% indicated that they did not own a vehicle at all. Our records indicate that in the current school year 987 children left our program and of those, 427 registered their children with other school districts' Pre-K program. It has also come to our attention that parents with older children in public schools, often choose to send their Pre-K children to the public school where their siblings are enrolled, because of transportation services at the public schools. Chartered public schools are known to entice parents with easing registration procedures, if they enroll their pre-k children in grades beyond pre-k.



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In mitigating the transportation issues of Head Start parents, HCHSP is working cooperatively with 9 local school districts under our Teaching Together model, to transport Head Start children using the district's resources. Jointly, HCHSP and the school district partners provide transportation to 489 children, 267 are being transported by HCHSP and 222 by the school districts. While these districts are not allowed to transport children across each other's boundaries, they are nevertheless assisting Head Start parents within their districts' boundaries. The lack of sufficient buses, forces the program to schedule double routes, that is to say two routes in the morning and two routes in the afternoon, using the same bus. It is reasonable to predict that recruitment and enrollment efforts will continue to be tested as the need for more transportation remains unmet. Adding to the program's transportation challenges is the need to upgrade the bus fleet. Currently it consists of 37 buses of which 20% are permanently out of service and 23 or 68% were acquired between 1997 and 2015, surpassing the recommended lifespan of 9 to 12 years by the National School Transportation Association (NSTA). HCHSP is in need of additional funding to purchase 20 school buses and replace all out-of-service buses as well as the buses currently in use that are beyond their recommended lifespan. New buses are estimated to cost \$120,000 each for a total of \$2,400,000. It's projected that this investment will substantially reduce expenses for bus maintenance and repairs totaling \$560,034 over the past years. All buses are garaged at our Palmview bus lot, situated at 618 Breyfogle Road, Palmview TX 78572. The area is secured with high chain-link fences, locked gates and outdoor cameras.



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List of Buses To be Replaced

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Classroom Supplies/ Furniture

The Hidalgo County Head Start Program is committed to the goal of continued improvement and renovation of the classroom environment for a healthy and safe child development learning experience. HCHSP proposes to accomplish this goal by investing in age-appropriate equipment, materials, and supplies for 154 classrooms across the service area. Classes must continue to nurture a safe physical and social environment that is conducive to learning and reflective of the different stages of development of each child. HCHSP's existing classroom furniture is old, in poor condition, and no longer conducive to an invigorating classroom environment. HCHSP proposes to use funding from this supplemental application to invest in the purchase of classroom



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supplies/furniture. The estimated cost per classroom is \$12,977.73 as highlighted in the table below. All price quotes were obtained from a trustworthy vendor.

Classroom Supplies for 154 classrooms

Description	QTY	Amount	Extension
Heavy-Duty Adjustable Round Table - 42" Diameter	1	\$ 339.00	339
Heavy-Duty Adjustable Rectangular Table - 30" x 36"	4	\$ 289.00	1,156
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Equipment (Object class category 6.d)

20 47-passenger school buses @ \$120,000 with child restraints and camera system. **\$2,400,000**

Supplies (Object Class Category 6.e)

Classroom furniture/supplies for 154 classrooms **\$1,998,570**

Budget Non-Federal Share

The following is the proposed Non-Federal Resource to be provided by the Hidalgo County Head Start Program. The listed resource meets the requirements for In-Kind contributions as **per 45 CFR Part §75.306 Cost Sharing or Matching**, sections (e) and (f). Our School Readiness Partnerships, Teaching Together, with local school districts continues to yield great benefits to our families, and highly individualized instruction to our children. Similarly, they also generate Non-Federal in-kind matching contributions to the Program. We currently have 114 public school early childhood state certified teachers in our Head Start classrooms, funded by local school districts co-teaching with our Head Start teachers in all our classrooms.

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Volunteer	Service Provided	Rate	Match Required
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Total **\$5,498,213**