



## **Project Description**

**Project Name:**

Emergency Preparedness and Response Warehouse Specialist

**Project Number:**

ARPA-24-110-381

**Department Name:**

County Judge's Office

**ARPA Expenditure Category:**

3: Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity

**ARPA Eligibility Category:**

3.1: Public Sector Workforce: Payroll and Benefits for Public Health, Public Safety, or Human Services Workers

**Project Description:**

Warehouse safety is a set of regulatory guidelines and industry best practices to help warehousing personnel to ensure a safe work environment and reinforce safe behavior.<sup>1</sup> Impairments to fixed assets such as property, plant, and equipment (PP&E) are very costly. Managing an emergency management warehouse that houses personal protection equipment (PPE) and emergency response equipment is crucial. Personal Protective Equipment is crucial because it acts as a barrier to protect employees, such as first responders and constituents from the spread of infections by preventing exposure to blood, body fluids, and airborne pathogens, ultimately safeguarding the health of all involved or impacted. Additionally, damaged equipment cannot do its job effectively, potentially placing employees responding to emergencies at greater risk. Poorly managed equipment puts a community at risk. Properly caring for equipment necessary for personal protection or emergency response is important because it helps ensure the equipment is effective and safe. PPE is often the only barrier between employees and workplace hazards. Damaged PPE cannot protect employees properly, and may even put them at greater risk. To that end, Hidalgo County will employ an Emergency Preparedness and Response Warehouse Specialist to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic at the Emergency Management Warehouse. Actively managing and caring for emergency response equipment prolongs its lifespan and ensures optimum performance when needed. Regular maintenance, such as cleaning, inspection, and storage, can help all materials and equipment used in emergency preparedness and response last longer. For sustainable warehouse operations, the Warehouse Specialist will be located at the Emergency Management Warehouse from December 2024 to December 2026.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://safetyculture.com/topics/warehouse-safety/>



## Hidalgo County • Department of Budget & Management

### American Rescue Plan Act

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Under the interim final rule, funds may be used for payroll and covered benefits for public safety, public health, health care, human services, and similar employees of a recipient government, for the portion of the employee’s time that is spent responding to COVID–19. For administrative convenience, the recipient may consider public health and safety employees to be entirely devoted to responding to COVID–19, and therefore their full payroll and covered benefits eligible to be covered, if the employee, or his or her operating unit or division, is “primarily dedicated” to responding to COVID–19, meaning that more than half of the employee, unit, or division’s time is dedicated to responding to COVID–19. Public safety employees include sheriffs and deputy sheriffs, emergency medical responders, correctional and detention officers and those who directly support those employees.<sup>2</sup>

**Fiscal Impact:** \$124,631.00

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<sup>2</sup> Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4384