



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	21-340-019	El Paraiso Health Clinic Improvement Project	\$5,283,116.78	\$5,107,743.20
2	22-340-052	Hidalgo County COVID-19 Testing Efforts	\$795,000.00	\$767,350.46
3	22-340-055	Hidalgo County COVID-19 Vaccination Efforts Project	\$3,160,085.60	\$3,143,956.21
4	22-340-056	Hidalgo County Personal Protective Equipment	\$675,000.00	\$654,304.25
5	22-124-095	Hidalgo County Precinct 4 North Main Drain III Phase I Stormwater Project	\$1,936,782.92	\$1,897,887.71
6	22-110-099	Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator II	\$63,333.94	\$357,872.19
7	23-110-318	Quick Response Emergency Units	\$395,490.00	\$426,528.00
8	23-340-325	Hidalgo County Edinburg Health Center Improvements Project	\$149,958.44	\$149,870.84
9	23-123-328	Hidalgo County Precinct 3 5K Mansion Linear Park	\$2,878,711.65	\$2,886,211.65
10	23-340-331	Hidalgo County Bio Safety Lab Efforts	\$2,365,950.13	\$2,439,211.60
11	23-115-339	Hidalgo County Technology Modernization	\$6,019,700.00	\$6,195,074.00
12	23-115-340	Hidalgo County Ambulance Response Services	\$2,500,000.00	\$2,301,814.03
13	23-115-342	Hidalgo County Mail Services	\$400,000.00	\$248,373.94



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14	23-115-343	Hidalgo County Juvenile Detention Center Retrofits	\$756,145.00	\$737,065.20
15	23-110-345	Economic Development Community Navigators	\$150,000.00	\$357,651.07
16	23-124-346	J-01 Stormwater Management Project	\$2,300,000.00	\$1,518,911.00
17	24-340-351	Hidalgo County Edinburg Pulmonary Health Center Improvements Project	\$97,828.43	\$89,129.24
18	24-110-355	City of Mission: Paramedic Initiative	\$75,560.00	\$76,240.00
19	24-110-370	Hidalgo County Emergency Services Preparedness Equipment	\$50,000.00	\$26,802.00
20	24-115-377	Hidalgo County Public Safety COVID-19 Response	\$7,162,259.74	\$12,621,592.44



Project Description

Project Name:

El Paraiso Health Clinic Improvement Project

Project Number:

ARPA-21-340-019

Program Name:

El Paraiso Health Clinic Improvement Project will be a part of the Hidalgo County American Rescue Plan Act Expanding Access to Healthcare Program.

Department Name:

Hidalgo County Health Department

ARPA Expenditure Category:

1: Public Health

ARPA Eligibility Category:

1.14: Other Public Health Services^

Project Description:

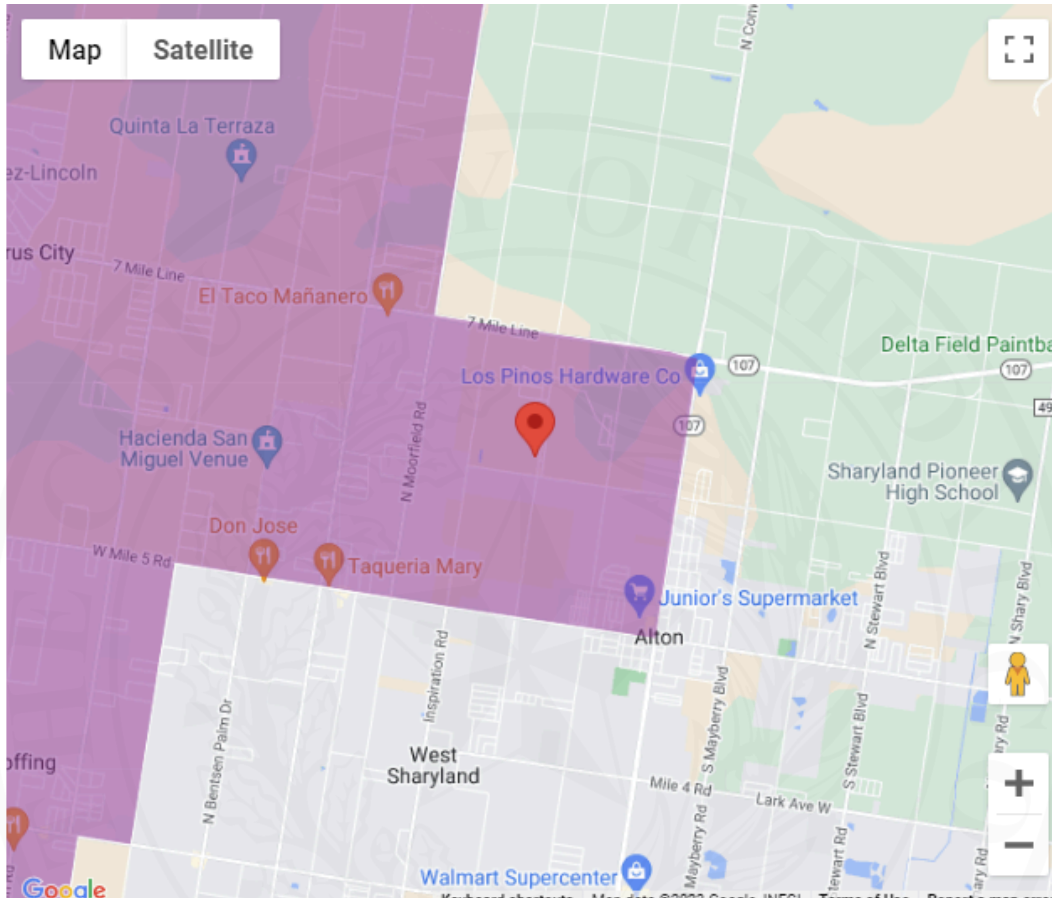
Hidalgo County Health & Human Services, along with the various County Departments and COVID healthcare partners are actively assessing (Testing), intervening (vaccinating), and providing prevention education. The COVID virus has proven to be especially hardy as evident by its ever enhancing mutations. The need for expanding and upgrading our current clinical facilities to assure the access to intervention, vaccinations, and advance healthcare referral for a County of over a 1.2 million residents and an unaccounted immigrant population is critical. The purpose of El Paraiso Health Clinic Improvement Project is to expand health care capacity and meet community pandemic-related needs. Operational needs can be met through renovations and/or new construction including but not limited to professional services, furniture, fixtures and equipment, personnel and other provisions and services. Furthermore, efforts to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic through this clinic include, but are not limited to, vaccination programs, medical care, testing, and support for vulnerable populations to access medical or public health services. El Paraiso Health Clinic plans to provide the residents of Hidalgo County access to resources that improve health outcomes during and after the public health emergency. El Paraiso Health Clinic, located at 1901 N. Los Ebanos Rd., Alton, TX, 78573, is in a Qualified Census Tract area and will provide quality services to an underserved community.

Fiscal Impact: \$5,107,743.20



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^Below is the Qualified Census Tract Analysis for El Paraiso Health Clinic, located at 1901 N. Los Ebanos Rd., Alton, TX, 78573.



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



Project Description

Project Name:

Hidalgo County COVID-19 Testing Efforts

Project Number:

ARPA-22-340-052

Department Name:

Hidalgo County Health Department

ARPA Expenditure Category:

1: Public Health

ARPA Eligibility Category:

1.2: COVID-19 Testing^

Project Description:

The COVID-19 Testing Efforts will permit the County of Hidalgo to continue its testing efforts for its residents, primarily for the disadvantaged and most vulnerable Hidalgo County community members. This project will include necessary provisions and essential supplies including but not limited to personnel, equipment and other services to aid with the demand for increased testing and contact tracing. This will allow Hidalgo County to accurately track COVID-19 cases, utilize testing rates and results for COVID-19 communication with county's residents in terms of COVID-19 protocols, and slow the spread of COVID-19 within its community.

In the final rule, Treasury is maintaining an expansive list of enumerated eligible uses to mitigate and prevent COVID–19, given the wide-ranging activities that governments may take to further these goals, including “other public health responses.” Treasury is further clarifying that when providing COVID–19 prevention and mitigation services, recipients can identify the impacted population as the general public.¹ Recognizing 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 included: Vaccination programs; medical care; testing; contact tracing; support for isolation or quarantine; supports

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

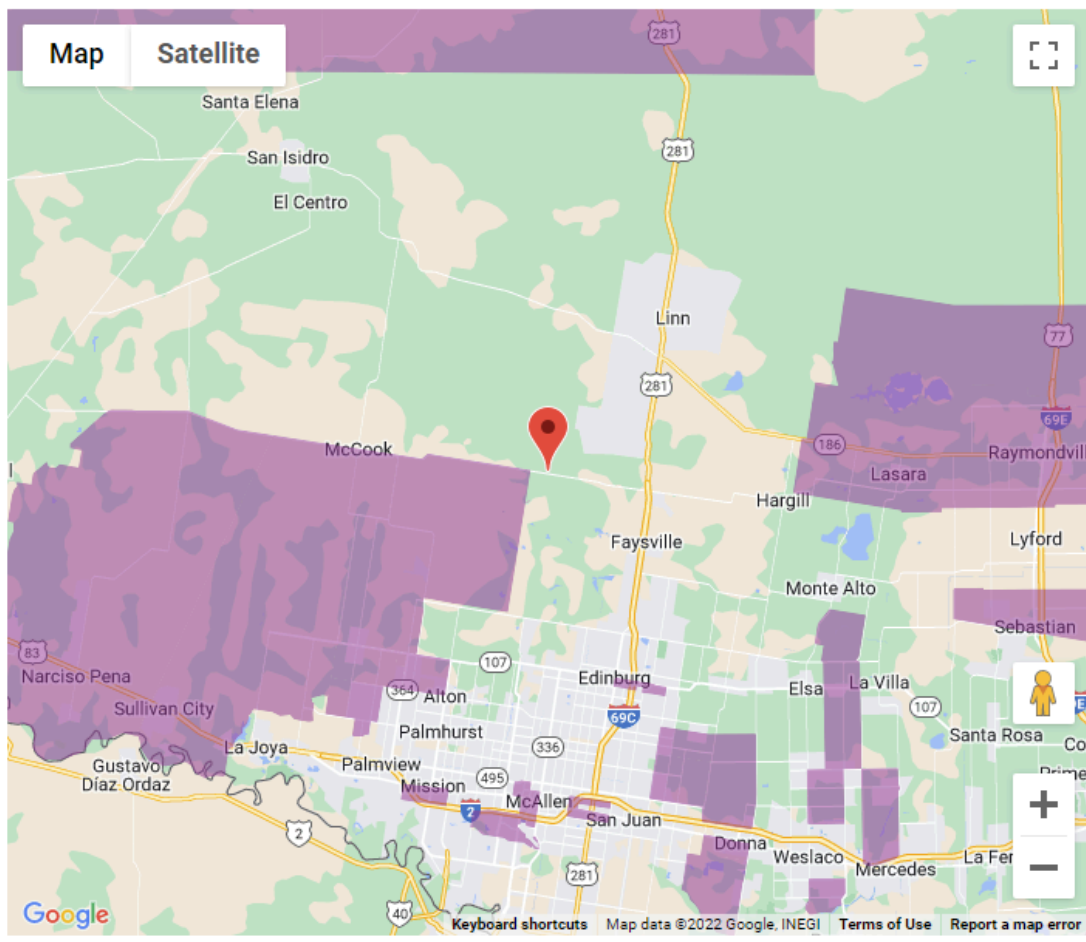


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for vulnerable populations to access medical or public health services; public health surveillance (e.g., monitoring case trends, genomic sequencing for variants).²

Fiscal Impact: \$767,350.46

^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)

Initiatives Include:

- Warehouse Forklift
- Equipment/Supplies

² Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4352



Project Description

Project Name:

Hidalgo County COVID-19 Vaccination Efforts Project

Project Number:

ARPA-22-340-055

Department Name:

Hidalgo County Health Department

ARPA Expenditure Category:

1: Public Health

ARPA Eligibility Category:

1.1: COVID-19 Vaccination ^

Project Description:

The COVID-19 Vaccination Efforts project will permit the County of Hidalgo to continue its vaccination initiatives for its residents, primarily for the disadvantaged and most vulnerable Hidalgo County community members. The project will include necessary provisions and essential supplies including but not limited to, syringes, medication, medical supplies, employing personnel, vaccination campaigns, and other services, which are crucial when administering the COVID-19 vaccine and implementing systems and procedures to facilitate documentation maintenance and recording during and after the public health emergency. The project will allow the County of Hidalgo to continue its efforts in the mitigation of COVID-19.

Accordingly, the final rule presumes that the general public are impacted by and eligible for services to respond to COVID–19 mitigation and prevention needs, as well as behavioral health needs.¹ Recognizing 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 included: Vaccination programs; medical care; testing; contact tracing; support for isolation or quarantine; supports for vulnerable populations to access medical or

¹ Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4347

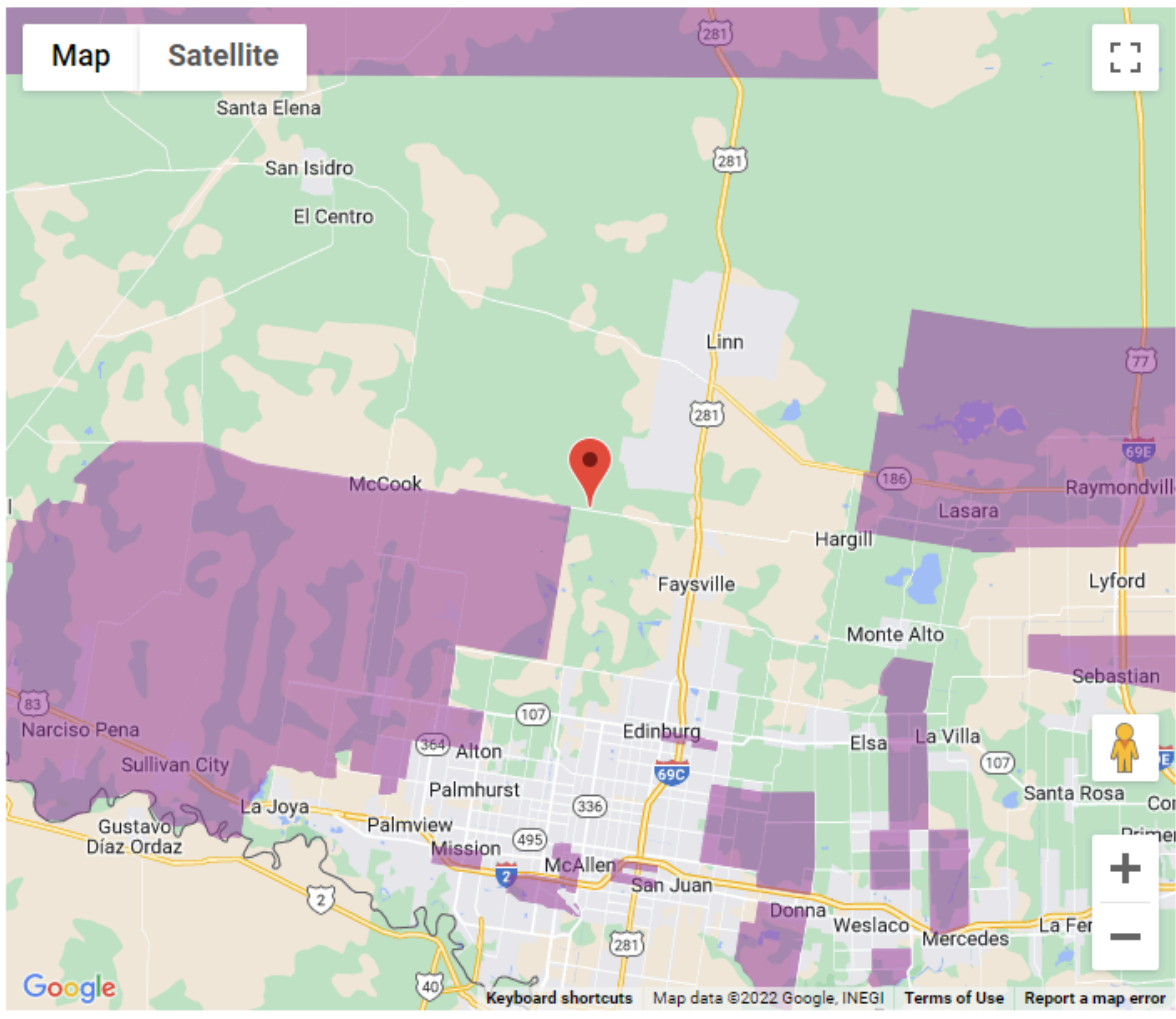


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public health services; public health surveillance (e.g., monitoring case trends, genomic sequencing for variants).²

Fiscal Impact: \$3,143,956.21

^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)

² Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4352

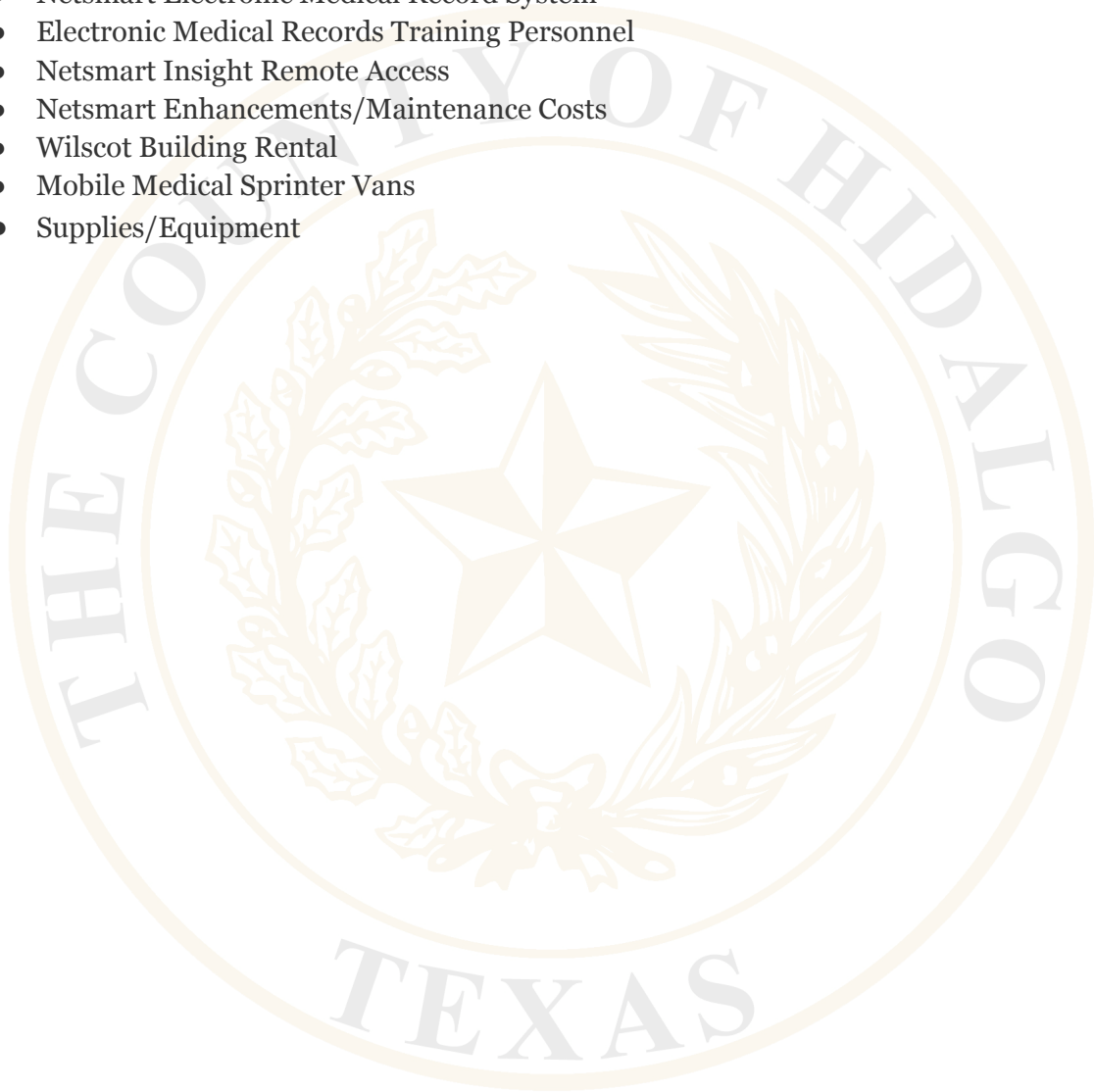


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Initiatives Include:

- Vaccination Healthcare Staffing Services
- Netsmart Technologies Expansion Modules
- Netsmart Electronic Medical Record System
- Electronic Medical Records Training Personnel
- Netsmart Insight Remote Access
- Netsmart Enhancements/Maintenance Costs
- Wilscot Building Rental
- Mobile Medical Sprinter Vans
- Supplies/Equipment





Project Description

Project Name:

Hidalgo County Personal Protective Equipment

Project Number:

ARPA-22-340-056

Department Name:

Hidalgo County Health Department

ARPA Expenditure Category:

1: Public Health

ARPA Eligibility Category:

1.5: Personal Protective Equipment

Project Description:

Hidalgo County will continue its initiative of mitigating the spread of COVID-19 by providing personal protective equipment (PPE) to support Hidalgo County's vaccination and testing efforts. PPE is critical in safeguarding the health of individuals in congregate and open-air settings. Additionally, the use of PPE will allow Hidalgo County to continue its efforts in following necessary COVID-19 protocols. According to the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Interim Final Rule, acquisitions or distribution of medical and protective supplies, including sanitizing products and personal equipment are considered an eligible public health expenditure.

Fiscal Impact: \$654,304.25



Project Description

Project Name

Hidalgo County Precinct 4 North Main Drain III Phase I Stormwater Project

Project Number

ARPA-22-124-095

Program:

The Hidalgo County Precinct 4 North Main Drain III Phase I Stormwater Project will be part of the Hidalgo County American Rescue Plan Act Stormwater System Improvement Program.

Precinct/Department Name

Hidalgo County Precinct 4

ARPA Expenditure Category

5. Infrastructure

ARPA Eligibility Category

5.6 Clean Water: Stormwater

Project Description

The North Main Drain III Phase I Storm Water Project will manage and reduce stormwater for the project area. The project is located 1/4 east of McColl Road. The project commences at Mile 17 1/2 and ends approximately 2000 feet north of Monte Cristo Road. The project will widen the North Main Drain III to manage and reduce flooding in the area, and provide improvement to the quality of life.

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 stormwater project. Efficient stormwater 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: \$1,897,887.71



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Project Name:

Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator II Position

Project Number:

ARPA-22-110-099

Department Name:

Hidalgo County Office of Emergency Management

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:

Through this project, the County will provide Hidalgo County with one Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator to assist with the mitigation of COVID-19 throughout the public health emergency.

The purpose of this position is to support the existing staff, in rotating shifts, to better mitigate COVID-19 as there has been an increase in COVID-19 cases. Additionally, the Deputy will also assist the Emergency Coordinator on emergency preparedness issues, coordinate training programs and emergency operation drills, assist departments with their emergency and mitigation plans, grant applications and administration, and administer the submittal process for Federal and State reimbursement claims for the county's cost during emergency operations during the ongoing pandemic.

Fiscal Impact: \$357,872.19



Project Description

Project Name:

Quick Response Emergency Units

Project Number:

ARPA-23-110-318

Program Name:

Hidalgo County Emergency Services Program

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:

Hidalgo County is experiencing increased medical emergencies due to the Covid-19 Pandemic Public Health Emergency. Concurrently, shortages with medical response personnel and equipment are also occurring, and emergency medical service providers are unable to provide optimal services to certain communities. The purchase and implementation of 5 Quick Response Emergency Units, equipped to provide EMS first-response services, will directly respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic Public Health Emergency. Emergency Management Coordinators (EMCs) will be assigned to the Quick Response Emergency Units thereby responding to medical emergencies, performing lifesaving treatments and providing assistive services prior to and in conjunction with an ambulance's arrival to a scene. The Units will be housed at strategic locations in Hidalgo County to provide quick response times for medical 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.

The Treasury 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.¹

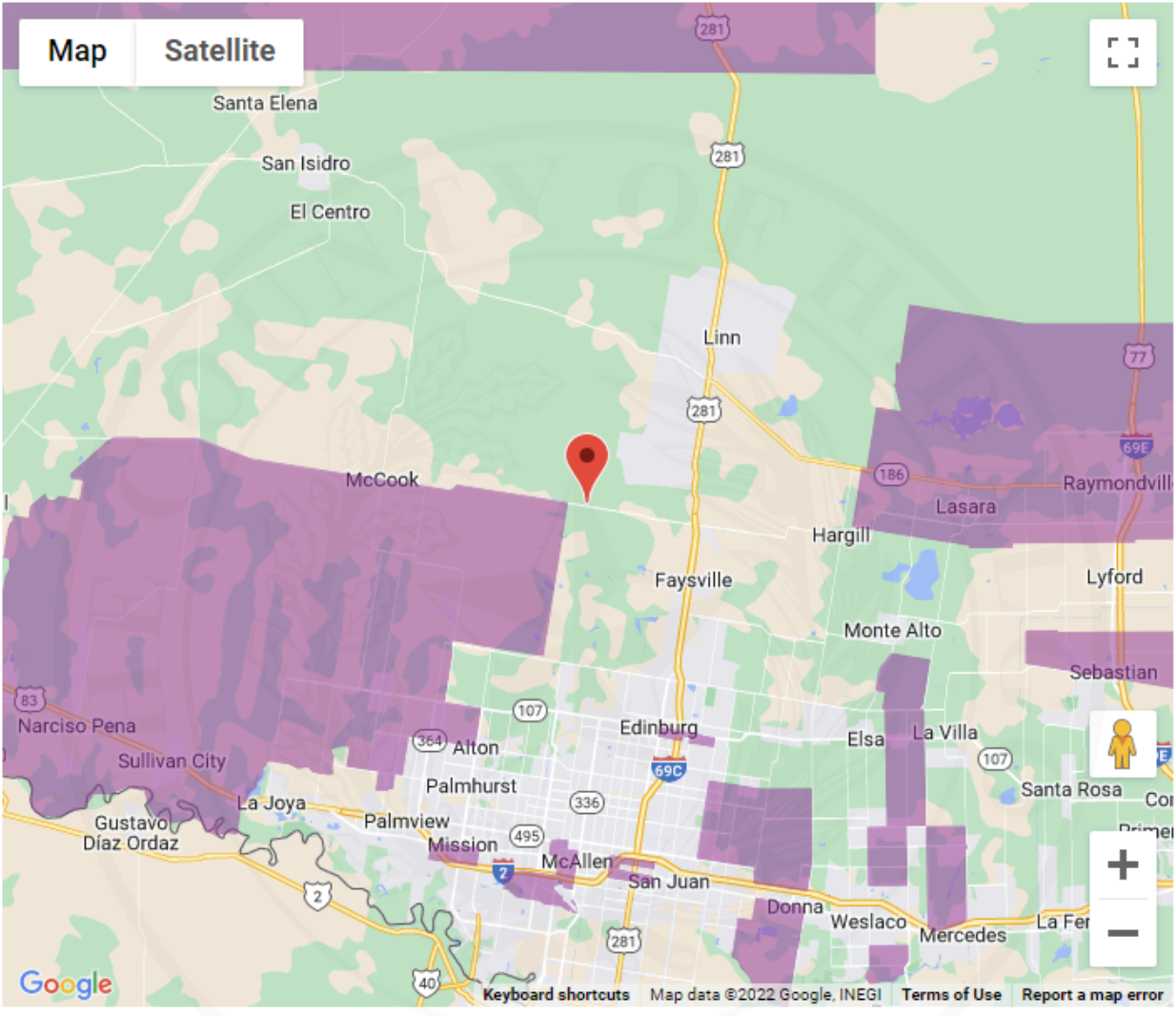
Fiscal Impact: \$426,528.00

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



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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)



Project Description

Project Name:

Hidalgo County Edinburg Health Center Improvements Project

Project Number:

ARPA-23-340-325

Program Name:

Hidalgo County Health Center Improvements Project will be a part of the Hidalgo County American Rescue Plan Act Expanding Access to Healthcare Program.

Department Name:

Hidalgo County Health Department

ARPA Expenditure Category:

1: Public Health

ARPA Eligibility Category:

1.14: Other Public Health Services^

Project Description:

The purpose of the Hidalgo County Health Center Improvements Project is to expand health care capacity and meet community pandemic-related needs. Operational needs can be met through renovations to the existing building. Furthermore, efforts to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic through this clinic include, but are not limited to, vaccination programs, medical care, testing, and support for vulnerable populations to access medical or public health services. The clinic will continue providing the residents of Hidalgo County access to resources that improve health outcomes. Hidalgo County Health Center, located at 3105 E. Richardson Rd., Edinburg, TX, 78539.

The Final Rule states that 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 Treasury enumerates that the following projects are examples of eligible capital expenditures...capital investments in public facilities to meet pandemic operational needs, such as physical plant improvements to public hospitals and health clinics or adaptations to public buildings to implement COVID-19 mitigation tactics. These enumerated uses are consistent with guidance from public health authorities, including the CDC.² In the final rule, to further decrease administrative burden and enhance recipient flexibility, Treasury is allowing recipients to also presume that low-income households were disproportionately

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. 4353



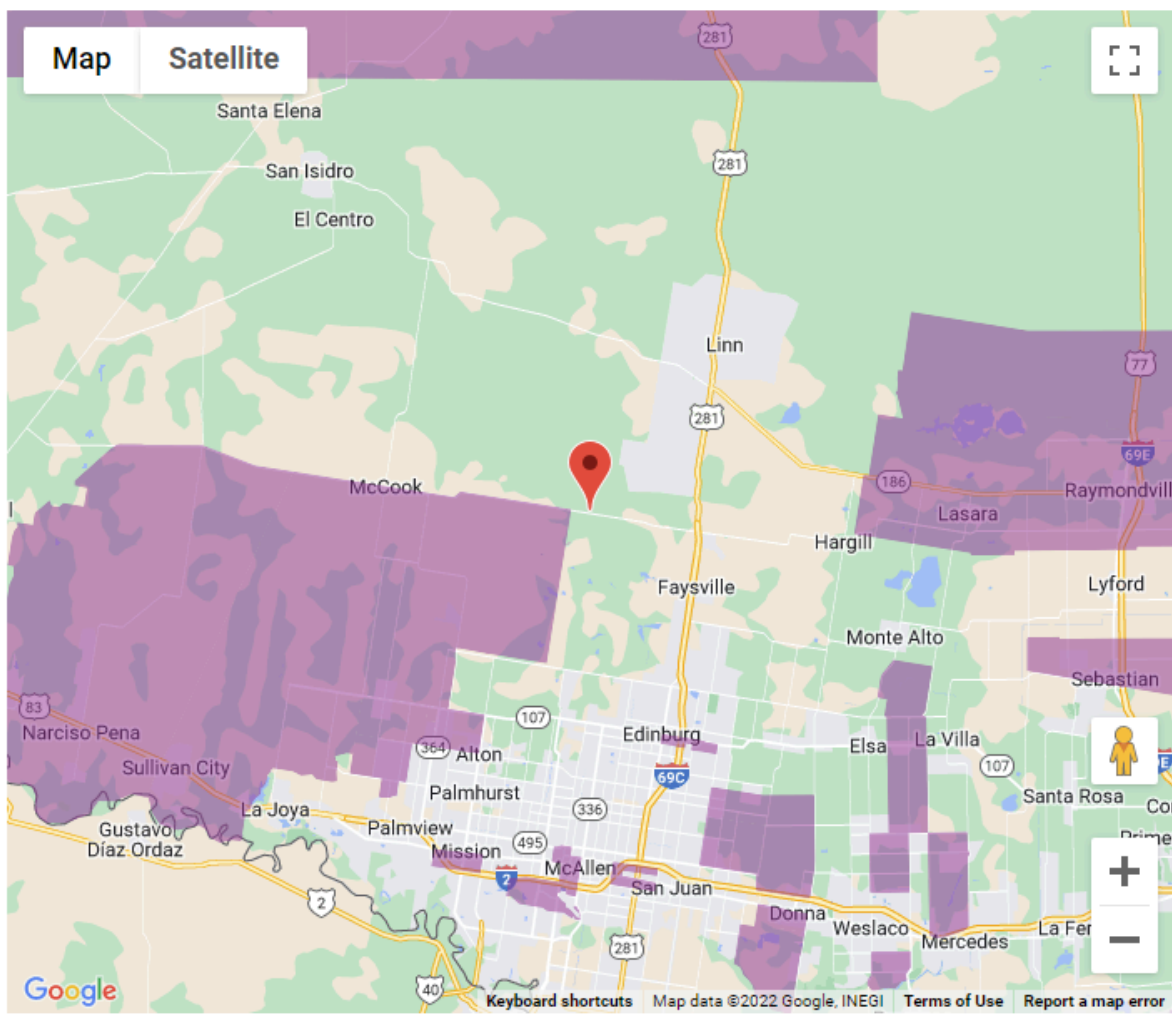
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impacted. Treasury anticipates that adding low-income households as a presumed eligible population will maintain targeting of funds to populations and communities most likely to have experienced severe pandemic impacts, while providing a more flexible approach for recipients.³

Fiscal Impact: \$149,870.84

^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)

³ Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4441



Project Description

Project Name:

Hidalgo County Precinct 3 5K Mansion Linear Park Trail

Project Number:

ARPA-23-123-328

Program Name:

Hidalgo County Precinct 3 5K Mansion Linear Park Trail Project will be part of the Hidalgo County American Rescue Plan Act Recreational Development Program.

Department Name:

Hidalgo County Precinct 3

ARPA Expenditure Category:

2: Negative Economic Impacts

ARPA Eligibility Category:

2.22: Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety^

Project Description:

The spread of COVID-19 resulted in widespread social distancing measures. Outdoor activities pose a lower risk of spread and provide opportunities for physical activity that may help improve overall well-being. The Hidalgo County Precinct 3 5K Mansion Linear Trail Project aims to build stronger communities through investing in neighborhood development by utilizing existing resources (Drainage District, Moorfield Road ROW, Mansion property) to construct a 5 kilometer trail. The trail will include exercise stations, rest stops and other features that encourage physical exercise as this is already a venue for walk/run races and events and passes next to three public schools which will provide easy access for school exercise programs or events. This trail will service a larger portion of the Hidalgo County community and provide safe recreational spaces for constituents living in, near and around Low and Moderate Income (LMI) locations, and support people's physical, social, emotional, and mental health. The project includes but is not limited to professional services, park equipment, amenities, safety features such as surveillance equipment to help monitor and deter crime, supplies, materials, and other necessary provisions.

In the final rule, to further decrease administrative burden and enhance recipient flexibility, Treasury is allowing recipients to also presume that low-income households were

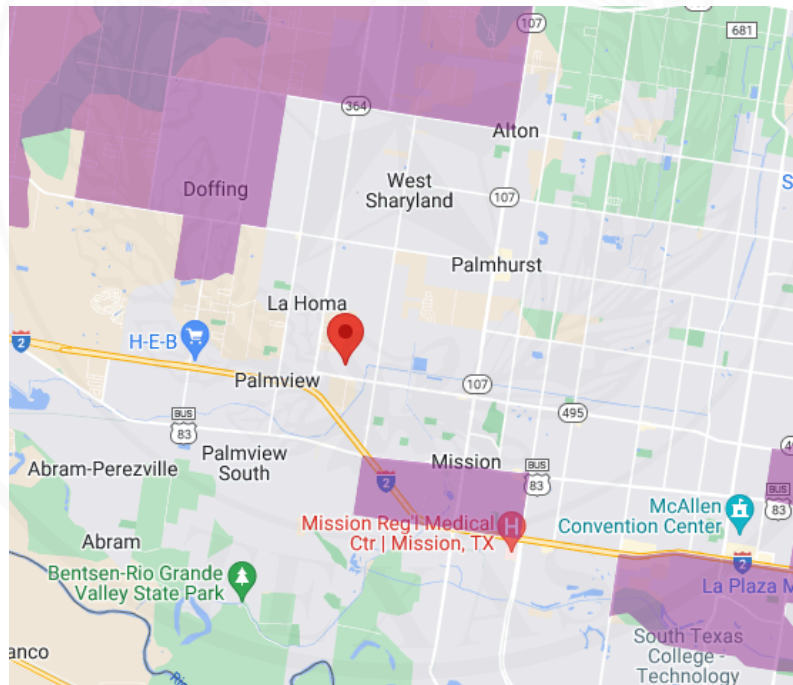


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disproportionately impacted.¹ Treasury recognizes the connection between neighborhood built environment and physical health outcomes as discussed in the research and analysis provided by commenters, including risk factors that may have contributed to disproportionate COVID-19 health impacts in low-income communities. As such, neighborhood features that promote improved health and safety outcomes respond to the preexisting disparities that contributed to COVID-19's disproportionate impacts on low-income communities. The final rule includes enumerated eligible uses in disproportionately impacted communities for developing neighborhood features that promote improved health and safety outcomes, such as parks, green spaces, recreational facilities, sidewalks, pedestrian safety features like crosswalks, projects that increase access to healthy foods, streetlights, neighborhood cleanup, and other projects to revitalize public spaces.²

Fiscal Impact: \$2,878,711.65

^Below is the 2023 Qualified Census Tract Analysis for various sections of the 5K Mansion Linear Park Trail



¹ Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4441

² Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4373



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

Below is the Low to Moderate Analysis for three locations where the trail will run through.

Location 1: 724 Breyfogle, Mission, TX, 78572

LMISD by Block Group: Block Group 3, Census Tract 202.02, Hidalgo County, Texas

Source	2015ACS
geoname	Block Group 3, Census Tract 202.02, Hidalgo County, Texas
Stusab	TX
Countyname	Hidalgo County
State	48
County	215
Tract	020202
Blckgrp	3
Low	880
Lowmod	1300
Lmmi	2090
Lowmoduniv	2570
Lowmod_pct	50.58
ucLowmod	
ucLowmod_p	0.00
MOE_Lowmod	+/-12.96
MOE_ucLowm	



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Location 2: 2218 Moorefield, Mission, TX, 78572

LMISD by Block Group: Block Group 3, Census Tract 202.02, Hidalgo County, Texas

Source	2015ACS
geoname	Block Group 3, Census Tract 202.02, Hidalgo County, Texas
Stusab	TX
Countyname	Hidalgo County
State	48
County	215
Tract	020202
Blckgrp	3
Low	880
Lowmod	1300
Lmmi	2090
Lowmoduniv	2570
Lowmod_pct	50.58
ucLowmod	
ucLowmod_p	0.00
MOE_Lowmod	+/-12.96
MOE_ucLowm	



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Location 3: 2401 Moorefield, Mission, TX, 78574

LMISD by Block Group: Block Group 1, Census Tract 202.02, Hidalgo County, Texas

Source	2015ACS
geoname	Block Group 1, Census Tract 202.02, Hidalgo County, Texas
Stusab	TX
Countyname	Hidalgo County
State	48
County	215
Tract	020202
Blckgrp	1
Low	990
Lowmod	1230
Lmmi	1835
Lowmoduniv	2860
Lowmod_pct	43.01
ucLowmod	
ucLowmod_p	0.00
MOE_Lowmod	+/-12.76
MOE_ucLowm	



Project Description

Project Name:

Hidalgo County Bio Safety Lab Efforts

Project Number:

ARPA-23-340-331

Department Name:

Hidalgo County Health Dept.

ARPA Expenditure Category:

1: Public Health

ARPA Eligibility Category:

1.14: Other Public Health Services^

Project Description:

Hidalgo County has been on a continuous response mode for the COVID pandemic since March 2020. Due to the pandemic, Hidalgo County Health and Human Service Dept has been assessing and implementing appropriate COVID-19 mitigation and prevention measures. To address the public health response, Hidalgo County will engage in a broad range of services and programming needed to contain COVID-19 including but not limited to Bio Safety Lab contractual and professional services for testing, certification and performance verifications, design, Bio Safety personnel, Bio Safety Lab supplies and equipment, inspections for accreditation and other provisions and services to identify protective measures for Hidalgo County residents.

...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.¹ Enumerated eligible uses of funds in this category include: other public health responses. These enumerated uses are consistent with guidance from public health authorities, including the CDC.² In the final rule, to further decrease administrative burden and enhance recipient flexibility, Treasury is allowing recipients to also presume that low-income households were disproportionately impacted. Treasury anticipates that adding low-income households as a presumed eligible population will

¹ Department of the Treasury (2022) Federal Register, Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (p. 4452)

² Department of the Treasury (2022) Federal Register, Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (p. 4453)

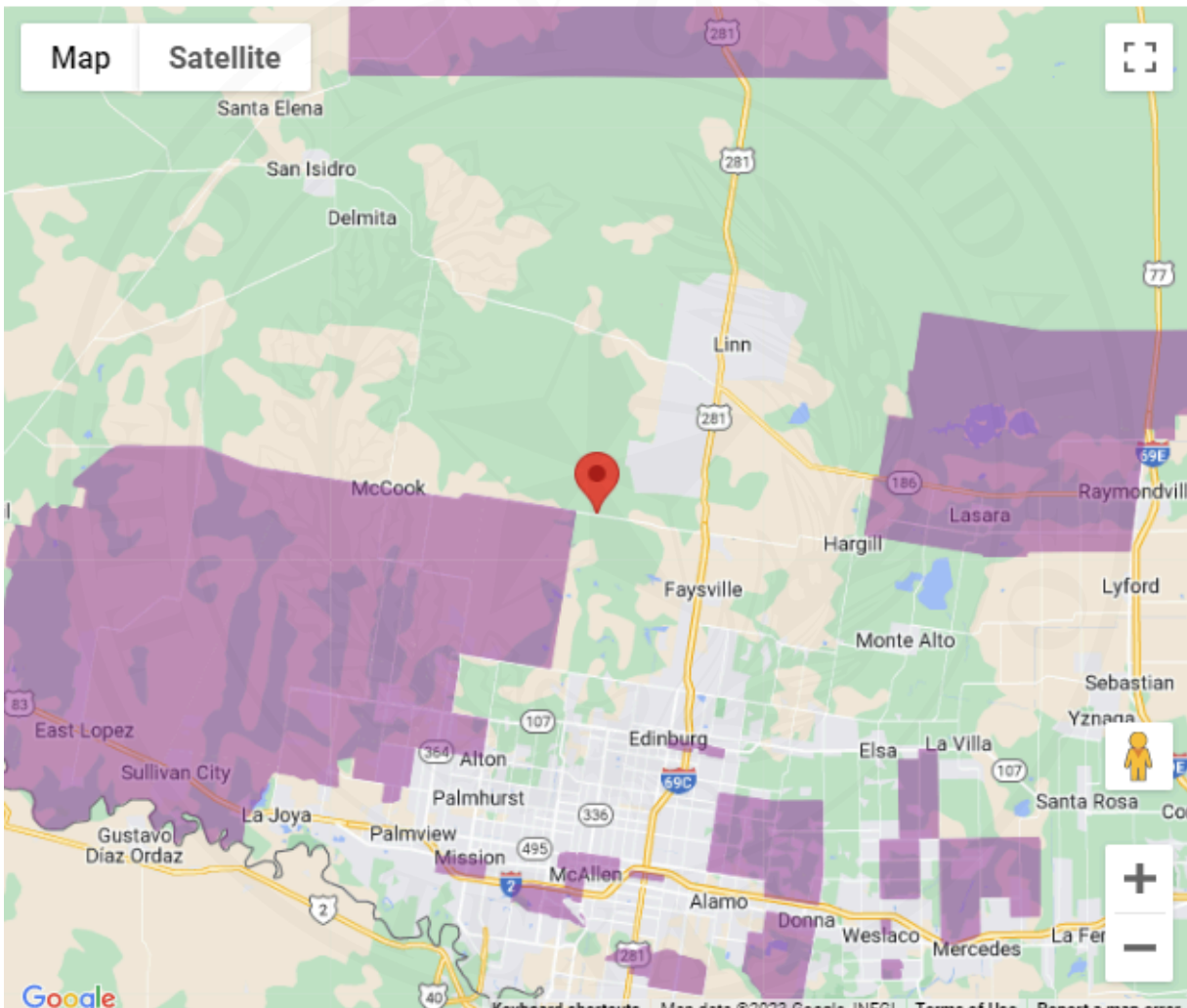


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maintain targeting of funds to populations and communities most likely to have experienced severe pandemic impacts, while providing a more flexible approach for recipients.³

Fiscal Impact: \$2,439,211.60

^Below is the Qualified Census Tract (QCT) for Hidalgo County.



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) Federal Register, Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (p. 4441)



Project Description

Project Name:

Hidalgo County Technology Modernization

Project Number:

ARPA-23-115-339

Department Name:

Budget and Management

ARPA Expenditure Category:

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

ARPA Eligibility Category:

3.4: Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

Project Description:

The rapidly escalating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic affected technology infrastructure by making it more difficult for government agencies to provide essential services and to execute the delivery of these services. To mitigate these effects, Hidalgo County will implement the Hidalgo County Technology Modernization Project for its departments countywide and aims to increase efficiency, productivity and safety. This project will include but is not limited to new technology application solutions, cybersecurity modernization, and other hardware and software upgrades. Better government systems will permit employees to continue performing essential services for the county and be responsive to the needs of the community.

Treasury also received comments seeking clarification on using funds for investments in data and technology, including whether upgrading government websites to improve community outreach and investing in technologies that support social distancing were eligible uses. Treasury is clarifying that recipients may use SLFRF funds toward the following non-exhaustive list of uses to address the data, evidence, and program administration needs of recipients. Technology infrastructure resources to improve access to and the user experience of government information technology systems, including upgrades to hardware and software as well as improvements to public-facing websites or to data management systems, to increase public access and improve public delivery of government programs and services are eligible expenses.¹

Fiscal Impact: \$6,195,074.00

¹ Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4488



Project Description

Project Name:

Assistance for Hidalgo County Ambulance Response Services

Project Number:

ARPA-23-115-340

Department Name:

Budget and Management

ARPA Expenditure Category:

6: Revenue Replacement

ARPA Eligibility Category:

6.1: Provision of Government Services

Project Description:

The escalating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic affected and increased the demand for ambulance response services in Hidalgo County, specifically in unincorporated areas and the adult detention facility, which have made it difficult to provide emergency medical services. In response, affected Hidalgo County precincts and the adult detention facility have made first response emergency medical providers available in unincorporated areas and the adult detention facility to ensure the effective delivery of emergency health care services. To continue providing these critical services, Hidalgo County will implement the Assistance for Hidalgo County Ambulance Response Services project which will include the provision of ambulance response and related-services in Hidalgo County to serve its most vulnerable residents in unincorporated areas, the adult detention facility and other areas as needed to ensure access to emergency medical services.

“Treasury continues to believe that the lists of activities that either are or are not providing government services are accurate but is clarifying here that, generally speaking, services provided by the recipient governments are “government services” under the interim final rule and final rule, unless Treasury has stated otherwise. Government services include, but are not limited to... and the provision of police, fire, and other public safety services.”¹

Fiscal Impact: \$2,301,814.03

¹ Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4408



Project Description

Project Name:

Hidalgo County Mail Services

Project Number:

ARPA-23-115-342

Department Name:

Budget and Management

ARPA Expenditure Category:

6: Revenue Replacement

ARPA Eligibility Category:

6.1: Provision of Government Services

Project Description:

The rapidly escalating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic affected local government making it more difficult for government agencies to provide essential services and to execute the delivery of these services. Mail services were not an exception. To mitigate these effects, Hidalgo County will implement the Hidalgo County Mail Services Project for the Hidalgo County District Clerk Office and the Hidalgo County Tax Office in order to continue mail communications with Hidalgo County residents. This project will include but is not limited to mail outs and other mail-related services that will promote an efficient use of mailstream to continue conducting business and communication with employees and constituents alike. Effective government systems will permit employees to continue performing essential services for the county and be responsive to the needs of the community.

Treasury continues to believe that the lists of activities that either are or are not providing government services are accurate but is clarifying here that, generally speaking, services provided by the recipient governments are “government services” under the interim final rule and final rule, unless Treasury has stated otherwise.¹

Fiscal Impact: \$248,373.94

¹ Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4408



Project Description

Project Name:

Hidalgo County Juvenile Detention Center Retrofits

Project Number:

ARPA-23-115-343

Department Name:

Budget and Management

ARPA Expenditure Category:

6: Revenue Replacement

ARPA Eligibility Category:

6.1: Provision of Government Services

Project Description:

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic affected air quality and ventilation conditions as well as other health and safety systems, escalating the importance of creating and implementing mitigation and prevention tactics to limit its spread, especially in congregate settings. The Hidalgo County Juvenile Detention Center, located at 1001 North Doolittle PO Box 267, Edinburg, TX, 78540, is in need of COVID-19 retrofits to enhance current facility systems that will improve building performance for the occupants, employees and families. To mitigate the effects of COVID-19, Hidalgo County will implement the Hidalgo County Juvenile Detention Center Retrofits Project, to address COVID-19 health and safety concerns which include but are not limited to inspection, testing and enhancement of current Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems and equipment, video surveillance systems, and other facility-related provisions to improve air quality and day-to-day operations permitting the continuation of essential services for the county and be responsive to the needs of the occupants, families and employees.

“Treasury continues to believe that the lists of activities that either are or are not providing government services are accurate but is clarifying here that, generally speaking, services provided by the recipient governments are “government services” under the interim final rule and final rule, unless Treasury has stated otherwise. Government services include, but are not limited to maintenance or pay-go funded building of infrastructure, including roads; modernization of cybersecurity, including hardware, software, and protection of critical infrastructure.”¹

Fiscal Impact: \$737,065.20

¹ Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4408



Project Description

Project Name:

Economic Development Community Navigators

Project Number:

ARPA-23-110-345

Department Name:

County Judge's Office

ARPA Expenditure Category:

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

ARPA Eligibility Category:

3.4: Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

Project Description:

The final rule aims to promote and streamline the provision of assistance to individuals and communities in greatest need, particularly communities that have been historically underserved and have experienced disproportionate impacts of the COVID-19 crisis.¹ For historically marginalized populations (those excluded from mainstream health, economic, and/or educational resources) all the general challenges encountered with the pandemic certainly apply, but there are additional barriers. The greatest is communication—getting information or access to available resources is typically more difficult for people with multiple barriers. Research has noted that Hispanics were disproportionately harmed by the economic fallout as a result of the effects of the COVID 19 virus; they accounted for 23 percent of the initial job loss.² The coronavirus did not discriminate based on race, but without action, its economic fallout will continue to disproportionately affect residents of Hidalgo County which is predominately Hispanic. To that end, Hidalgo County will enlist personnel to serve as community navigators to promote and streamline the provision of programs and services that address or mitigate the impacts of COVID-19. Hidalgo County is committed to ensuring that the community receives the support needed to access community resources and relief programs due to the economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Hidalgo County Economic Development Community Navigators, Administrative Assistant IV and Eligibility Specialist III, will work closely under the supervision of the Director of Economic Development to develop programs, outreach and engagement resources that will positively impact marginalized populations. This

¹ Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4444

²

<https://www.americanprogress.org/article/latinos-face-disproportionate-health-economic-impacts-covid-19/>



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will also include the addition of an Emergency Preparedness and Response Warehouse Specialist who will assist the County in managing equipment and personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies to mitigate the effects of COVID-19. Actively managing and caring for emergency response equipment will prolong the useful life and ensure optimum performance.

Recognizing that eligible households often face barriers to accessing public benefits or services that improve health and economic outcomes, the interim final rule included as an enumerated eligible use in disproportionately impacted communities, public benefits navigators to assist community members with navigating and applying for available federal, state, and local public benefits or services.³ Treasury has determined that this impact of the pandemic is widely experienced across many jurisdictions and programs or services to increase awareness and uptake of assistance programs would respond to the pandemic's negative economic impact in all communities. As such, in the final rule, this use is eligible for any impacted household or class of households, not only in disproportionately impacted communities.⁴ ...recipients may use funds for administrative costs to improve the efficacy of public health or economic relief programs through tools like program evaluation, data analysis, and targeted consumer outreach.⁵

Fiscal Impact: \$357,651.07

³ Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4362

⁴ Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4363

⁵ Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4387



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Project Description

Project Name:

Hidalgo County Precinct 4 J-01 Stormwater Management Project

Project Number:

ARPA-23-124-346

Program Name:

Hidalgo County American Rescue Plan Act Stormwater System Improvement Program

Department Name:

Hidalgo County Precinct 4

ARPA Expenditure Category:

5: Infrastructure

ARPA Eligibility Category:

5.6: Clean Water: Stormwater

Project Description:

The J-01 Stormwater Management Project manages stormwater flows by providing additional stormwater capacity to the existing drainage system and creating a new drainage outfall to the North Main Drain II. The project intercepts stormwater from the Vista Bonita Drain located at N. Kenyon Rd and Ingle Road. The stormwater flow is carried within the ditch in an easterly then southerly direction, eventually outfalling into the North Main Drain II. This work not only includes ditch widening, but also a new ditch will be excavated and culvert crossings will be improved at Benito Ramirez Rd, Ramseyer Rd, and Davis Rd. The project will address the inadequate stormwater systems that cause flooding, the spread of diseases, and eroded roads during the rainy season thereby increasing community quality of life.

Water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure all involve the provision of essential services to residents, businesses, and other consumers. As the pandemic has made clear, access to broadband has itself become essential for individuals and businesses to participate in education, commerce, work, and civic matters and to receive health care and social services.¹ The Treasury states that CWSRF includes a broad range of stormwater infrastructure projects, and as such these projects were eligible under the interim final rule and continue to be eligible under the final rule. These projects include gray infrastructure projects, such as traditional pipe, storage, and treatment systems. Projects that manage, reduce, treat, or recapture stormwater or

¹ Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4410

subsurface drainage water are also eligible, including real-time control systems for combined sewer overflow management, and sediment control.²

Fiscal Impact: \$1,518,911.00



² Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4413-4414



Project Description

Project Name:

Hidalgo County Edinburg Pulmonary Health Center Improvements Project

Project Number:

ARPA-24-340-351

Program Name:

Hidalgo County Edinburg Pulmonary Health Center Improvements Project will be a part of the Hidalgo County American Rescue Plan Act Expanding Access to Healthcare Program.

Department Name:

Hidalgo County Health Department

ARPA Expenditure Category:

1: Public Health

ARPA Eligibility Category:

1.14: Other Public Health Services[^]

Project Description:

The purpose of the Hidalgo County Edinburg Pulmonary Health Center Improvements Project is to expand health care capacity and meet community pandemic-related needs. Operational needs can be met through renovations to the existing building. Furthermore, efforts to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic through this clinic include, but are not limited to, vaccination programs, medical care, testing, and support for vulnerable populations to access medical or public health services. The Hidalgo County Edinburg Pulmonary Health Center is located at 1304 S. 25th Ave., Edinburg, TX, 78539. Improvements will include but are not limited to outdoor mitigation structures and door access systems to protect physical assets and ensure safety. These provisions will provide a safe and sustainable environment and enable employees to continue performing essential services for the residents of Hidalgo County to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, TB and other communicable/infectious diseases.

The Final Rule states that 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 Treasury enumerates that the following projects are examples of eligible capital expenditures...capital investments in public facilities to meet pandemic operational needs, such as physical plant improvements to public hospitals and health clinics or adaptations to public buildings to implement COVID–19 mitigation tactics. These enumerated

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



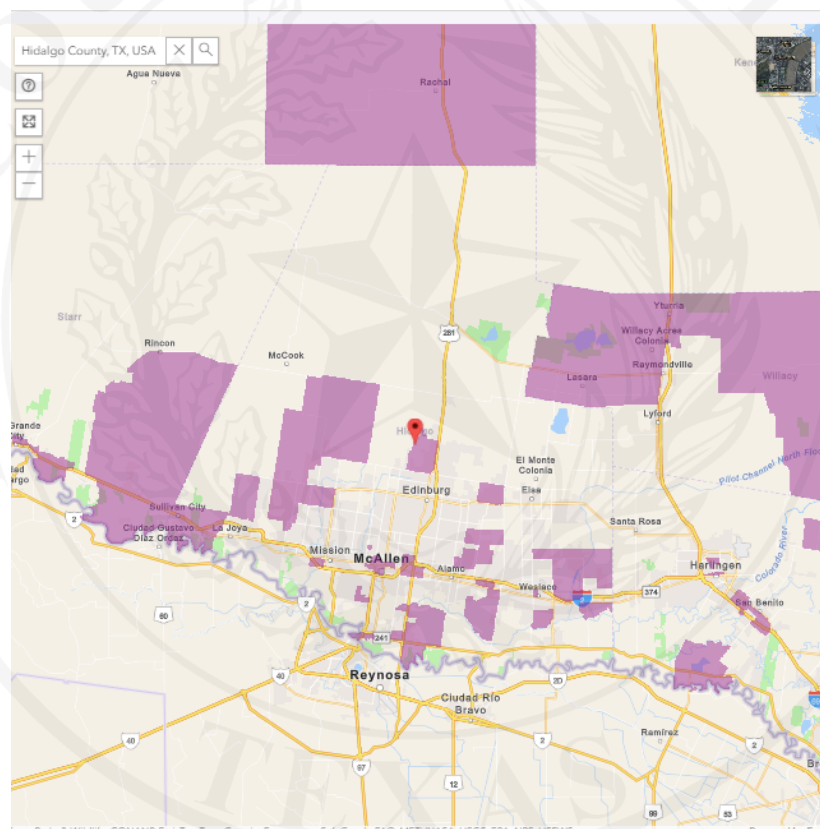
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uses are consistent with guidance from public health authorities, including the CDC.² In the final rule, to further decrease administrative burden and enhance recipient flexibility, Treasury is allowing recipients to also presume that low-income households were disproportionately impacted. Treasury anticipates that adding low-income households as a presumed eligible population will maintain targeting of funds to populations and communities most likely to have experienced severe pandemic impacts, while providing a more flexible approach for recipients.³

Fiscal Impact: \$89,129.24

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



Source: Office of Policy Development and Research [2023 and 2024 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. 4353

³ Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4441



Project Description

Project Name:

City of Mission: Paramedic Initiative

Project Number:

ARPA-24-110-355

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.



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This initiative will provide funds to the City of Mission 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 but not limited to the City of 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 Mission 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 City of Mission and Texas EMS School 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

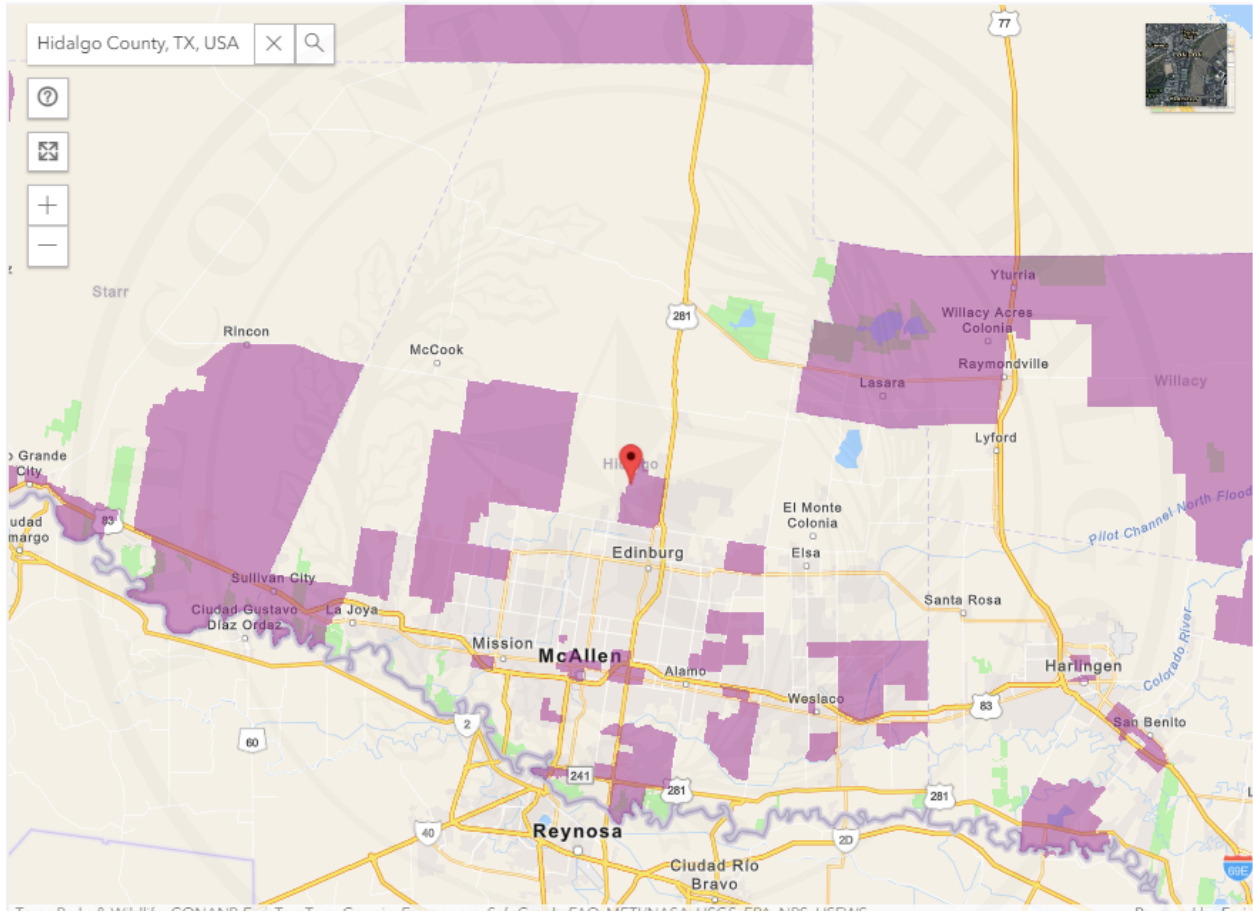
Fiscal Impact: \$76,240.00

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 2023 and 2024 Small Difficult Development Areas (DDAs) and Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs)



Project Description

Project Name:

Hidalgo County Emergency Services Preparedness Equipment

Project Number:

ARPA-24-110-370

Program Name:

Hidalgo County Emergency Services Program

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:

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.

Hidalgo County has been on a continuous response mode for the COVID-19 pandemic since March 2020. Although it may seem that the worst of the COVID-19 crisis has passed, it is imperative for preventative measures to be taken in order to be prepared for future global disasters. The COVID-19 pandemic has proven how its effects overwhelmed the capacity of the healthcare system¹. In those situations, both communication and transportation were disrupted. When it becomes necessary to mobilize emergency resources to disaster sites because rescue work is in progress and the health and safety of the community are threatened, specific procedures must be followed in order to prevent further spread of deadly, contagious diseases such as COVID-19. The provision and management of mass decedents proved difficult as hospital morgues reached full capacity.² Therefore, it is important that action be taken in order

¹ <https://www.penncaire.net/2021/11/mobile-morgue-trailers-and-the-covid-19-pandemic/>

²

[https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8178665/#:~:text=The%20COVID%2D19%20pandemic%20is,Body%20Collection%20Point%20\(BCP\)](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8178665/#:~:text=The%20COVID%2D19%20pandemic%20is,Body%20Collection%20Point%20(BCP))



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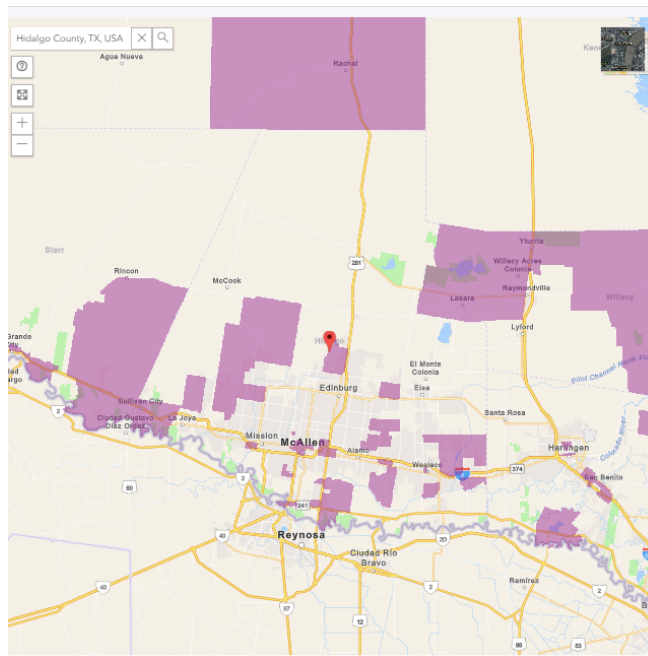
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to ensure the County is properly equipped for the safe, respectful storage and handling of decedents. Hidalgo County intends to meet surge capacity by ensuring adequate emergency preparedness equipment is at hand to meet increased numbers of sick and injured and implement core public health activities due to continuous and substantial utilization. The acquisition of emergency preparedness equipment such as refrigerated units and other necessary provisions will assist in fatality management and will provide the County with measures to address vital community based surge capacity. Such equipment will supplement the public health and the health care facility response.³

Treasury 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.⁴

Fiscal Impact: \$26,802.00

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



Source: Office of Policy Development and Research [2023 and 2024 Small Difficult Development Areas \(DDAs\) and Qualified Census Tracts \(QCTs\)](#)

³ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1525264/>

⁴ Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4354



Project Description

Project Name:

Hidalgo County Public Safety COVID-19 Response

Project Number:

ARPA-24-115-377

Department Name:

Budget and Management

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:

Law enforcement agencies were faced with the challenge of maintaining operational levels of service while keeping officers, employees, and the community safe during COVID-19.¹ Daily activities required in-person work and community interaction. Law enforcement, as first responders, continued to work at increased levels of exposure whilst implementing and enforcing COVID-19 safety measures, outreach services, assisting the health department, and responding to public safety needs to name a few. As COVID 19 has evolved, law enforcement has made significant changes in routine activities.² The pandemic influenced law enforcement in three primary areas: 1) interventions to minimize and slow the spread of COVID-19; 2) nature of interactions; 3) responses to changes in crimes.³ To combat the virus, law enforcement has shifted operations to address healthcare and public health needs in addition to traditional security and public safety priorities.⁴ The same holds true for Hidalgo County. To uphold public safety, the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office continues to implement COVID-19 operational preparedness and prevention of disease transmission strategies to preserve the health, safety, and well-being of employees as first responders including but not limited to patrol and field operations as a result of the pandemic and in preparation for future health responses in real-time, including infectious diseases. Furthermore, Sheriff's Office employees continue to respond to situations exacerbated by the pandemic including domestic violence and mental health incidents utilizing strategies to build trust and positive relationships with the community

¹ <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8689991/>

² <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9549130/>

³ <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8689991/>

⁴ https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/30/13/23-0776_article



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thus improving community safety outcomes. For these reasons, Hidalgo County has determined that Sheriff's Office employees are continuously dedicated to responding to the long-term effects of COVID-19. As such, Hidalgo County aims to dedicate ARPA funds for payroll and benefits for Sheriff's Office employees as permitted in the Final Rule to restore and bolster public sector capacity and support the County's ability to deliver uninterrupted critical services with the continuous implementation of prevention and mitigation strategies. This project will retroactively reimburse the County beginning January 1, 2024.

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-19.⁵ Public safety employees include sheriffs and deputy sheriffs, emergency medical responders, correctional and detention officers and those who directly support those employees. In the final rule, Treasury is clarifying that recipients will be permitted to fund the full payroll and covered benefits of public health and safety staff primarily dedicated to COVID-19 response throughout the period of performance for the SLFRF program, though recipients should periodically reassess their determination of primarily dedicated staff, including as the public health emergency and response evolves.⁶

Fiscal Impact: \$12,621,592.44

⁵ Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4384

⁶ Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4385