



**The Honorable Hidalgo County Judge Richard Cortez**  
Hidalgo County Commissioners Court  
Edinburg, TX 78539

**Subject: Request for \$50,000 to Support Jumpstart: Hidalgo County's Workforce Development Opportunity**

Dear Judge Cortez,

The McAllen Chamber of Commerce is excited to present *Jumpstart*, the Rio Grande Valley's largest and most impactful career expo, taking place on Tuesday, February 18, at the Bert Ogden Arena. This premier event addresses workforce challenges by connecting industries with over 1,000 job seekers and providing tools for meaningful employment opportunities.

In its inaugural year, *Jumpstart* facilitated over 400 new hires. Last year, 700 out of 1,000 job seekers came from McAllen, Edinburg, and Mission, demonstrating its regional significance. This year, we anticipate over 4,600 job openings, with opportunities for attendees to apply, interview, and secure positions on-site. Additional features include résumé workshops, professional headshots, and access to 120+ employment recruiters.

To ensure the continued success of this transformative event, we respectfully request \$50,000 in funding from Hidalgo County. Your support will:

- **Bridge labor market gaps** by connecting job seekers with employers.
- **Enhance workforce readiness** through career preparation initiatives.
- **Stimulate economic development** by driving job creation and skill-building.

This funding will allow us to expand *Jumpstart's* reach and resources, further benefiting Hidalgo County residents and businesses.

We would be delighted to discuss this request further and explore how Hidalgo County can play a pivotal role in supporting this initiative. Please feel free to contact me or Sally Fraustro-Guerra for additional information.

Thank you for your commitment to the growth and success of our community.

Respectfully,

Blanca Cardenas  
VP of Membership Services

Sally Fraustro-Guerra  
Director of Corporate Relations

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