



Exhibit A - Budget Amendments

#	ARPA Project No.	ARPA Project Name	Prior Budget	New Budget
1	21-125-015	McColl Building Retrofits	\$1,009,305.44	\$1,047,276.76
2	21-340-019	El Paraiso Health Clinic Improvement Project	\$4,971,232.35	\$4,829,680.19
3	24-115-377	Hidalgo County Public Safety COVID-19 Response	\$16,684,481.91	\$16,826,034.07

FAQ 17.16:

- Recipient may use SLFRF funds to cover increased costs attributable to pre-existing obligations to accommodate the change or contingency prior to December 31, 2024.
- Recipients may also cover contract cost increases after December 31, 2024, using SLFRF funds that the recipient does not use as initially reported to cover particular projects.
- Recipients may cover cost of amendments to contracts if the amended contract is within substantially the same scope and for substantially the same purpose as the contract incurred by December 31, 2024.

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Compliance and Reporting Guidance, December 19, 2024:

While recipients may not incur new obligations for the use of SLFRF funds after December 31, 2024, recipients may reclassify SLFRF funds from a reported activity to another project that would be eligible under the program rules.



Project Description

Project Name:

McColl Building Retrofits

Project Number:

ARPA-21-125-015

Department Name:

Executive Office

ARPA Expenditure Category:

6: Revenue Replacement

ARPA Eligibility Category:

6.1: Provision of Government Services

Project Description:

The McColl Building Retrofits project consists of facility improvements to the Hidalgo County Administration Building to be in compliance with health guidelines throughout the COVID-19 public health emergency. This will include both interior and exterior modifications included but not limited to additions for social distancing and exterior improvements to lock out moisture and corrosive chemicals and help with insulation. Features such as these will provide a safe and sustainable building and will enable employees to continue performing essential services.

To comply with COVID-19 health and safety guidelines, the recent acquisition of the McColl Building located at 505 S. McColl Road, Edinburg, TX 78539, requires additional renovations to be in compliance with health and safety guidelines outlined by the CDC and ARPA requirements. Retrofits include, but are not limited to, adequate space to adhere to social distancing guidelines to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

As per the State and local Fiscal Recovery Funds Interim Final Rule, Government services can include, but are not limited to, maintenance or pay-go funding building.¹

Fiscal Impact: \$1,047,276.76

FAQ 17.16:

- Recipient may use SLFRF funds to cover increased costs attributable to pre-existing obligations to accommodate the change or contingency prior to December 31, 2024.
- Recipients may also cover contract cost increases after December 31, 2024, using SLFRF funds that the recipient does not use as initially reported to cover particular projects.
- Recipients may cover cost of amendments to contracts if the amended contract is within substantially the same scope and for substantially the same purpose as the contract incurred by December 31, 2024.

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



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.

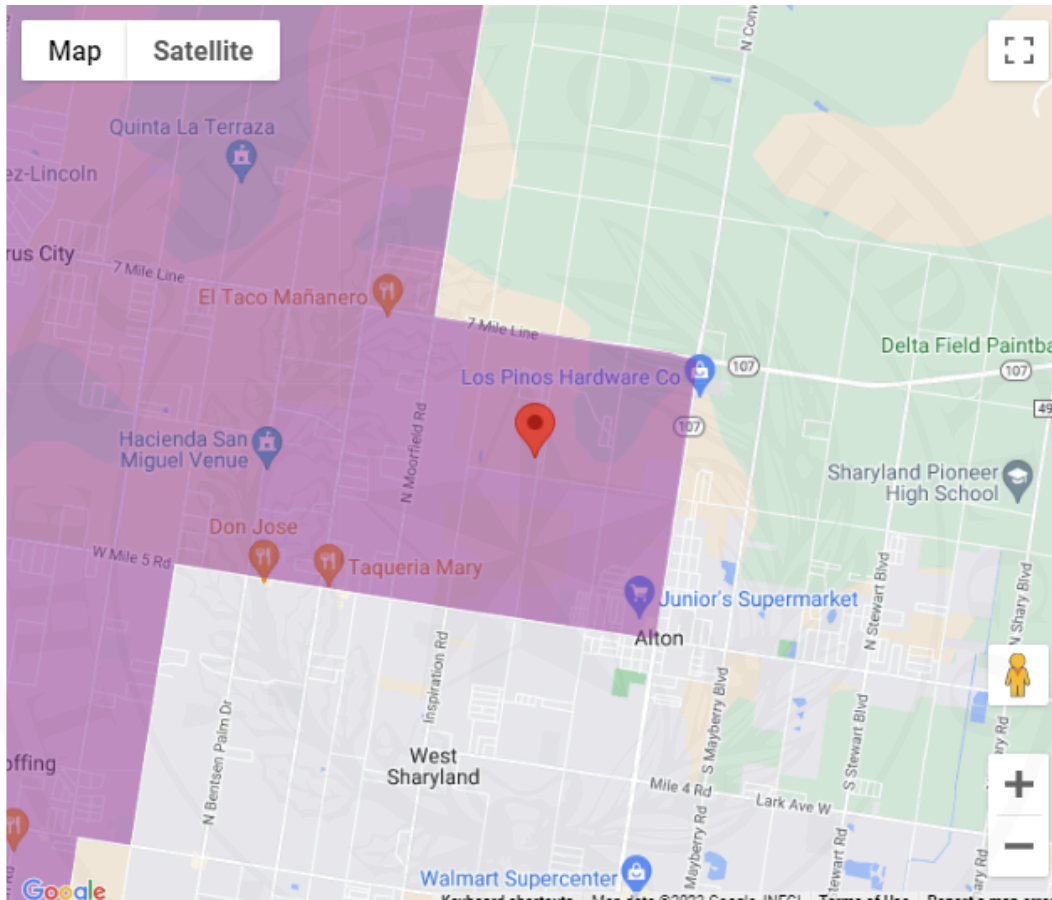
Fiscal Impact: \$4,829,680.19

Site: \$3,376,820.89

Personnel: \$1,452,859.30



^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 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: \$16,826,034.07

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