



Exhibit A - Budget Amendments

| # | ARPA Project No. | ARPA Project Name | Prior Budget | New Budget |
|---|------------------|---|----------------|----------------|
| 1 | 22-340-055 | Hidalgo County COVID 19 Vaccination Efforts Project | \$3,119,163.78 | \$3,119,163.74 |
| 2 | 23-124-327 | Assistance to the UTRGV School of Medicine - Integrated Healthcare with Pediatrics and Psychiatry | \$177,000.00 | \$174,120.09 |
| 3 | 24-110-355 | City of Mission: Paramedic Initiative | \$76,240.00 | \$73,247.50 |
| 4 | 24-121-368 | Hidalgo County Precinct 1 Assistance to the City of Elsa - Stormwater Improvements | \$150,000.00 | \$142,979.49 |

Note: Project balances will be allocated to the American Rescue Plan Act: Administrative Costs (ARPA-22-115-079) general administrative needs.

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:

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

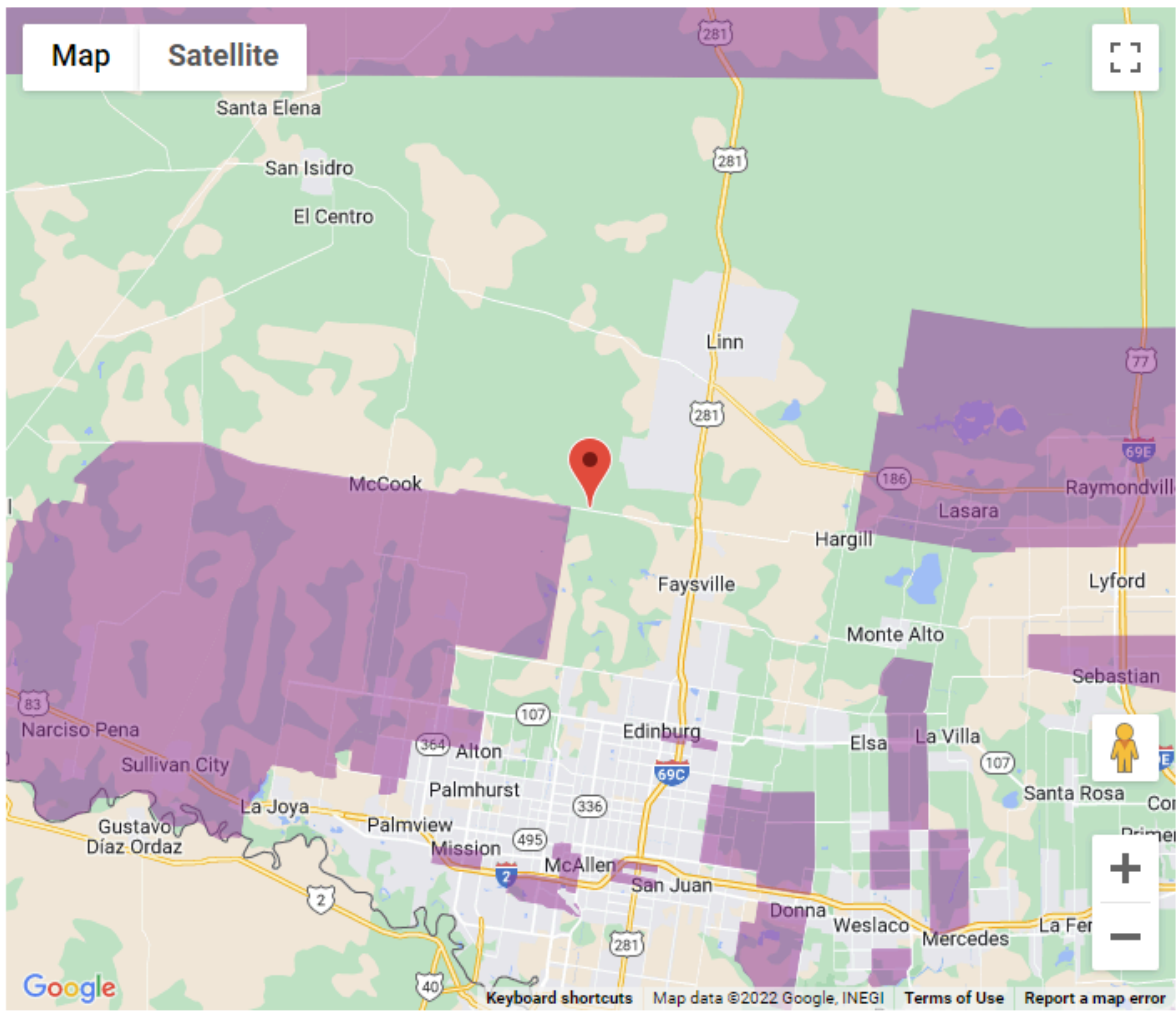


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public health services; public health surveillance (e.g., monitoring case trends, genomic sequencing for variants).²

Fiscal Impact: \$3,119,163.74

^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

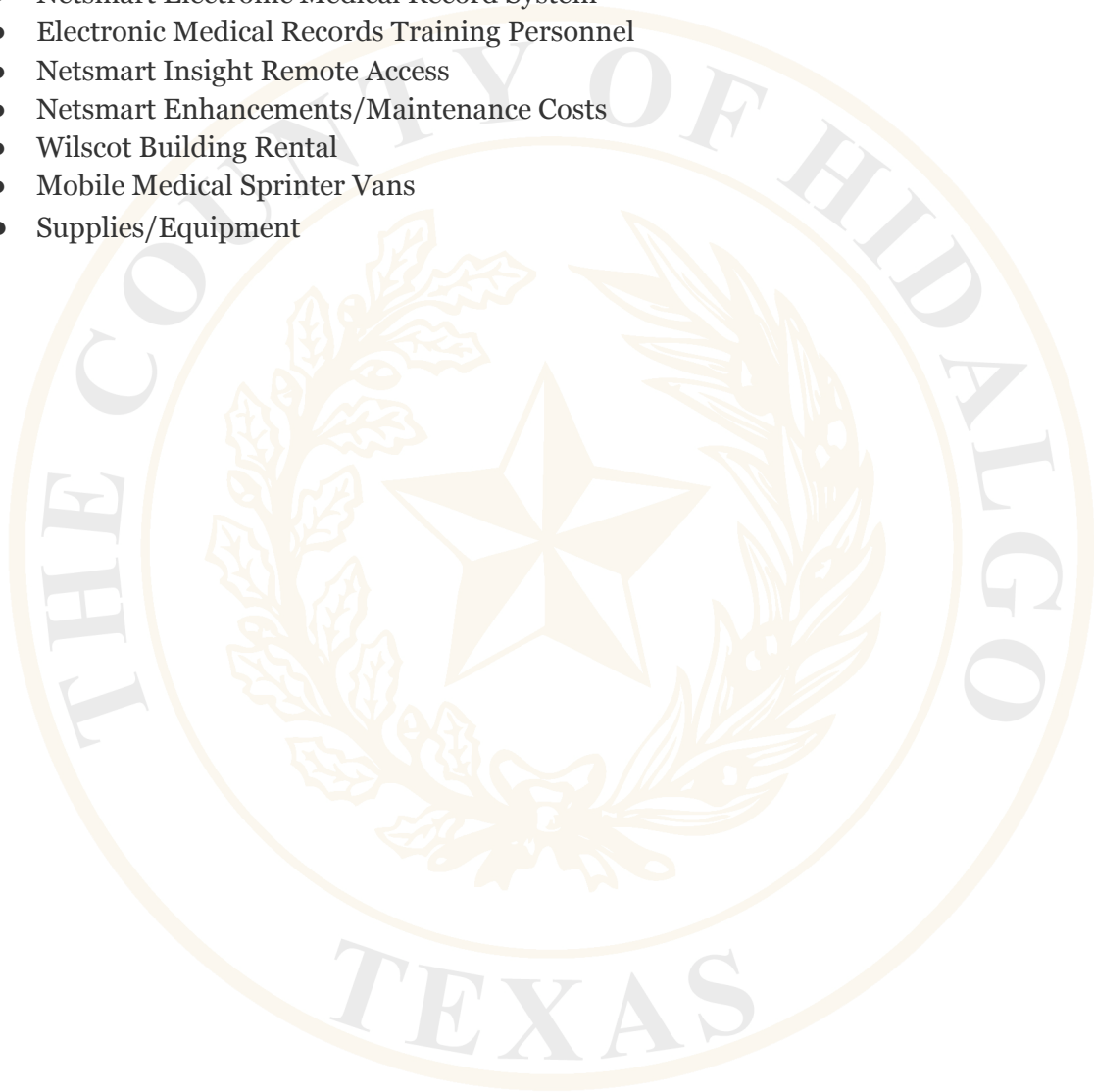


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Initiatives Include:

- 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





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Project Description

Project Name:

Assistance to the UTRGV School of Medicine - Integrated Behavioral Healthcare with Pediatrics and Psychiatry

Project Number:

ARPA-23-124-327

Department Name:

Hidalgo County Precinct 4

ARPA Expenditure Category:

1: Public Health

ARPA Eligibility Category:

1.12: Mental Health Services*^

Project Description:

Hidalgo County has seen an increase in the request for mental health care support. The impact of the pandemic has left residents facing serious behavioral health challenges. The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) School of Medicine has been providing these essential services via the John Austin Peña Clinic located at 3341 E. Richardson Rd., Edinburg, TX. Personnel treat primarily youth with mental health issues, addiction and illnesses such as diabetes. UT Health RGV aims to promote and sustain mental, emotional and physical health for children to become empowered responsible citizens in our communities. Hidalgo County will provide financial support to continue the operation of these vital community services and provide a safe, nurturing, and supportive response to the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency.

In the final rule, Treasury is maintaining this enumerated eligible use category and clarifying that it covers an expansive array of services for prevention, treatment, recovery, and harm reduction for mental health, substance use, and other behavioral health challenges caused or exacerbated by the public health emergency. The specific services listed in the interim final rule also remain eligible. Treasury is further clarifying that when providing behavioral health services, recipients can identify the impacted population as the general public and, as with all enumerated eligible uses, presume that all programs and services are reasonably proportional

responses to the harm identified unless a response is grossly disproportionate to the type or extent of harm experienced.¹

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.²

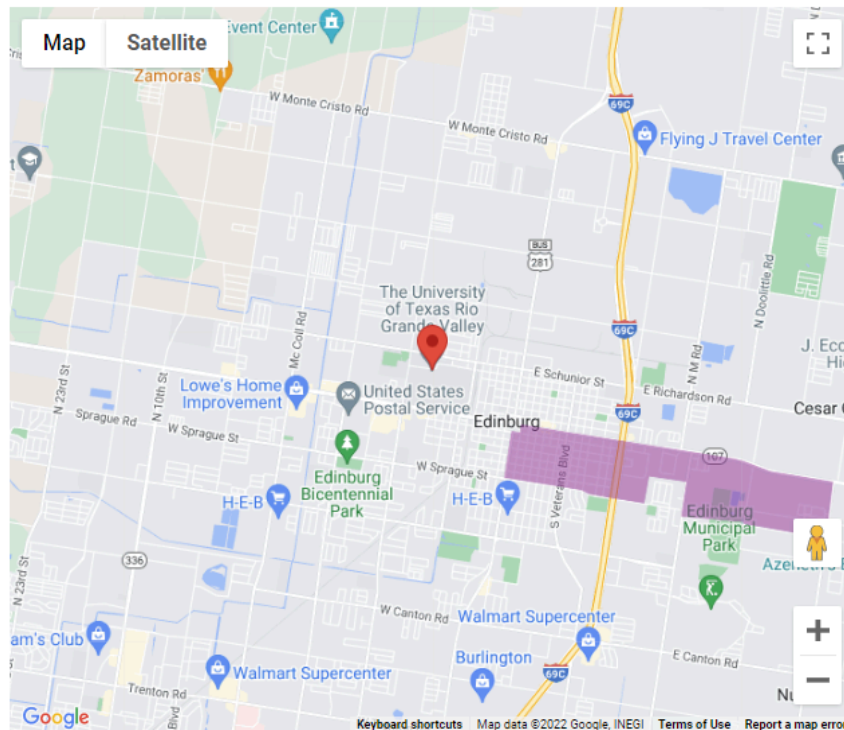
Fiscal Impact:

Estimated Budget: \$174,120.09

Evidence-Based:

<https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/take-action-to-improve-health/what-works-for-health/strategies/behavioral-health-primary-care-integration>

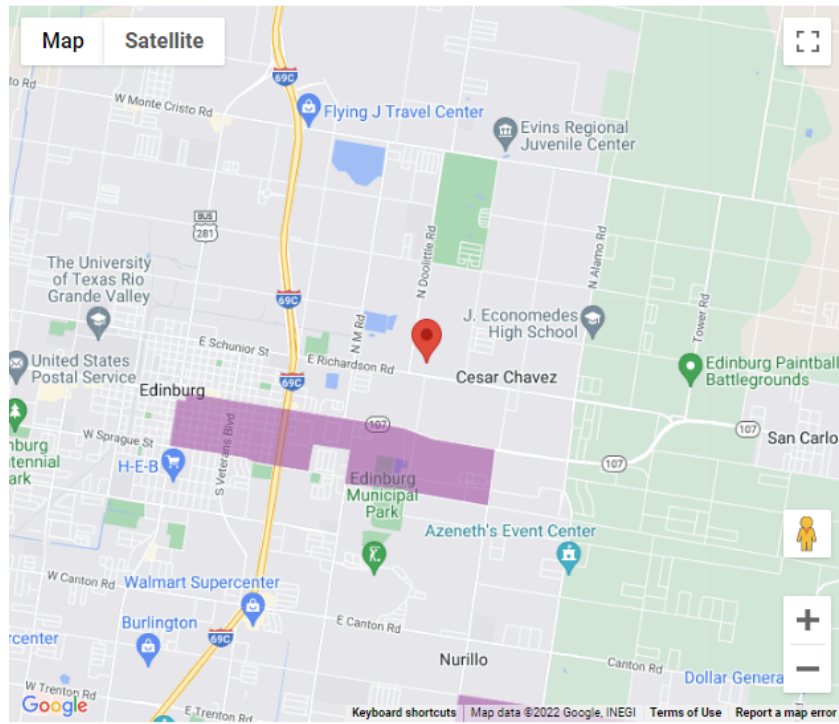
Below is the 2022 Qualified Census Tract Analysis for the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley - School of Medicine, located at 1201 W University Dr, Edinburg, TX 78539, which is approximately 1 mile from the nearest QCT area.



¹ Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4355

² Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4441

John Austin Pena Memorial Center, 3341 E Richardson Rd., Edinburg, TX, 78539, is also located 1 mile from the nearest QCT area and is in a 62.12% Low and Moderate Income Area.



Source: Office of Policy and Development and Research (PD&R) - Maps of Qualified Census Tracts and Difficult Development Areas huduser.gov/sadda/sadda/qct_html

LMISD by Block Group: Block Group 5, Census Tract 236, Hidalgo County, Texas

| | |
|------------|--|
| Source | 2015ACS |
| geoname | Block Group 5, Census Tract 236, Hidalgo County, Texas |
| Stusab | TX |
| Countyname | Hidalgo County |
| State | 48 |
| County | 215 |
| Tract | 023600 |
| Blckgrp | 5 |
| Low | 1160 |
| Lowmod | 1525 |
| Lmmi | 1950 |
| Lowmoduniv | 2455 |
| Lowmod_pct | 62.12 |
| ucLowmod | |
| ucLowmod_p | 0.00 |
| MOE_Lowmod | +/-30.63 |
| MOE_ucLowm | |

Source: HUD Exchange Low and Moderate Income Survey Data (LMISD) Map Application
(<https://hud.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ffd0597e8af24f88b501b7e7f326bedd>)



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

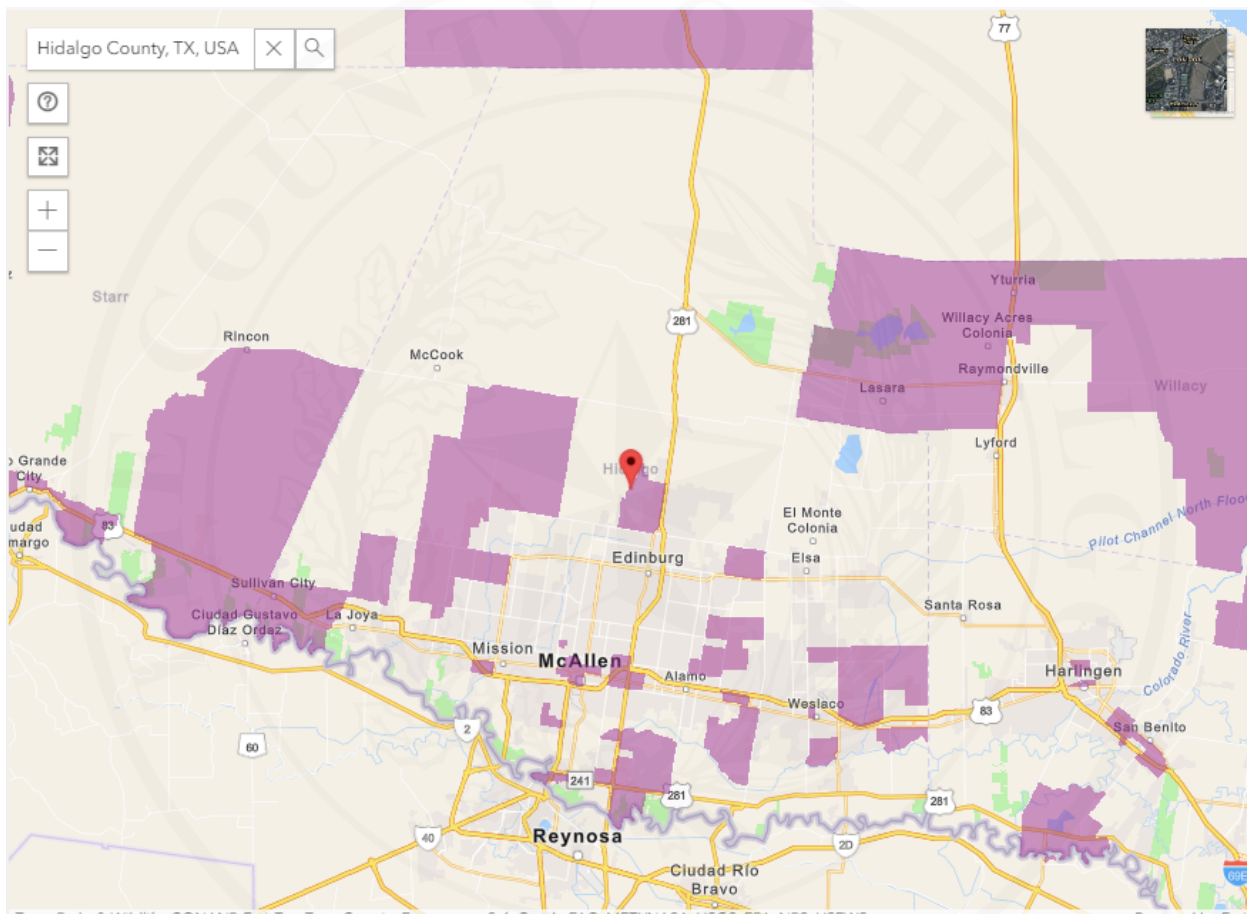
Fiscal Impact: \$73,247.50

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 Precinct 1 Assistance to the City of Elsa - Stormwater Improvements

Project Number:

ARPA-24-121-368

Program Name:

Hidalgo County American Rescue Plan Act Stormwater System Improvement Program

Department Name:

Hidalgo County Precinct 1

ARPA Expenditure Category:

5: Infrastructure

ARPA Eligibility Category:

5.6: Clean Water: Stormwater

Project Description:

Currently, the City of Elsa is in the process of addressing critical drainage issues with the existing drainage system at the entrance of North Fannin Street, which is located in a low to moderate income area. The City of Elsa is requesting assistance with stormwater management to repair infrastructure damage. This work not only includes valley gutter widening, but will also regrade and overlay the street area apron in order to ensure proper drainage is available to city residents. Hidalgo County Precinct 1 aims to assist the City of Elsa as this 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 subsurface drainage water are also eligible, including real-time control systems for combined sewer overflow management, and sediment control.²

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

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



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Fiscal Impact: \$142,979.49

