



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	21-280-061	Hidalgo County Prevention of Inmate Overcrowding Efforts	\$31,150,383.53	\$31,300,000.00
2	23-110-318	Quick Response Emergency Units	\$426,218.31	\$425,614.31
3	23-340-330	La Mansion Health Clinic Improvement Project	\$3,970,805.46	\$3,950,805.46
4	23-340-331	Hidalgo County Bio Safety Lab Efforts	\$2,507,227.39	\$2,507,205.93
5	23-340-351	Hidalgo County Edinburg Pulmonary Health Center Improvements Project	\$69,998.04	\$68,238.04
6	22-340-352	Hidalgo County McAllen Health Center Improvements Project	\$2,478,053.72	\$2,499,835.18
7	24-115-377	Hidalgo County Public Safety COVID-19 Response	\$17,212,467.50	\$17,062,851.03

Note:

Project decreases, #2 & 7, will be allocated to American Rescue Plan Act: Administrative Costs, ARPA-22-115-079.
 Project decreases, #3-5, will be allocated to Hidalgo County McAllen Health Center Improvements Project, 22-340-352.
 Project increase, #1, will be allocated from the American Rescue Plan Act: Administrative Costs, ARPA-22-115-079.

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.



Hidalgo County • Department of Budget & Management

American Rescue Plan Act 2021

Project Description

Project Name:

Hidalgo County Prevention of Inmate Overcrowding Efforts

Project Number:

ARPA-21-280-061

Department Name:

Sheriff

ARPA Expenditure Category:

1: Public Health

ARPA Eligibility Category:

1.4: Prevention in Congregate Settings (Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, etc.)* ^

Project Description:

The Hidalgo County Prevention Inmate Overcrowding Efforts project serves to address and offer alternative solutions to the COVID-19 public health emergency in correctional facilities. The overcrowding of the Hidalgo County jail is in part due to the extensive backlog of criminal jury trials and court cases that has developed and persists as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency. Although mitigation measures have been implemented, overcrowding persists. Therefore, the County of Hidalgo will utilize leasing as an alternative method to avoid and improve congregate settings in correctional facilities by transferring/ relocating inmates to other facilities to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and its new variants.

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. An enumerated eligible use of funds is support for prevention, mitigation, or other services in congregate living facilities (e.g., nursing homes, incarceration settings, homeless shelters, group living facilities) and other key settings like schools.¹ 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.”²

¹ Department of the Treasury (n.d.) Federal Register, Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (p. 4352)

² Department of the Treasury (n.d.) Federal Register, Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (p. 4353)



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

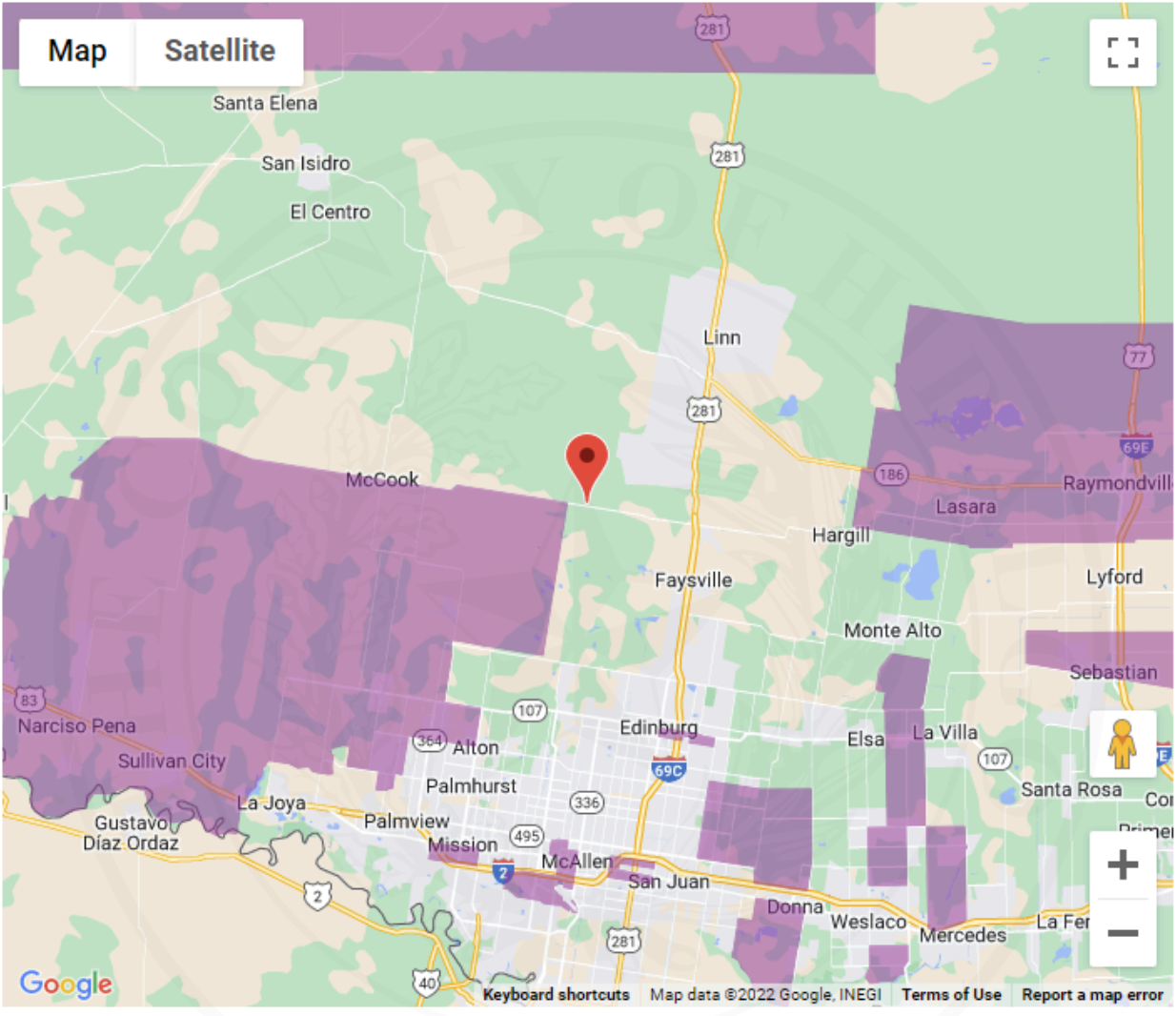
Fiscal Impact: \$425,614.31

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



Hidalgo County • Department of Budget & Management American Rescue Plan Act 2021

^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 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)

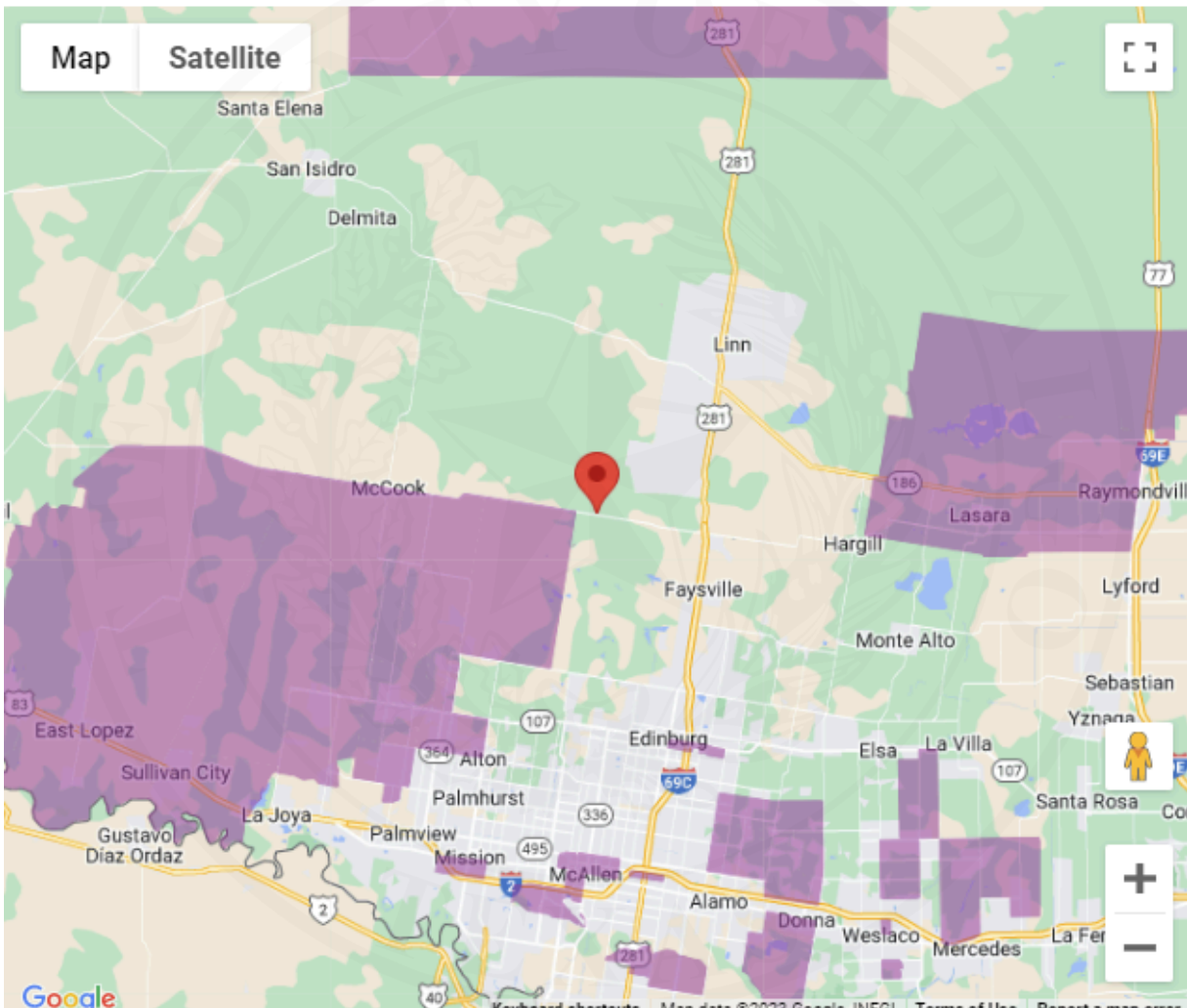


Hidalgo County • Department of Budget & Management American Rescue Plan Act 2021

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: \$2,507,205.93

^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 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

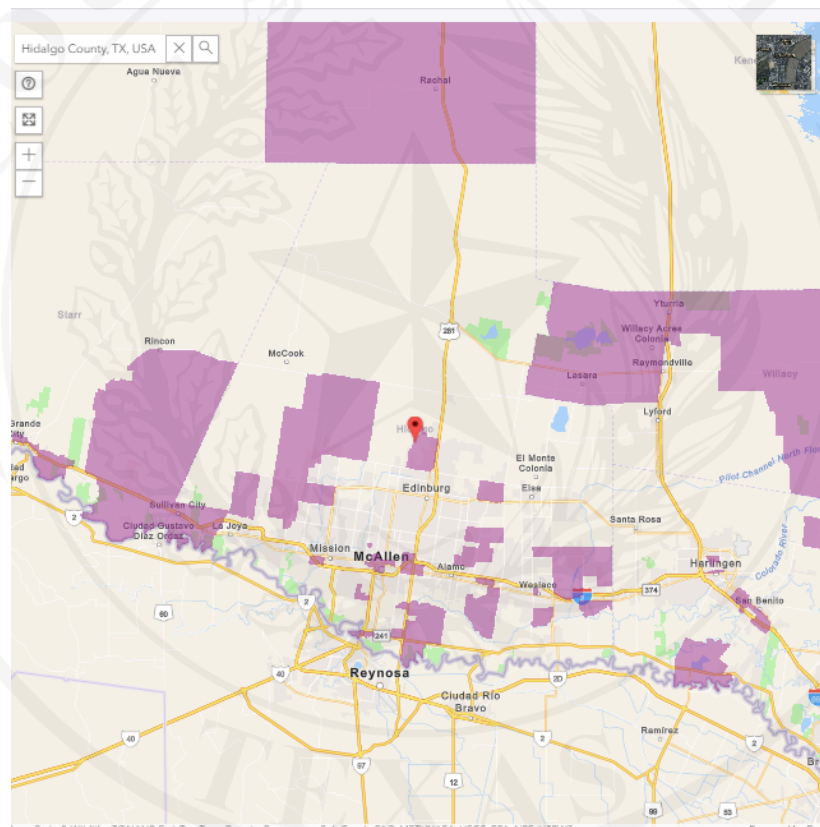


Hidalgo County • Department of Budget & Management American Rescue Plan Act 2021

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: \$68,238.04

^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:

Hidalgo County McAllen Health Center Improvements Project

Project Number:

ARPA-24-340-352

Program Name:

Hidalgo County McAllen 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 McAllen 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 McAllen Health Center, 300 East Hackberry Ave., McAllen, TX, 78501, is located in a Qualified Census Tract (QCT) area. To expand healthcare capacity, improvements include but are not limited to a new facility, professional services and other provisions necessary and suitable to meet operational needs. These provisions will provide a safe and sustainable building and enable employees to continue performing essential services for the residents of Hidalgo County to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 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

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



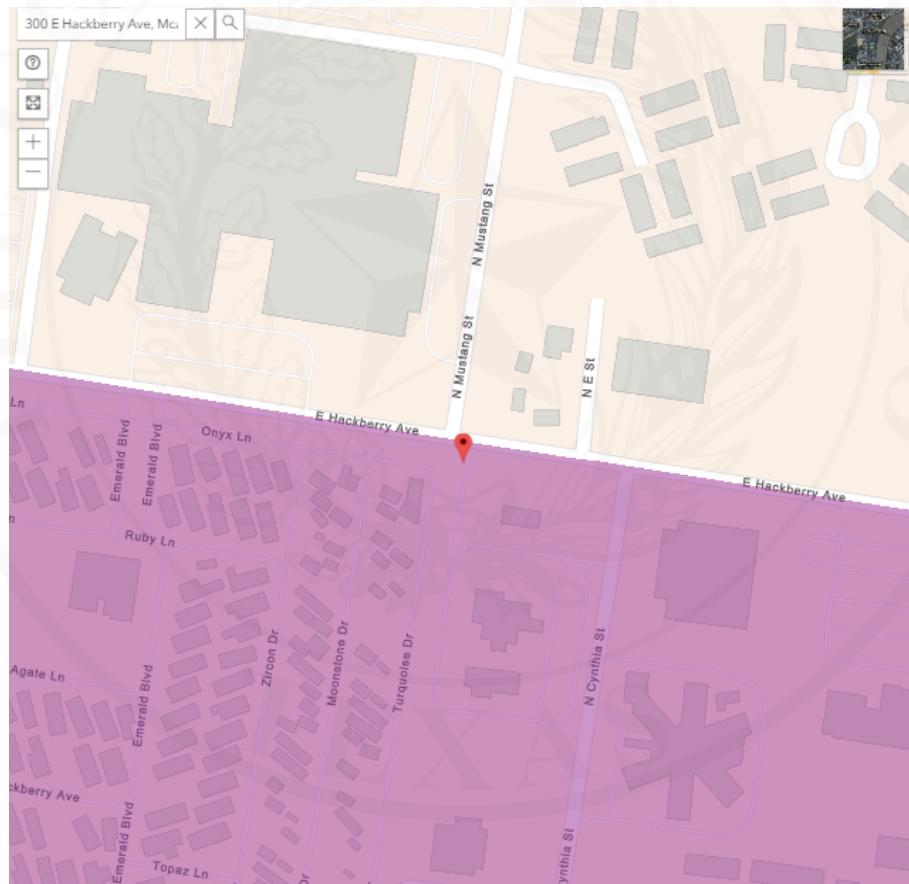
Hidalgo County • Department of Budget & Management

American Rescue Plan Act 2021

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 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: \$2,499,835.18

^Below is the Qualified Census Tract Analysis for 300 E. Hackberry Ave., McAllen, TX, 78501, and for Hidalgo County, respectively.

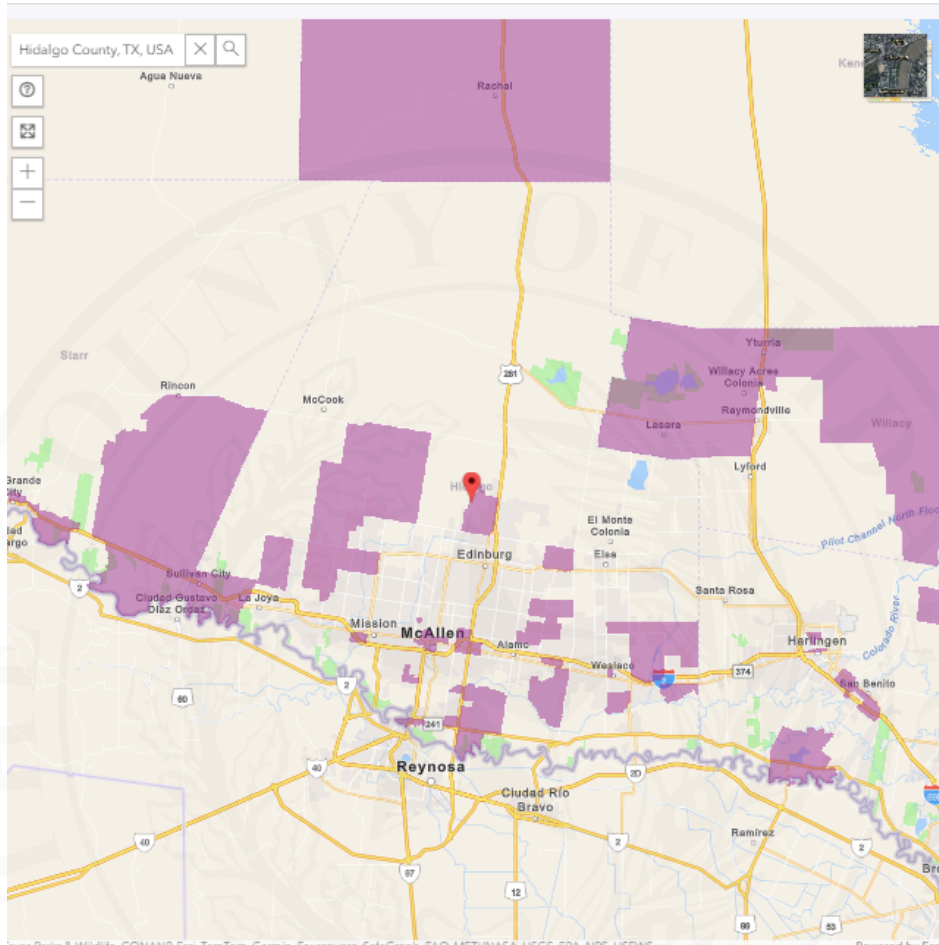


² Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4353

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



Hidalgo County • Department of Budget & Management American Rescue Plan Act 2021



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 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



Hidalgo County • Department of Budget & Management

American Rescue Plan Act

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: \$17,062,851.03

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