



The Hidalgo County Mental Health Awareness Speaker Initiative

WHEREAS, Hidalgo County (the “County”) is authorized pursuant to Section §381.004(b) of the Texas Local Government Code, to develop and administer state and local economic development programs for the purpose of stimulating business and commercial activity in the County; and

WHEREAS, the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court created the “Hidalgo County Economic Development Health and Wellness Program on September 23, 2025, pursuant to Section §381.004(b)(1) of the Texas Local Government Code, focused on the health and wellness of the County in order to stimulate business and commercial activity by improving the growth, sustainability, and diversity of the local economy and contributing to the long-term prosperity of the citizens of the County; and

WHEREAS, the Program will include provisions creating a speaker program that will create mental health awareness in Hidalgo County, for the purpose of promoting economic development, increasing workforce productivity, reducing healthcare costs, and promoting overall community resilience.

WHEREAS, the County has determined that the economic costs of poor mental health include reduced productivity, higher healthcare costs, and decreased investment; and

WHEREAS, the County has determined that the establishment of a mental health awareness speaker initiative is vital to economic development in fostering a more skilled and motivated workforce. Through coordination with the Hidalgo County Mental Health Coalition, the community is connected to resources and services throughout Hidalgo County, and

WHEREAS, a mental health speaker awareness initiative will help the County of Hidalgo promote understanding, reduce the stigma, and encourage people to manage their mental health, which improves their ability to concentrate, stay motivated, and complete tasks efficiently, thus boosting individual and overall economic output, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 381.004(c)(1) and (3) of the Texas Local Government Code, the County is authorized to spend public funds and provide personnel and services of the County to develop such programs, and to contract with another entity for the administration of the Program;

NOW, THEREFORE, the County does hereby covenant and agree as follows:

1. The County shall create a “The Hidalgo County Mental Health Awareness Speaker Initiative”, herein after referred to as (the “Initiative”), under the authority of the Texas Local Government Code §381.004(b)(1) and pursuant to the provisions of the Hidalgo County Economic Development Health and Wellness Program.

2. The Initiative shall be administered through the Office of the Hidalgo County Judge, Economic Development Department.
3. The Initiative shall help to serve the purposes of the Program, which is focused on stimulating business and commercial activity in Hidalgo County, as well as creating increased visibility for economic development, job creation, regionalization, and quality of life in the County and its vicinity to a local, state, and national audience.
4. The County may contract with other entities for assisting in the administration of the Initiative, and may provide partial funding, leverage existing services and personnel, or other resources for the development and administration of the Program and the Initiative.

Richard F. Cortez, County Judge

David L. Fuentes,
County Commissioner, Precinct 1

Eduardo "Eddie" Cantu,
County Commissioner, Precinct 2

Everardo "Ever" Villarreal,
County Commissioner, Precinct 3

Ellie Torres,
County Commissioner, Precinct 4

Attest:

Arturo Guajardo, Jr., County Clerk