

*Proclamation Recognizing  
the Hidalgo County Head Start Program on  
Receiving the National Program of Excellence  
Award and Accreditation*

*Whereas* in 1982, The County of Hidalgo was awarded a Head Start grant from the Department of Health and Human Services to provide comprehensive education, disability, health, nutrition, family and mental health services to children three to five years; and

*Whereas* for over four decades, the program in Hidalgo County has evolved and is constantly adapting, using evidence-based practices and teaching techniques that provide a safe and nurturing environment while promoting the physical, social, emotional and intellectual development in young children; and

*Whereas* the Hidalgo County Head Start Program has approximately 744 funded employees, an estimated enrollment of 2,720 students, twenty-five campuses and they partner with eight Independent School Districts, allowing them to expand and provide services to more of our youth by engaging in these partnerships; and

*Whereas* in September of 2025, the Hidalgo County Head Start Program, which is now the largest Head Start Program in the State of Texas, was awarded the prestigious Program of Excellence Award and Accreditation by the National Head Start Association. This recognition is valid for five years and is one of the highest honors bestowed upon Head Start programs nationwide; and

*Whereas* the five year accreditation follows a rigorous peer-review process, during which programs must demonstrate their ability to deliver measurable, accountable, and high-quality services across all areas of operation; and

*Whereas* out of approximately 1,600 Head Start programs across the United States and the U.S. Virgin Islands, only 12 programs are selected annually for this distinguished recognition. Remarkably, the Hidalgo County Head Start Program is the first Texas program to receive the Program of Excellence Award in nearly two decades.

*Now, therefore, be it proclaimed* that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court does hereby recognize and congratulates the Hidalgo County Head Start Program and all of their faculty and staff who were crucial components to ensure Hidalgo County Head Start Program earned this very prestigious award.

**Approved this 30<sup>th</sup> day of September 2025.**

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**RICHARD F. CORTEZ**  
County Judge

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**DAVID L. FUENTES**  
County Commissioner, Pct. 1

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**EDUARDO "EDDIE" CANTU**  
County Commissioner, Pct. 2

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**EVERARDO "EVER" VILLARREAL**  
County Commissioner, Pct. 3

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**ELLIE TORRES**  
County Commissioner, Pct. 4

**Attest:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR.**  
County Clerk