



Project Description

Project Name:

Hidalgo County Precinct 2 Assistance to Vermund G. Hansen Unit No. 101 The American Legion

Project Number:

ARPA-24-122-374

Program:

The Hidalgo County Precinct 2 Assistance to Vermund G. Hansen Unit No. 101 The American Legion, will be part of the Hidalgo County American Rescue Plan Act Nonprofit Negative Economic Impacts Program

Department Name:

Hidalgo County Precinct 2

ARPA Expenditure Category:

2: Negative Economic Impacts

ARPA Eligibility Category:

2.34: Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)^

Project Description:

The psychological impact of COVID-19 on the general population and healthcare workers was profound; however, relatively less attention has been paid to veterans. Veterans experienced more mental health problems than civilians. The prevalence rates of alcohol use, anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, stress, loneliness, and suicide ideation significantly increased during the pandemic, ranging from 9.6% to 47.4%, 9.4% to 53.5%, 8.6% to 55.1%, 4.1% to 58.0%, 4.3% to 39.4%, 15.9% to 28.4%, and 7.8% to 22.0%, respectively. The main risk factors of negative consequences included pandemic-related stress, poor family relationships, lack of social support, financial problems, and preexisting mental disorders¹. Similarly, Hidalgo County Precinct 2 veterans have faced these same mental health challenges. Due to limited financial resources and fundraising opportunities, the Vermund G. Hansen Unit No. 101 The American Legion is requesting assistance with construction of a new veteran facility to provide a

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<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10131745/#:~:text=The%20prevalence%20rates%20of%20alcohol.%25%20to%2022.0%25%2C%20respectively.>



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better atmosphere when providing needs-based services for veterans. The Vermund G. Hansen Unit No. 101 The American Legion, located in a qualified census tract and whose mission it is to provide vital services to veterans and the community, including education programs, health and

mental support, and assistance with disability benefits. Hidalgo County Precinct 2 aims to assist the Vermund G. Hansen Unit No. 101 The American Legion, 417 S Cage Blvd., Pharr, TX, 78577, to provide a safe and nurturing environment for veterans to continue to receive adequate support to maintain mental well-being and access needs-based services to alleviate the negative effects of COVID-19.

The interim final rule provided significant flexibility for recipients to determine which households, populations, communities, or small businesses have been impacted and/or disproportionately impacted by the pandemic and to identify appropriate responses.² In other words, recipients can provide any COVID–19 prevention or mitigation service to small businesses, nonprofits, and businesses in impacted industries without any further analysis of impacts of the pandemic on those entities and whether the service is responsive.³ 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.⁴

Fiscal Impact: \$450,000.00

² Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4342

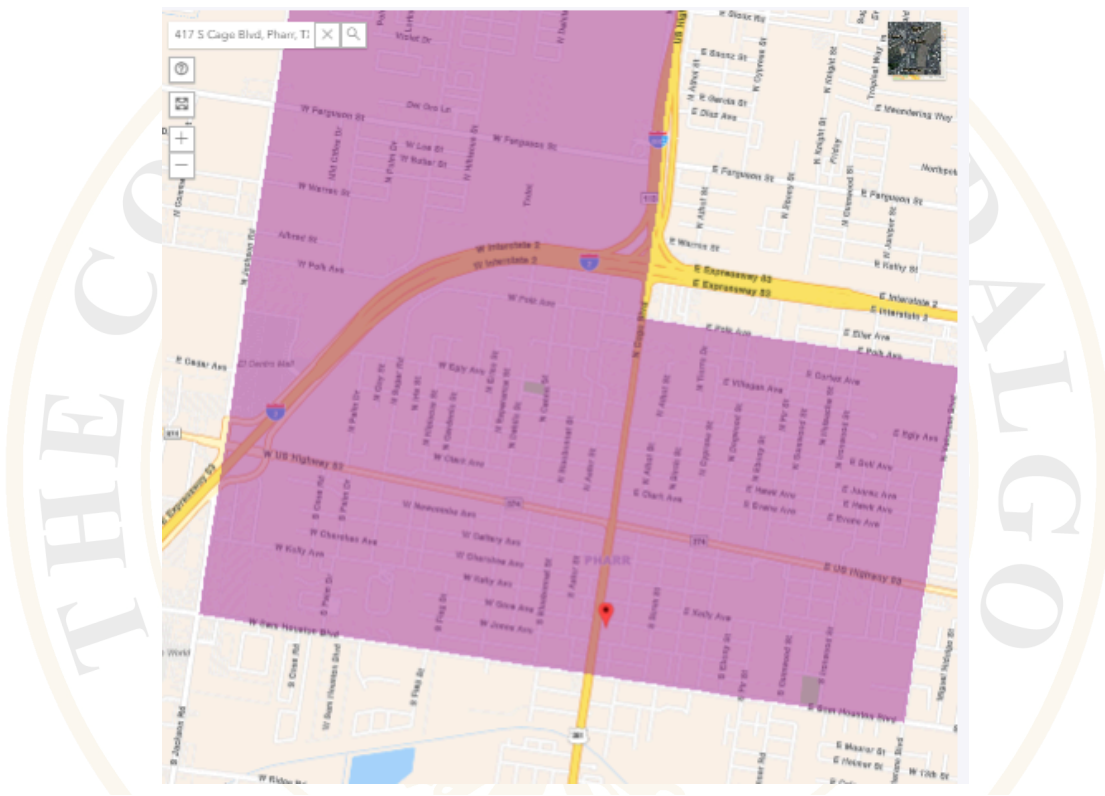
³ Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4354

⁴ Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4441



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^Below is the Qualified Census Tract Analysis for 417 S Cage Blvd., Pharr, TX, 78577.



Source: Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R): [2023 and 2024 Small Difficult Development Areas \(DDAs\) and Qualified Census Tracts \(QCTs\)](#)