



**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	21-123-023	Hidalgo County Precinct 3 Park Improvements	\$2,556,615.99	\$2,456,785.57
2	21-123-028	Precinct 3 Farm to Market Rd. 2221 Stormwater Improvement	\$1,315,226.85	\$1,051,156.35
3	21-121-037	Hidalgo County Precinct 1 Hike and Bike Trail	\$4,875,000.00	\$3,782,714.72
4	21-122-040	Hidalgo County Precinct 2 Recreational Trail Connectivity and Development Project	\$8,942,392.57	\$8,413,132.40
5	22-121-044	Hidalgo County Precinct 1 Mercedes Gate Structure Stormwater Project	\$1,132,878.52	\$1,058,164.21
6	22-121-045	Hidalgo County Precinct 1 Inline Check Valves Stormwater Project	\$1,000,000.00	\$585,288.83
7	22-123-075	Hidalgo County Precinct 3 El Paraiso Community Resource Center	\$5,578,106.17	\$5,518,215.26
8	22-122-109	Hidalgo County Precinct 2 Las Milpas Rd. Stormwater Management Project	\$2,599,166.50	\$2,588,892.14
9	24-121-362	Hidalgo County Precinct 1 Sunrise Hill Park Improvements	\$1,497,500.00	\$528,127.36
10	24-121-363	Hidalgo County Precinct 1 Sunset Park Improvements	\$200,000.00	\$158,439.12
11	24-115-373	Hidalgo County El Milagro Clinic II	\$75,698.83	\$0.00
12	24-115-377	Hidalgo County Public Safety COVID-19 Response	\$24,303,197.89	\$27,934,867.36



## Hidalgo County • Department of Budget & Management

### American Rescue Plan Act

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Note: Funds will be transferred to contingency then to the applicable project.

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 Precinct 3 Park Improvements

**Project Number:**

ARPA-21-123-023

**Program:**

The Hidalgo County Precinct 3 will be part of the Hidalgo County American Rescue Plan Act Recreational Development Program.

**Department Name:**

Hidalgo County Precinct 1

**ARPA Expenditure Category:**

2: Negative Economic Impacts

**ARPA Eligibility Category:**

2.22: Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety^

**Project Description:**

The COVID-19 pandemic has made it clear that parks are crucial to a community's quality of life. People turned to parks for fresh air, exercise and solace from pandemic-related stressors. The Hidalgo County Precinct 3 Park Improvements Project will include the following parks: Katarina North Park, Katarina South Park, Abram Park, Los Ebanos Park, Los Ebanos Pavilion, and Veterans Memorial Pavilion. This project will improve the accessibility and function of Precinct 3 parks to constituents living in and around Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs) and Low to Moderate Income Areas (LMI), as they will be designed to benefit the health and well-being of residents and promote improved health outcomes. This project aims to create safe spaces that will promote health and safety outcomes for its residents by providing healthy play, wellness, and recreation areas to help mitigate the ongoing effects of COVID-19. The project includes but is not limited to professional services, park equipment, amenities, safety features, supplies, materials, and other necessary provisions.

Treasury recognizes the connection between neighborhood built environment and physical health outcomes as discussed in the research and analysis provided by commenters, including risk factors that may have contributed to disproportionate COVID-19 health impacts in low-income communities. The final rule includes enumerated eligible uses in disproportionately impacted communities for developing neighborhood features that promote improved health and safety outcomes, such as parks, green spaces, recreational facilities, sidewalks, pedestrian safety features like crosswalks, projects that increase access to healthy foods, streetlights,



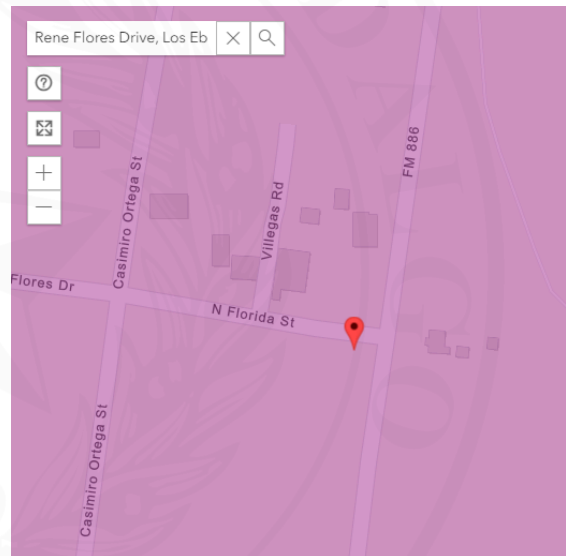
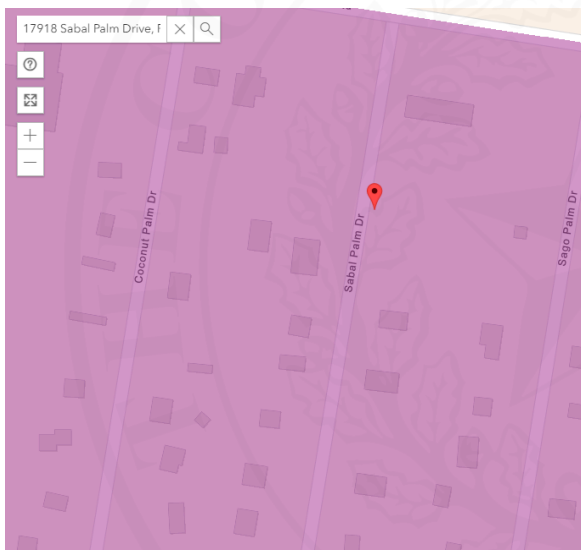
## Hidalgo County • Department of Budget & Management American Rescue Plan Act

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neighborhood cleanup, and other projects to revitalize public spaces.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup>

**Fiscal Impact:** \$2,456,785.57

^Below is the 2024 Qualified Census Tract Analysis for the following: Katarina Park South - 17918 Sabal Palm Drive, Peñitas, TX 78576, Los Ebanos Park - Rene Flores Ave, Los Ebanos, TX 78565 and Veterans Memorial Park Pavilion - S Inspiration Rd, Mission, TX 78572



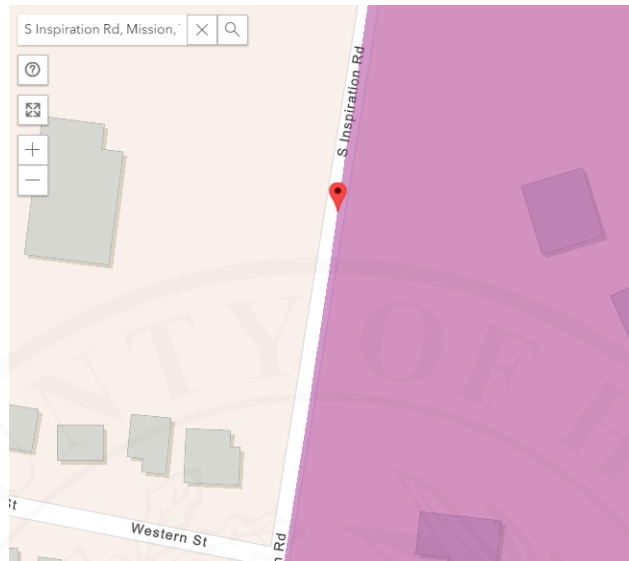
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<sup>1</sup> Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4373

<sup>2</sup> 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



Source: Office of Policy Development and Research 2023 and 2024 Small Difficult Development Areas (DDAs) and Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs):

[https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sadda/sadda\\_qct.html](https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sadda/sadda_qct.html)

^Below is the 2024 Low to Moderate Income Area Analysis for the following:

Katarina Park North - 18118 Queen Palm Drive, Peñitas, TX 78576, Los Ebanos Pavilion - 225 6th St, Los Ebanos, TX 78565 and Abram Park - Domingo Trevino Drive, Mission, TX 78572

**LMISD by County Subdivision: Sullivan City CCD**

State	48
County	215
CoSub	93785
Name	Sullivan City CCD
STUSAB	TX
LOW	15,195.00
LOWMOD	21,835.00
LMMI	27,585.00
LOWMODUNIV	33,965.00
LOWMOD_PCT	64.29
UCLOWMOD	
UCLOWMOD_P	

**LMISD by Place: Los Ebanos CDP**

GEOID	4844104
NAME	Los Ebanos CDP
PLACE_TYPE	Census-designated Places
STATE	48
STUSAB	TX
LOW	135.00
LOWMOD	195.00
LMMI	195.00
LOWMODUNIV	195.00
LOWMOD_PCT	100.00
UCLOWMOD	
UCLOWMOD_P	0.00



## Hidalgo County • Department of Budget & Management

American Rescue Plan Act

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### LMISD by Place: Abram CDP

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GEOID	4801060
NAME	Abram CDP
PLACE_TYPE	Census-designated Places
STATE	48
STUSAB	TX
LOW	955.00
LOWMOD	1,315.00
LMMI	1,615.00
LOWMODUNIV	1,910.00
LOWMOD_PCT	68.85
UCLOWMOD	
UCLOWMOD_P	0.00

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:**

Hidalgo County Precinct 3 Farm to Market Rd. 2221 (FM2221) Stormwater Project

**Project Number:**

ARPA-21-123-028

**Program:**

The Hidalgo County Precinct 3 FM2221 Stormwater Project will be part of the Hidalgo County American Rescue Plan Act Stormwater System Improvement Program.

**Precinct/Department Name:**

Hidalgo County Precinct 3

**ARPA Expenditure Category:**

5. Infrastructure

**ARPA Eligibility Category:**

5.6 Clean Water Stormwater

**Project Description:**

The Hidalgo County Precinct 3 FM2221 Stormwater Project, located between Jara Chinas Road and El Pinto Road, is in need of sewer repair and subsurface drainage water due to damages caused by inclement weather. The FM2221 Stormwater project will prevent the road from flooding and ensure that access to connected roads is safe. In this way, residents are able to transit to receive access to essential services, including access to health care services.

The Interim Final Rule aligns types of eligible projects that are supported by Clean Water State Revolving Fund, in which stormwater projects can be an assistance to any public, private, or nonprofit entity for measures to manage, reduce, treat, or recapture stormwater or subsurface drainage water. Efficient sewage services directly translate into a healthier community by providing clean water and avoiding potential environmental disasters. These basic needs are critical to the health and ability to work and learn of the residents of the County of Hidalgo, particularly for the disadvantaged and low-income minorities.

**Fiscal Impact:** \$1,051,156.35



## **Project Description**

**Project Name:**

Hidalgo County Precinct 1 Hike & Bike Trail Project

**Project Number:**

ARPA-21-121-037

**Program Name:**

The Hidalgo County Precinct 1 Hike & Bike Trail Project will be part of the Hidalgo County American Rescue Plan Act Recreational Development Program.

**Department Name:**

Hidalgo County Precinct 1

**ARPA Expenditure Category:**

2: Negative Economic Impacts

**ARPA Eligibility Category:**

2.22: Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety<sup>^</sup>

**Project Description:**

Hidalgo County Precinct 1 is planning on developing a Hike & Bike Trail in their Mid-Valley area that will pass by the Cities of Mercedes, Weslaco, Donna, Alamo, and Pharr. The Precinct 1 Hike & Bike Trail is designed to build stronger neighborhoods and communities and address health disparities and the social determinants of health.

Treasury's Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CSLFRF) Interim Final Rule recognizes parks, hike & bike trails and other recreational spaces as methods of creating stronger communities, addressing social determinants of health and confronting public health disparities.

**Need Assessment:**

The purpose of the Hidalgo County Precinct 1 Hike & Bike Trail is congruent with the overall objective of the Hidalgo County American Rescue Plan Act Recreational Development Program, which is to improve the accessibility and function of recreational spaces to constituents living in, near and around Qualified Census Tract areas.

By creating access to more recreational space together with park amenities including but not limited to lighting, park benches, and exercise equipment, the hike and bike trails are intended to provide outdoor recreational spaces that will be responsive to the needs of disproportionately impacted communities by promoting healthier living environments and socialization which



## Hidalgo County • Department of Budget & Management

### American Rescue Plan Act 2021

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helps to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 throughout and beyond the ongoing public health emergency.

**Fiscal Impact:** \$3,782,714.72

Trail - \$2,969,621.56

Personnel - \$813,093.16

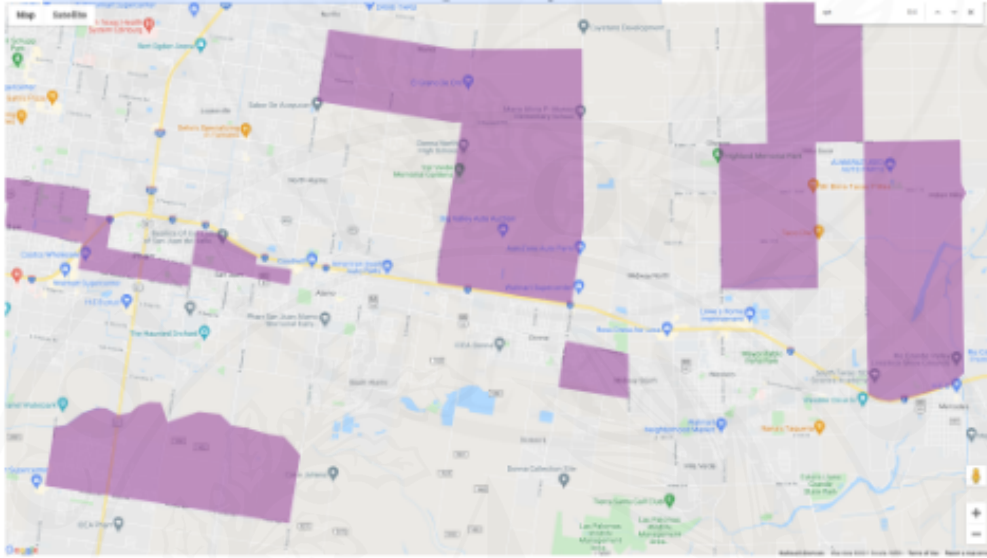
### Proposed Hike and Bike Trail Map



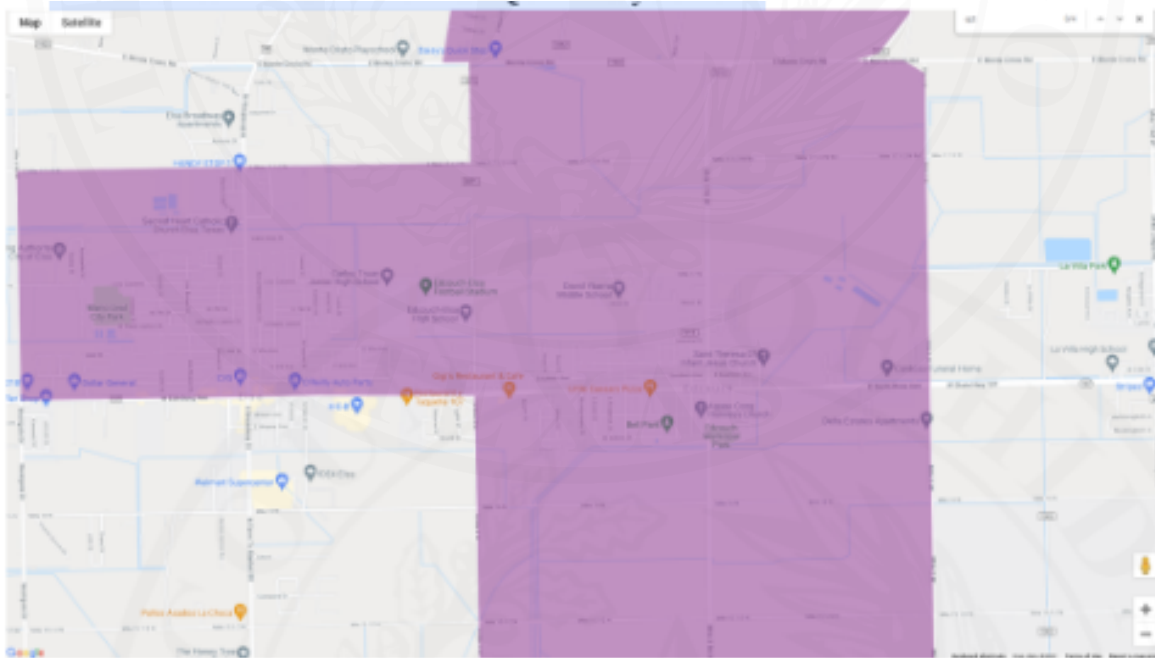


**^QCT Preliminary Analysis**

- Precinct 1 Hike & Bike Trail QCT Analysis 2021



- Precinct 1 Hike & Bike Trail QCT Analysis 2022





## **Project Description**

**Project Name:**

Hidalgo County Precinct 2 Recreational Trail Connectivity and Development Project

**Project Number:**

ARPA-21-122-040

**Program Name:**

Hidalgo County Precinct 2 Recreational Trail Connectivity and Development Project will be part of the Hidalgo County American Rescue Plan Act Recreational Development Program.

**Department Name:**

Hidalgo County Precinct 2

**ARPA Expenditure Category:**

2: Negative Economic Impacts

**ARPA Eligibility Category:**

2.22: Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety^

**Project Description:**

The Hidalgo County Precinct 2 Recreational Trail Connectivity and Development Project will extend the existing Hidalgo County Precinct 2 Regional Hike and Bike Trail, which currently provides connections to the City of McAllen, City of Pharr, and the City of San Juan. This project will expand these existing trails and connect them to the cities of McAllen, Hidalgo, and Mission. The Hidalgo County Precinct 2 Recreational Trail Connectivity and Development Project will service a larger portion of the Hidalgo County community and provide safe recreational spaces for constituents living in, near and around Qualified Census Tract (QCT) locations, and support people's physical, social, emotional, and mental health.

Parks, hike & bike trails, and other recreational spaces, such as the existing Hidalgo County Precinct 2 Regional Hike and Bike Trail, have served a critical function in the mental health of individuals, addressing social determinants of health and confronting public health disparities, particularly for low-income communities. Additionally, the Hidalgo County Precinct 2 Recreational Trail Connectivity and Development Project will be expansive, allowing for safe enjoyment while maintaining social distance with the mission to build stronger neighborhoods and communities and address health disparities and the social determinants of health that the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency has exacerbated.

**Need Assessment:**

The purpose of the Hidalgo County Precinct 2 Recreational Trail Connectivity and Development Project is congruent with the overall objective of the Hidalgo County American Rescue Plan Act



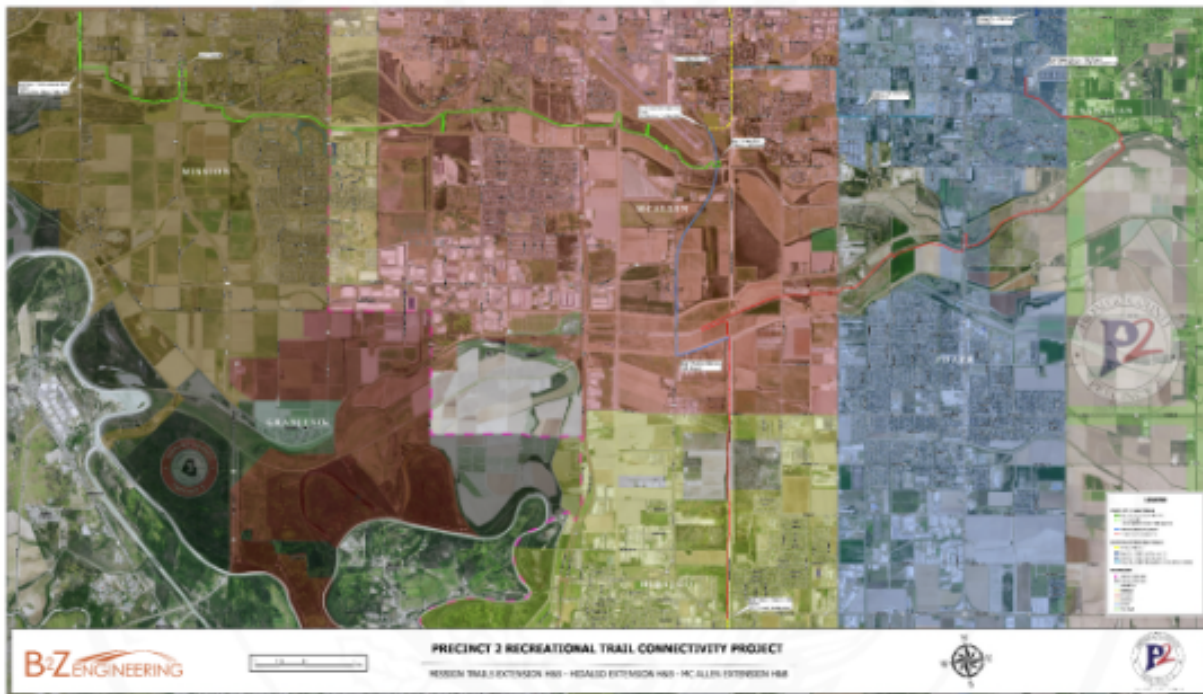
Recreational Development Program, which is to improve the accessibility and function of parks and hike and bike trail to constituents living in, near and around Qualified Census Tract areas. Additionally, to be responsive and committed to providing essential outdoor spaces with the purpose of making our community a more desirable place to live, work, and play.

The extension of the Hidalgo County Precinct 2 Regional Hike and Bike Trail aims to promote wellness among residents living in, near, and around QCT locations by providing more recreational space for exercising and socializing. As a direct outcome, the Hidalgo County Precinct 2 Recreational Trail Connectivity and Development Project will improve the overall quality of life of the Hidalgo County residents.

**Fiscal Impact:** \$8,413,132.40

**QCT Analysis:**

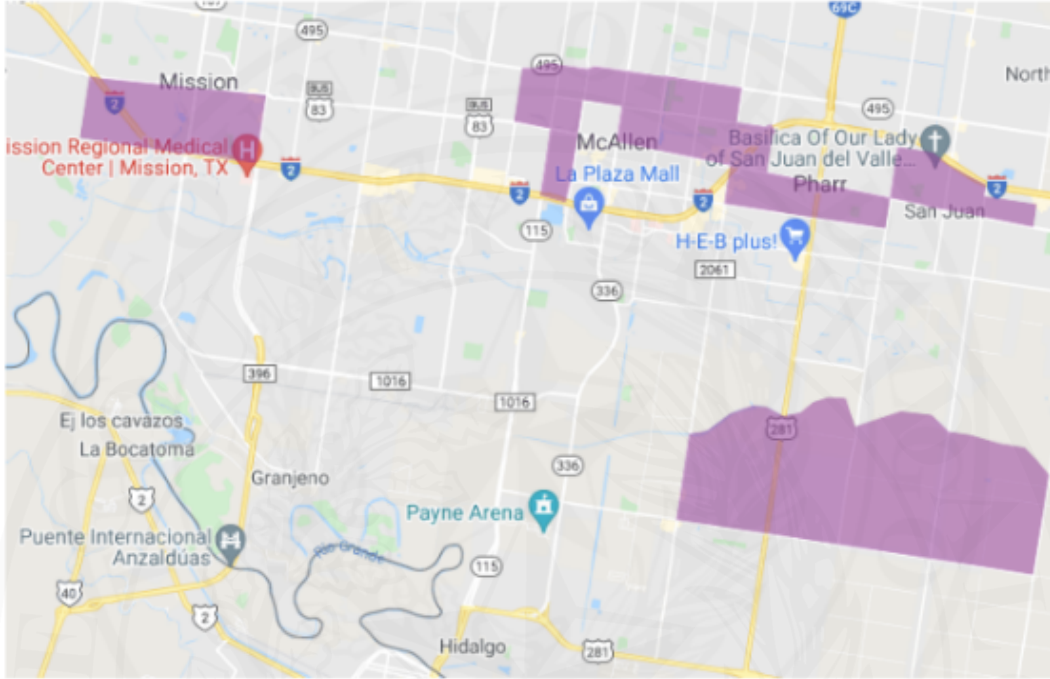
- Hidalgo County Precinct 2 Recreational Trail Connectivity and Development Project - Project Layout



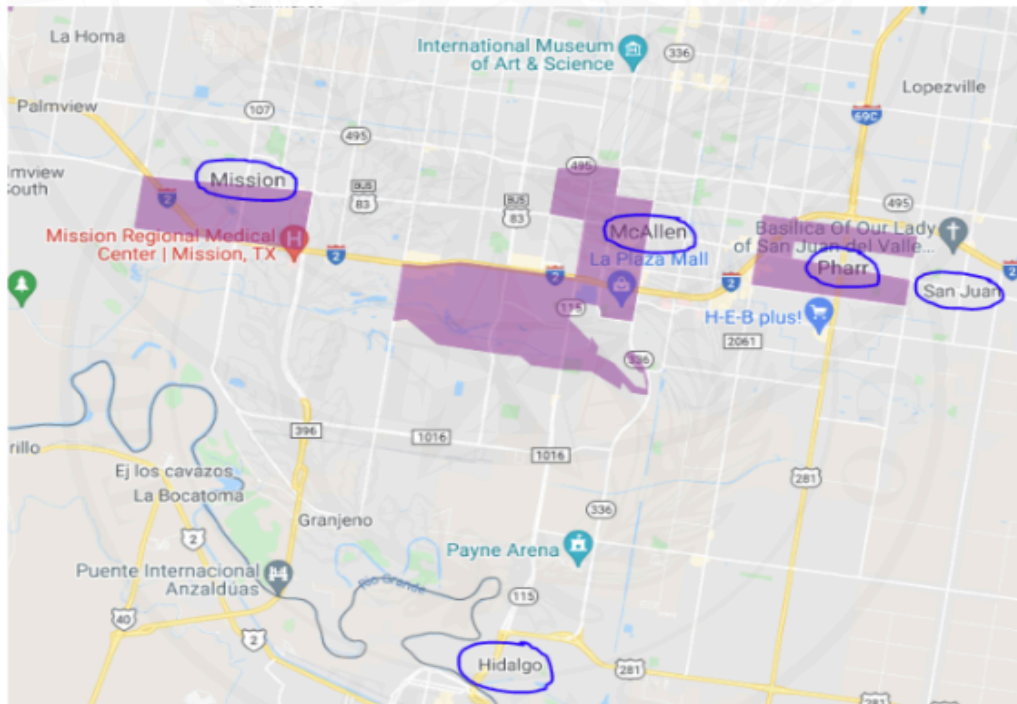
To visualize the map at larger scale please click on the link below:  
<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=c81b5f8f9d&attid=0.10&permmsgid=msg-f:1721145829851300283&th=17e2bd0362ee81bb&view=att&disp=inline&realattid=17e2bcec3afdab0fc7aa>



- Precinct 2 Recreational Trail Connectivity and Development Project QCT Analysis 2021



- Precinct 2 Recreational Trail Connectivity and Development Project QCT Analysis 2022





## Project Description

**Project Name:**

Hidalgo County Precinct 1 Mercedes Gate Structure Stormwater Project

**Project Number:**

ARPA-22-121-044

**Program:**

The Hidalgo County Precinct 1 Mercedes Gate Structure will be part of the Hidalgo County American Rescue Plan Act Stormwater System Improvement Program.

**Precinct/Department Name:**

Hidalgo County Precinct 1

**ARPA Expenditure Category:**

5: Infrastructure

**ARPA Eligibility Category:**

5.6: Clean Water: Stormwater

**Project Description:**

The Hidalgo County Precinct 1 Mercedes Gate Structure Stormwater Project will reduce stormwater for the area south of Business 83 and west of S. Capisallo Road. The Mercedes Gate Structure consists of regrading approximately 4,000 L.F of the ditch, adding an additional box culvert at 14th St., and adding a third outfall that consists of box culvert and gate structure that will cross under the USIBWC Levee and discharge into the USIBWC Floodway. Efficient sewage services directly translate into a healthier community by providing clean water and avoiding potential environmental disasters. These basic needs are critical to the health and ability to work and learn of low-income minorities.

As per the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds FAQ document, in question 6.15, recipients are able to use ARPA funds for road repairs and upgrades directly related to an eligible water or sewer project. Efficient sewage services directly translate into a healthier community by providing clean water and avoiding potential environmental disasters. These basic needs are critical to the health and ability to work and learn of the residents of the County of Hidalgo, particularly for the disadvantaged and low-income minorities.

**Fiscal Impact:** \$1,058,164.21



## **Project Description**

**Project Name:**

Hidalgo County Precinct 1 Inline Check Valves Stormwater Project

**Project Number:**

ARPA-21-121-045

**Program:**

The Hidalgo County Precinct 1 Inline Check Valves Stormwater Project will be part of the Hidalgo County American Plan Act Stormwater System Improvement Program.

**Precinct/Department Name:**

Hidalgo County Precinct 1

**ARPA Expenditure Category:**

5. Infrastructure

**ARPA Eligibility Category:**

5.6 Clean Water: Stormwater

**Project Description:**

The Hidalgo County Precinct 1 Inline Check Valves Stormwater Project improvements will assist in addressing and improving the backflow for flooding problems in low-lying areas. Efficient stormwater services directly translate into a healthier community by providing clean water and avoiding potential environmental disasters. These basic needs are critical to the health and ability to work and learn of low-income minorities.

As per the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds FAQ document, in question 6.15, recipients are able to use ARPA funds for road repairs and upgrades directly related to an eligible water or sewer project. Efficient sewage services directly translate into a healthier community by providing clean water and avoiding potential environmental disasters. These basic needs are critical to the health and ability to work and learn of the residents of the County of Hidalgo, particularly for the disadvantaged and low-income minorities.

**Fiscal Impact:**

Estimated Budget: \$585,288.83



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

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## **Project Description**

**Project Name:**

Hidalgo County Precinct 3 El Paraiso Community Resource Center

**Project Number:**

ARPA-22-123-075

**Precinct/Department Name:**

Hidalgo County Precinct 3

**ARPA Expenditure Category:**

2: Negative Economic Impacts

**ARPA Eligibility Category:**

2.10: Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers (e.g. job training, subsidized employment, employment supports or incentives)\*^

**Project Description:**

The Hidalgo County Precinct 3 El Paraiso Community Resource Center (CRC) intends to utilize ARPA Relief funds to construct a community resource center located in a Qualified Census Tract (QCT) area. The CRC's objective is to respond to the negative effects that the pandemic has exacerbated in terms of unemployed and underemployed community members. The Community Resource Center would provide learning opportunities, training and other related services (special lectures, guest speakers, career fairs, counseling, etc.) to all community members within the vicinity of the center. The programs are intended to improve the opportunities of the disadvantaged and most vulnerable Hidalgo County Community members during and after the COVID-19 public health emergency through assistance to unemployed workers including job training, rehiring efforts, and childcare assistance to assist in the reduction of the unemployment rate within the community.

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.<sup>1</sup> In the Final Rule, Commenters also requested use of funds for capital expenditures that support community needs apart from health care, such as new construction or improvements to schools, affordable housing (beyond presumed disproportionately impacted communities), childcare facilities, and community centers.<sup>2</sup> The Treasury is also enumerating that job and workforce

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

<sup>2</sup> Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4389

training centers are eligible capital expenditures...<sup>3</sup>

**Fiscal Impact:** \$5,518,215.26

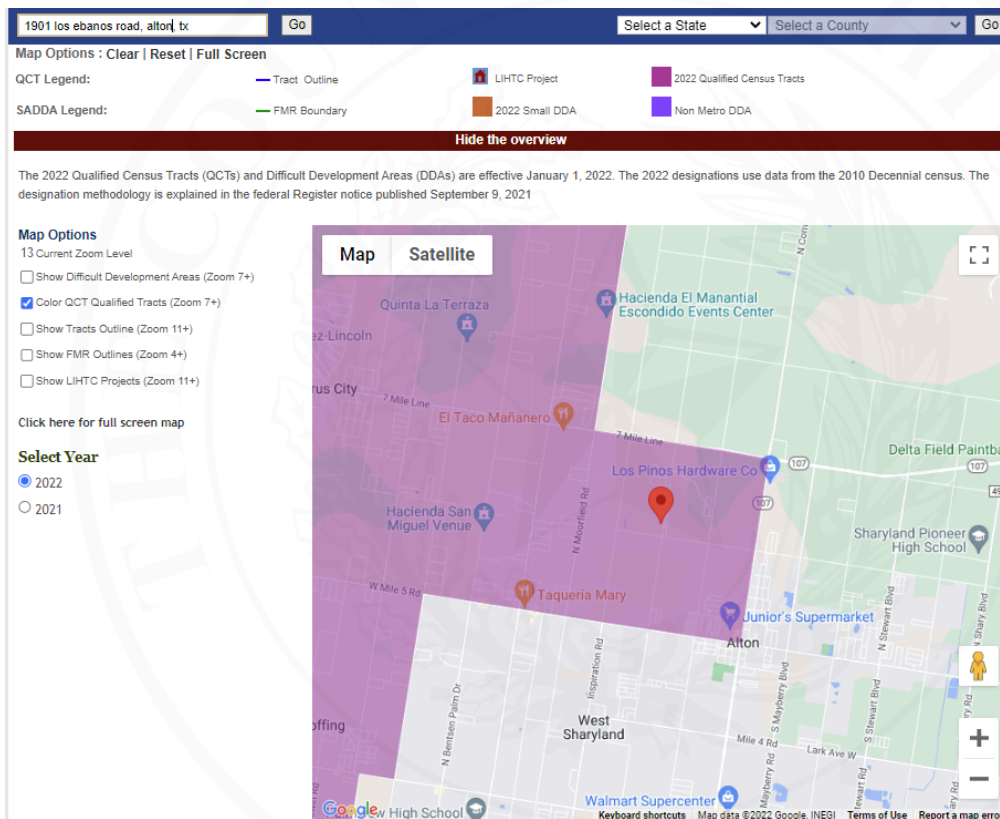
Site: \$4,940,109.09

Personnel: \$578,106.17

\*Evidence-Based:

<https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/take-action-to-improve-health/what-works-for-health/strategies/adult-vocational-training>

^ Below is the 2022 Qualified Census Tract Analysis for El Paraiso Community Resource Center which is located at 1901 N. Los Ebanos Rd. Alton, Texas, 78573, within a QCT area.



Source: Office of Policy Development and Research 2021 and 2022 Small Difficult Development Areas (DDAs) and Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs)

<sup>3</sup> Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4369



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

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## **Project Description**

**Project Name:**

Hidalgo County Precinct 2 Las Milpas Rd. Stormwater Management Project

**Project Number:**

ARPA-22-122-109

**Program Name:**

The Hidalgo County Precinct 2 Las Milpas Rd. Stormwater Management Project will be part of the Hidalgo County American Rescue Plan Act Stormwater System Improvement Program.

**Department Name:**

Hidalgo County Precinct 2

**ARPA Expenditure Category:**

5: Infrastructure

**ARPA Eligibility Category:**

5.6: Clean Water: Stormwater

**Project Description:**

The Hidalgo County Precinct 2 Las Milpas Rd. Stormwater Project Management Project will enhance stormwater infrastructure to address any health disparities that may have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 public health emergency. This project will take place on Las Milpas Rd. between 10th St and McColl Rd. to manage, reduce, and recapture rural stormwater. The expanding infrastructure to equip systems to effectively prevent flooding in areas with low foundation levels. This project will control nonpoint sources of pollution and prove the resilience of infrastructure to severe weather events and protect water bodies from pollution.

As per the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds FAQ document, in question 6.15, recipients are able to use ARPA funds for road repairs and upgrades directly related to an eligible stormwater project. Efficient stormwater services directly translate into a healthier community by providing clean water and avoiding potential environmental disasters. These basic needs are critical to the health and ability to work and learn of the residents of the County of Hidalgo, particularly for the disadvantaged and low-income minorities.

**Fiscal Impact:** \$ 2,588,892.14



## **Project Description**

**Project Name:**

Hidalgo County Precinct 1 Sunrise Hill Park Improvements

**Project Number:**

ARPA-24-121-362

**Program:**

The Hidalgo County Precinct 1 Sunrise Hill Park Improvements will be part of the Hidalgo County American Rescue Plan Act Recreational Development Program.

**Department Name:**

Hidalgo County Precinct 1

**ARPA Expenditure Category:**

2: Negative Economic Impacts

**ARPA Eligibility Category:**

2.22: Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety^

**Project Description:**

The COVID-19 pandemic has made it clear that parks are crucial to a community's quality of life. People turned to parks for fresh air, exercise and solace from pandemic-related stressors. The Hidalgo County Precinct 1 Sunrise Hill Park is in need of improvements. The project will directly benefit this underserved community as the park, located at 5230 Mile 11 N, Mercedes, TX, 78570, is in a qualified census tract area. The Hidalgo County Precinct 1 Sunrise Hill Park Improvements Project aims to create safe spaces that will promote health and safety outcomes for its residents by providing healthy play, wellness, and recreation areas to help mitigate the ongoing effects of COVID-19. The project includes but is not limited to professional services, park equipment, amenities, safety features, supplies, materials, and other necessary provisions.

Treasury recognizes the connection between neighborhood built environment and physical health outcomes as discussed in the research and analysis provided by commenters, including risk factors that may have contributed to disproportionate COVID-19 health impacts in low-income communities. The final rule includes enumerated eligible uses in disproportionately impacted communities for developing neighborhood features that promote improved health and safety outcomes, such as parks, green spaces, recreational facilities, sidewalks, pedestrian safety features like crosswalks, projects that increase access to healthy foods, streetlights,



## Hidalgo County • Department of Budget & Management

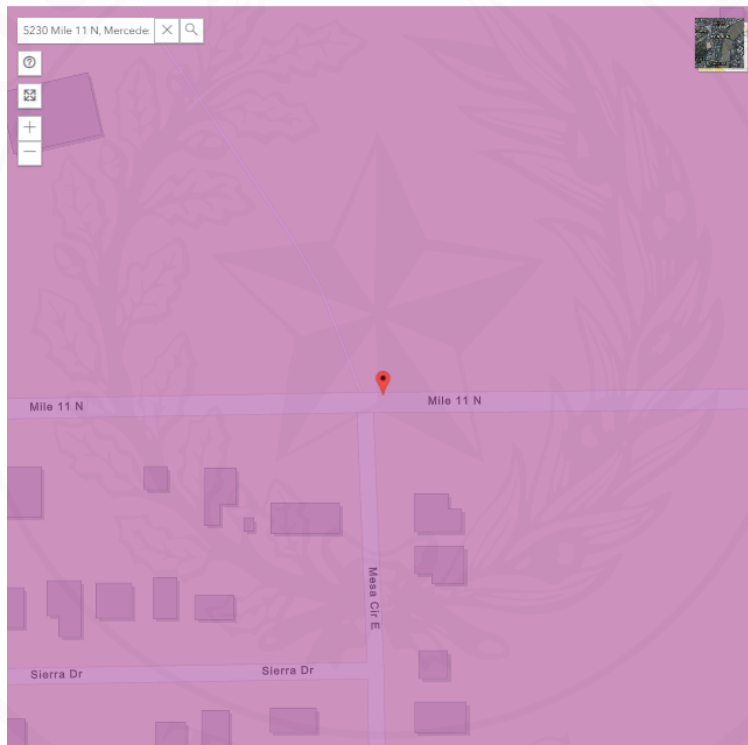
### American Rescue Plan Act

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neighborhood cleanup, and other projects to revitalize public spaces.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup>

**Fiscal Impact:** \$528,127.36

^Below is the 2024 Qualified Census Tract Analysis for Sunrise Hill Park, located at 5230 Mile 11 N, Mercedes, TX, 78570.



Source: Office of Policy Development and Research 2023 and 2024 Small Difficult Development Areas (DDAs) and Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs):

[https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sadda/sadda\\_qct.html](https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sadda/sadda_qct.html)

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<sup>1</sup> Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4373

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



## **Project Description**

**Project Name:**

Hidalgo County Precinct 1 Sunset Park Improvements

**Project Number:**

ARPA-24-121-363

**Department Name:**

Hidalgo County Precinct 1

**ARPA Expenditure Category:**

2: Negative Economic Impacts

**ARPA Eligibility Category:**

2.22: Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety<sup>^</sup>

**Project Description:**

The COVID-19 pandemic has made it clear that parks are crucial to a community's quality of life. People turned to parks for fresh air, exercise and solace from pandemic-related stressors. The Hidalgo County Precinct 1 Sunrise Hill Park is in need of improvements. The project will directly benefit this underserved community as the park, located at Mile 1 ½ W, Mercedes, TX, 78570, is in a qualified census tract area. The Hidalgo County Precinct 1 Sunrise Hill Park Improvements Project aims to create safe spaces that will promote health and safety outcomes for its residents by providing healthy play, wellness, and recreation areas to help mitigate the ongoing effects of COVID-19. The project includes but is not limited to professional services, safety features, supplies, materials, and other necessary provisions.

Treasury recognizes the connection between neighborhood built environment and physical health outcomes as discussed in the research and analysis provided by commenters, including risk factors that may have contributed to disproportionate COVID-19 health impacts in low-income communities. The final rule includes enumerated eligible uses in disproportionately impacted communities for developing neighborhood features that promote improved health and safety outcomes, such as parks, green spaces, recreational facilities, sidewalks, pedestrian safety features like crosswalks, projects that increase access to healthy foods, streetlights, neighborhood cleanup, and other projects to revitalize public spaces.<sup>1</sup> 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

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<sup>1</sup> Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4373



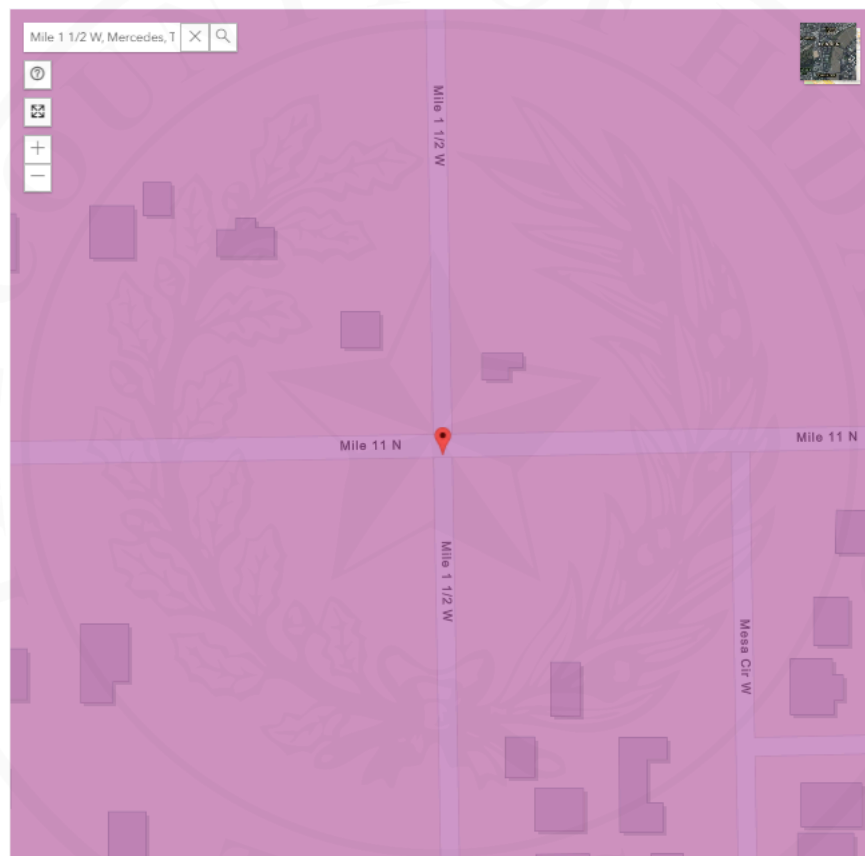
## Hidalgo County • Department of Budget & Management American Rescue Plan Act

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targeting of funds to populations and communities most likely to have experienced severe pandemic impacts, while providing a more flexible approach for recipients.<sup>2</sup>

**Fiscal Impact:** \$158,439.12

^Below is the 2023 Qualified Census Tract Analysis for Sunrise Hill Park, located at Mile 1 1/2 W, Mercedes, TX, 78570.



Source: Office of Policy Development and Research 2023 and 2024 Small Difficult Development Areas (DDAs) and Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs):

[https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sadda/sadda\\_qct.html](https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sadda/sadda_qct.html)

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<sup>2</sup> 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

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## **Project Description**

**Project Name:**

Hidalgo County El Milagro Clinic II

**Project Number:**

ARPA-24-115-373

**Department:**

Budget and Management

**ARPA Expenditure Category:**

6: Revenue Replacement

**ARPA Eligibility Category:**

6.1: Provision of Government Services

**Project Description:**

The Hidalgo County El Milagro Clinic II project consists of modifications and improvements to be in compliance with the health guidelines throughout the COVID-19 public health emergency for this county owned building. This includes but is not limited to foundation repairs and other necessary expenses to address foundation leveling and prevent further structural issues and insure employee, public, and resident health and safety in the facilities. Amid COVID-19, these provisions will provide a safe and sustainable building for continuity of primary care services to Hidalgo County residents. El Milagro Clinic is located at 901 Vermont Ave E, McAllen, TX, 78503.

To comply with the COVID-19 health and safety guidelines, this Hidalgo County building requires additional renovations to be in compliance with health and safety guidelines outlined by the CDC and ARPA requirements to mitigate 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:<sup>1</sup> ...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.<sup>2</sup> Treasury continues to believe that the lists of activities that either are or are not providing government services are

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<sup>1</sup> Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4352

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

accurate but is clarifying here that, generally speaking, services provided by the recipient governments are “government services” under the interim final rule and final rule, unless Treasury has stated otherwise. Government services include, but are not limited to, maintenance or pay-go funded building of infrastructure...<sup>3</sup>

**Fiscal Impact:** \$0.00



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<sup>3</sup> Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4408



## **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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup> 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

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<sup>1</sup> <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8689991/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9549130/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8689991/>

<sup>4</sup> [https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/30/13/23-0776\\_article](https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/30/13/23-0776_article)



## Hidalgo County • Department of Budget & Management

### American Rescue Plan Act

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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.<sup>5</sup> 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.<sup>6</sup>

**Fiscal Impact:** \$27,934,867.36

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<sup>5</sup> Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4384

<sup>6</sup> Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4385