Hidalgo County
Urban County Program

2025 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER)

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CR-05 - Goals and Outcomes

Progress the jurisdiction has made in carrying out its strategic plan and its action plan. 91.520(a). ***This could be an overview that includes major initiatives and highlights that were proposed and executed throughout the program year.***

The Hidalgo County Urban County Program (UCP) Year FY 2025 Consolidated Annual Performance & Evaluation Report (CAPER) marks the second year of the annual performance review, detailing progress made from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, towards achieving the goals set in the FY 2023-2027 Consolidated Plan & Strategy (Con Plan). In FY 2025, Hidalgo County received $10,010,363.66 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds plus an estimated $79,722.03 program income for a total of $10,090,085.69 in available funding.

During this reporting period, a total of $12,545,564.10 was expended from HUD-awarded grants, including prior year funds.

- $8,255,370.88 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds;
- $13,384.92 in CDBG-CV funds;
- $3,342,118.05 in HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds;
- $787,798.42 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds; and
- $146,892.83 in HOME American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP) funds

CDBG:

In FY 2025, the Hidalgo County Urban County Program (UCP) utilized $8,255,370.88 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to advance the goals outlined in the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan. Funded activities focused on infrastructure, public facilities, and public services that primarily benefited low- and moderate-income residents throughout the County.

A total of $5,817,885.13 in CDBG resources was invested in public facilities and infrastructure improvements. These projects addressed priority needs by improving water and sewer systems, upgrading drainage, reconstructing streets, enhancing fire stations, and expanding public parks and community facilities.

- 543,655 persons gained access to improved water/sewer systems.
- 590,630 persons benefited from street and drainage improvements that reduced flooding and improved safety.
- 1,055,220 persons now have access to enhanced community facilities and parks.
- 1,558,345 persons benefited from upgraded fire protection services.

These efforts were supplemented by $118,894.64 in non-federal local revenue, further extending project reach and impact.

In addition, $859,216.91 in CDBG funds was dedicated to public service activities. These investments directly supported vulnerable populations, aligning with Consolidated Plan objectives to reduce poverty and increase access to essential services.

- 850 persons received healthcare assistance.
- 3,269 persons received food assistance, improving food security.
- 172 seniors received supportive services to maintain independent living.
- 1,537,515 persons benefited from transportation services.
- 905 children, victims of domestic violence, or persons with disabilities received supportive services.
- 532,064 youth and families benefited from youth development and supportive services.

Through these combined efforts, the UCP made measurable progress toward addressing the critical needs of Hidalgo County's low- and moderate-income communities. Funded activities not only delivered direct benefits to thousands of residents but also contributed toward long-term community resilience, fulfilling both the short-term objectives of the Annual Action Plan and the longer-term goals of the Consolidated Plan.

CDBG-CV:

The ongoing operation of the Bio Safety Lab remain a significant advancement in Hidalgo County's public health infrastructure. A total of $9,573.80 was expended on the project for the procurement of supplies, including $3,811.12 for general program administration. These funds supported the continued enhancement of the lab's capabilities while ensuring full compliance with federal requirements.

HOME:

In FY 2025, the Hidalgo County Urban County Program (UCP) received $1,933,296.66 in HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds to expand the supply of decent, safe and affordable housing for low-income families and strengthen partnerships between government and non-profit organizations. Of this allocation, $1,166,967.66 was dedicated to the Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program, which assists low-income homeowners with necessary repairs and improvements to address health, safety, and accessibility issues, ensuring that families can remain in safe and stable homes. In addition, $600,000 was set aside for the Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) Program, which supports qualified non-profit housing developers in creating and preserving affordable housing opportunities within the county. Together, these programs not only improve the quality of housing stock but also foster community development, stability, and long-term affordability for residents most in need.

Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Program

The program set a goal of assisting 20 homeowners, and 18 rehabilitation projects were completed, with $2,814,457.22 in HOME funds expended. Staffing shortages and the need to contract with an engineering firm slowed progress, but demand remains strong. As of year-end, over hundreds of families are in the pipeline. UCP anticipates assisting 20 households in FY 2026. Typical activities included roof, plumbing, and electrical repairs; structural stabilization; accessibility modifications; and, when needed, replacement with modern manufactured homes.

CHDO Program

The CHDO program set a goal of 5 homeownership units, and exceeded that goal by completing 6 housing units during the reporting period with $446,746.33 expended. With the newly revised and updated CHDO Policy, UCP anticipated the program will increase production next fiscal year, with a goal of at least 8 additional homes built for eligible Hidalgo County. As construction activity continues, UCP expects the CHDO program to remain on track to meet its five-year housing production projections.

HOME-ARP:

The Hidalgo County Urban County Program (UCP) received $7,461,494 in HOME-ARP funds under the American Rescue Plan (Grant #M21-UP480501) to address the needs of vulnerable residents in our community. These funds are dedicated to individuals and families experiencing homelessness, those at risk of losing their housing, and people fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking. Assistance may also be directed to other households facing severe housing instability, as well as veterans and their families who meet these criteria. During this reporting period, Hidalgo County made significant progress in implementing into the HOME-ARP program. UCP completed its Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), evaluated applications, and allocated funds to the selected subrecipients. UCP is currently finalizing and executing subrecipient agreements to move these activities forward. Together, UCP and the hired consultant, are in the process with the development of the affordable rental housing and is planning to release a Request for Proposals for funding (RFP) for the affordable rental housing component later this year.

ESG:

For FY 2025, Hidalgo County invested $659,858.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) in partnership with The Salvation Army, Catholic Charities of the RGV, and Women Together Foundation, Inc. These programs combined immediate relief with long-term strategies to help individuals and families secure permanent housing and self-sufficiency.

Homeless Prevention

The program aimed to assist 180 individuals but ultimately stabilized 279 individuals at imminent risk of homelessness. Families received rental, utility, and deposit assistance to avoid eviction and remain housed. Supportive services included budgeting, landlord mediation, and connections to local resources, strengthening long-term housing stability.

Emergency Shelter and Essential Services

Through partnerships with local providers, the County proposed serving 2,500 individuals and reaching 2,080 individuals with safe shelter, meals, hygiene facilities, and case management. In addition, the program provided 7,227 bed nights, surpassing the goal of 7,000. These shelters offered not only a safe place to stay but also access

OMB Control No: 2506-0117 (exp. 09/30/2021)

to counseling, job training, substance abuse treatment, and housing placement services to help residents transition to permanent housing.

Rapid Rehousing (Tenant-Based Rental Assistance)

The Rapid Rehousing program was designed to assist 32 households in transitioning from homelessness to permanent housing. During FY 2025, the program successfully supported 30 households with rental assistance, help covering arrears and moving costs, and case management services. Assistance included short- and medium-term rental subsidies (1–12 months) combined with supportive services such as employment assistance, life skills development, and referrals to community resources. While the program fell slightly short of its projected goal, participating households achieved stable housing outcomes and were provided with the tools necessary to maintain long-term housing stability.

Through these targeted efforts, Hidalgo County has made substantial strides in reducing homelessness and ensuring that individuals and families receive the comprehensive support they need to achieve stable housing and improve their overall quality of life. The combination of prevention, rapid rehousing, emergency shelter, and supportive services reflects a holistic approach that addresses both the immediate and long-term needs of the County's most vulnerable residents.

Comparison of the proposed versus actual outcomes for each outcome measure submitted with the consolidated plan and explain, if applicable, why progress was not made toward meeting goals and objectives. 91.520(g)

Categories, priority levels, funding sources and amounts, outcomes/objectives, goal outcome indicators, units of measure, targets, actual outcomes/outputs, and percentage completed for each of the grantee's program year goals.

Goal	Category	Source / Amount	Indicator	Unit of Measure	Expected – Strategic Plan	Actual – Strategic Plan	Percent Complete	Expected – Program Year	Actual – Program Year	Percent Complete
1A: Improve Public Facilities	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: $ / HOME: $0 / ESG: $0	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	43,525	1,568,207	3,603%	121,257	1,564,932	1,291%
1B: Improve Public Infrastructure	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: $	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	604,925	1,183,510	196%	9,825	1,134,285	196%
2A: Rehabilitate Existing Housing Stock	Affordable Housing	HOME: $	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	100	47	47%	20		90%
2B: Affordable Housing Development	Affordable Housing	HOME: $	Homeowner Housing Added	Household Housing Unit	20	9	120%	5	6	45%

3A: Provide Public Services	Non-Homeless Special Needs	CDBG: $	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	4,063,460	4,737,465	117%	535,667	1,542,666	288%
4A: Provide Housing and Services for Homeless	Homeless	ESG: $	Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing	Households Assisted	160	2,077	1,298%	32	30	94%
4A: Provide Housing and Services for Homeless	Homeless	ESG: $	Homeless Person Overnight Shelter	Persons Assisted	12,500	4,443	36%	2,500	2,080	83%
4A: Provide Housing and Services for Homeless	Homeless	ESG: $	Overnight/Emergency Shelter/Transitional Housing Beds added	Beds	35,000	13,743	39%	7,000	7,227	103%
4A: Provide Housing and Services for Homeless	Homeless	ESG: $	Homelessness Prevention	Persons Assisted	900	278	31%	180	279	155%

Table 1 - Accomplishments – Program Year & Strategic Plan to Date

Assess how the jurisdiction's use of funds, particularly CDBG, addresses the priorities and specific objectives identified in the plan, giving special attention to the highest priority activities identified.

In FY 2025, the Hidalgo County Urban County Program (UCP) effectively deployed CDBG, HOME, and ESG funds to address the highest priority needs identified in the 2023-2027 Consolidated Plan. With a focus on infrastructure improvements, essential public services, affordable housing development, and homelessness prevention, UCP advanced its mission to improve the quality of life for low- and moderate-income residents throughout the County. Each activity funded was carefully aligned with the Consolidated Plan's strategic goals and designed to produce both immediate benefits and long-term community impact. Through collaborative partnerships with local governments, nonprofit service providers, and housing developers, UCP ensured that critical services such as healthcare access, food security, emergency shelter, and stable housing reached those most in need. These coordinated investments not only addressed urgent community priorities but also laid the groundwork for sustained growth, equity, and resilience across Hidalgo County. The following sections detail how each funding source contributed to meeting specific objectives and achieving measurable outcomes in FY 2025.

CDBG

In FY 2025, Hidalgo County's Urban County Program (UCP) strategically allocated Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to address the highest priority activities identified in the Consolidated Plan. These priorities included critical infrastructure improvements, public safety enhancements, and the expansion of essential public services for low- and moderate-income residents. Through close coordination with its 18 participating cities and four county precincts, UCP ensured that funding targeted specific objectives such as improving water and sewer systems, upgrading streets and drainage, and supporting vulnerable populations with health, nutrition, and social services.

Investments in infrastructure addressed longstanding deficiencies by providing clean water, reliable sanitation, and safer roadways across both incorporated and unincorporated areas. Public safety was enhanced through fire station upgrades and improved emergency response capabilities. The expansion of public services focused on healthcare access for uninsured and underinsured individuals, food security initiatives, support for victims of domestic violence and child abuse, and youth development programs. These efforts directly aligned with the Consolidated Plan's goals to improve community well-being and resilience.

By prioritizing these activities, UCP advanced the Consolidated Plan's objectives to promote livable communities, reduce health disparities, and foster economic stability for Hidalgo County's most underserved populations. This targeted and community-driven approach ensured that CDBG funds produced measurable benefits, contributing to safer neighborhoods, improved public health outcomes, and increased access to essential resources.

OMB Control No: 2506-0117 (exp. 09/30/2021)

UCP's collaborative approach ensured that each participating city and precinct played an active role in identifying local needs and shaping the scope of CDBG-funded activities. Projects were tailored to meet unique jurisdictional needs, including street improvements in Palmview and Progreso, drainage upgrades in Precinct 1, and water and sewer improvements in Weslaco and La Joya.

The 18 partner cities, Alamo, Alton, Donna, Edcouch, Elsa, Granjeno, Hidalgo, La Joya, La Villa, Mercedes, Palmhurst, Palmview, Penitas, Progreso, Progreso Lakes, San Juan, Sullivan City, and Weslaco, along with Precincts 1 through 4, were instrumental in guiding the allocation and implementation of CDBG resources. These partnerships yielded measurable improvements in infrastructure, increased access to essential services, and strengthened community resilience for Hidalgo County's most vulnerable populations.

Infrastructure development was a major focus of FY 2025 efforts. Upgrades provided thousands of residents with access to clean drinking water and reliable sanitation. Street improvements in cities such as San Juan, Mercedes, and Palmview enhanced accessibility and safety, while also supporting local economic activity by improving connectivity to businesses, schools, and services.

Public services were also prioritized. Healthcare providers, including Nuestra Clinica Del Valle and El Milagro Clinic, delivered essential medical care to uninsured and underinsured residents, addressing high rates of chronic illness and poverty. Food insecurity was reduced through partnerships with organizations like Open Hands Community Charitable Services and the Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley, supplying nutritious food to families facing economic hardship.

Support for victims of domestic violence and child abuse was strengthened through funding to CASA of Hidalgo County and the Women Together Foundation. These programs provided shelter, counseling, and legal assistance to individuals in crisis.

Youth development programs, particularly those operated by the Boys & Girls Clubs in Weslaco, Pharr, and Edinburg, supported academic achievement and personal growth through tutoring, mentorship, and recreational activities. Senior services delivered by Amigos Del Valle and other partners provided meal delivery, transportation, and social activities, helping elderly residents maintain independence.

Overall, Hidalgo County's use of CDBG funds in FY 2025 demonstrated a focused effort to meet the highest priority needs identified in the Consolidated Plan. Through targeted investments in infrastructure and public services, UCP enhanced the quality of life for low- and moderate-income residents and strengthened community resilience throughout the county.

CDBG-CV

During this reporting period, the Bio Safety Lab procured essential testing supplies critical to maintaining its high standard of diagnostic services. The acquisition of these materials is vital for the lab's ability to conduct accurate and timely testing, directly supporting the health needs of Hidalgo County's low- and moderate-income populations.

The lab remains a key asset in the region's response to ongoing public health challenges, equipped to handle advanced infectious disease testing with the goal of achieving Level 4 Bio Safety Certification. This investment ensures that Hidalgo County is better prepared for future health emergencies while continuing to provide accessible, high-quality medical testing to its residents.

Throughout FY 2025, the project maintained full compliance with federal guidelines, including 24 CFR Part 570 and 24 CFR Part 58 environmental requirements. The continued partnership among Hidalgo County, the Texas Department of State Health Services, and local health entities underscores the collaborative commitment to strengthening public health infrastructure for the community.

The Bio Safety Lab's progress exemplifies the effective use of CDBG-CV funds to address urgent pandemic-related needs while establishing long-term capacity that will benefit Hidalgo County's most vulnerable populations for years to come.

HOME

During the reporting period (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026), the Hidalgo County Urban County Program (UCP) allocated $1,766,967.66 in HOME funds toward the priorities identified in its Consolidated Plan, with particular emphasis on expanding homeownership opportunities for low- and moderate-income residents, single-parent households, and other vulnerable populations.

UCP also maintained active partnerships with community-based housing organizations such as Proyecto Azteca and Affordable Homes of South Texas, Inc., which are essential to delivering affordable housing opportunities at scale. By investing in both program compliance and organizational partnerships, UCP advanced its highest priority activities—supporting first-time homebuyers, expanding sustainable housing opportunities, and contributing to broader neighborhood revitalization efforts across Hidalgo County.

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)

Hidalgo County remains steadfast in its commitment to preventing homelessness and addressing the needs of those at risk of becoming homeless. Recognizing the critical importance of this issue, our community prioritizes homelessness prevention through collaborative efforts with landlords and partnerships with neighboring nonprofit organizations such as The Salvation Army, Catholic Charities of the RGV, and Women Together Foundation Inc. Our goal is to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring to the greatest extent possible.

CR-10 - Racial and Ethnic composition of families assisted

Describe the families assisted (including the racial and ethnic status of families assisted). 91.520(a)

	CDBG	HOME
White	43,581	24
Black or African American	3	0
Asian	1	0
American Indian or American Native	0	0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0

Total	43,585	24

Hispanic	43,345	24
Not Hispanic	240	0

Describe the clients assisted (including the racial and/or ethnicity of clients assisted with ESG)

	HESG
American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous	4
Asian or Asian American	6
Black, African American, or African	24
Hispanic/Latina/e/o	608
Middle Eastern or North African	1
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	2
White	106
Multiracial	1548

Client doesn't know	0
Client prefers not to answer	3
Data not collected	2
Total	2304

Table 2 – Table of assistance to racial and ethnic populations by source of funds

CR-15 - Resources and Investments 91.520(a)

Identify the resources made available

Source of Funds	Source	Resources Made Available	Amount Expended During Program Year
CDBG	public - federal	7,417,209.00	8,255,370.88
HOME	public - federal	1,963,296.66	3,342,118.05
ESG	public - federal	659,858	787,798.42

Table 3 - Resources Made Available

Narrative

In Program Year 2025, Urban County received funding from several federal sources, including the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG). These funds were directed toward programs and projects that align with the community's goals, particularly focusing on affordable housing, homelessness prevention, and community development initiatives.

- **CDBG:** During the program year, a total of $7,417,209.00 in CDBG funds was made available, including program income. Expenditures for the year totaled $8,255,370.88, which exceeds the amount available due to the closeout and final payments of projects from previous program years. These funds were allocated to support a broad range of activities benefiting low- and moderate-income residents throughout Hidalgo County. The elevated expenditures reflect the County's dedication to efficiently closing out prior commitments while continuing to invest in critical infrastructure, public services, and community development initiatives that address the priorities identified in the Consolidated Plan. This approach ensures that resources are maximized to meet pressing community needs, particularly in underserved areas.
- **HOME:** Through the HOME program, $1,963,296.66 was allocated, and $3,342,118.05 was expended during the year. HOME funds were primarily directed toward affordable housing development and sustaining existing Hidalgo County housing stock.
- **ESG:** The County received $659,858 in ESG funding, with $787,798.42 being expended during the year. These funds were focused on homelessness prevention, emergency shelter services, and rapid rehousing efforts.

Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Target Area	Planned Percentage of Allocation	Actual Percentage of Allocation	Narrative Description
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Table 4 – Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Narrative

Geographic Distribution and Location of Investments

CDBG

In FY 2025, CDBG funding was distributed throughout Hidalgo County based on community-identified priorities, with particular focus on areas where low- and moderate-income populations experience the most significant service and infrastructure gaps. UCP partnered with participating cities and county precincts to allocate funds strategically, addressing disparities in public infrastructure and access to essential services.

The geographic spread of investments reflected the County's commitment to equitable development, with resources reaching both densely populated urban centers and underserved rural communities. Allocations were informed by demographic data, needs assessments, and community input, ensuring funding reached the neighborhoods most in need of improvements in safety, accessibility, and basic services.

This flexible approach allowed the County to make impactful investments county-wide. Strategic reinvestment of prior year savings, unspent funds, and program income further supported timely progress on critical projects.

Overall, the geographic distribution of CDBG funds in FY 2025 illustrates UCP's ability to manage resources efficiently while adapting to local conditions, supporting balanced growth, and fostering long-term community resilience across Hidalgo County.

HOME Program – Building and Preserving Affordable Homes

In FY 2025, the Hidalgo County Urban County Program (UCP) invested $1.7 million in HOME Program funds to help low- and moderate-income residents find, keep, and maintain safe, affordable homes. These investments supported two key initiatives — the Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Program and the Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) Program — benefiting both rural and urban areas, including Extra Territorial Jurisdictions (ETJs). Program projects are located throughout the county, within cities as well as the unincorporated countywide area. UCP programs do not have targeted areas; instead, project locations are determined by where applicants for the Rehabilitation Program live and, for the CHDO Program, where applicants choose to develop their projects.

Our Impact and Commitment

Through investments in both repairing existing homes and constructing new ones, UCP is strengthening neighborhoods, preserving affordable housing, and opening the door to homeownership for more families. These projects ensure that housing remains affordable for future generations, protecting residents from displacement and helping communities thrive.

ESG Program – Supporting Our Most Vulnerable Residents

In FY 2025, Hidalgo County continued its commitment to helping individuals and families experiencing homelessness or at risk of losing their homes through the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program. Working with trusted community partners, these efforts focused on preventing homelessness, rapidly re-housing those without shelter, and providing safe emergency accommodations.

Homelessness Prevention – *Salvation Army* and *Catholic Charities of the RGV*

- **Keeping Families in Their Homes:** Financial assistance for rent, security deposits, and utilities helped families avoid eviction and stay in stable housing.
- **Guidance and Support:** Housing stabilization services, including counseling and referrals, connected families to community resources that address both immediate and long-term needs.

Rapid Re-Housing – *Salvation Army* and *Catholic Charities of the RGV*

- **Faster Path to Stability:** Helped individuals and families move quickly from shelters or the streets into permanent housing.
- **Ongoing Support:** Participants received case management and supportive services to improve their chances of maintaining stable housing long-term.

Emergency Shelter – *Salvation Army* and *Women Together Foundation, Inc.*

- **Safe, Secure Environment:** Provided a temporary place to stay for those in crisis.
- **Meeting Immediate Needs:** Shelters offered meals, healthcare access, and other essential services to improve well-being while residents work toward permanent solutions.

The Impact

- **Lower Homelessness Rates:** These programs reduced the number of people experiencing homelessness in Hidalgo County.
- **Better Quality of Life:** Families and individuals gained stability, safety, and access to supportive services.
- **Stronger Communities:** By helping people regain independence, the ESG program strengthened neighborhoods and fostered a more resilient Hidalgo County.

Through strong partnerships and targeted investments, the ESG Program continues to change lives—providing hope, stability, and opportunity for those who need it most.

Leveraging

Explain how federal funds leveraged additional resources (private, state and local funds), including a description of how matching requirements were satisfied, as well as how any publicly owned land or property located within the jurisdiction that were used to address the needs identified in the plan.

CDBG

In FY 2025, Hidalgo County's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program successfully leveraged a total of $180,363.44 in additional resources, comprising $118,894.64 in leveraged funds and $61,468.80 in Program Income. These funds were strategically allocated across multiple jurisdictions to maximize the impact of federal investments and ensure that benefits reached the most vulnerable populations. In addition to these CDBG resources, the cities themselves contributed local funds to further enhance the scope and sustainability of the projects, demonstrating a collaborative approach to community development.

The leveraged funds included contributions from the following:

- Precinct #2 contributed $25,000.00 toward Parks and Recreational Facilities.
- City of Alamo provided $93,381.46 for Parks and Recreational Facilities.
- Sullivan City also contributed $513.18 for Fire Station/ Equipment.

The City of Palmview reinvested $61,468.80 in program income to support critical street improvements, helping maintain safe and accessible infrastructure.

In addition to CDBG funds and program income, cities contributed local resources to complement federal funding. These local investments helped broaden the scope and enhance the sustainability of projects, such as flood drainage improvements in Hidalgo, emergency services upgrades in Sullivan City, and fire station equipment enhancements in Alton.

The combined use of CDBG funds, matching contributions, program income, and local financial support exemplifies Hidalgo County's commitment to leveraging diverse resources. This collaborative approach ensures that investments deliver maximum benefit to the community, fostering long-term resilience and improved quality of life for low- and moderate-income residents.

HOME

In FY 2025, the Hidalgo County Urban County Program invested $446,746.33 in its CHDO Program to support the construction of new single-family homes for low- and moderate-income families. The CHDO Program generated $248,985 in leveraged funds from other federal, state funds as well as private loans, CHDO Proceeds and CHDO revolving funds leveraged funding will continue to be reported in the next program year as the current pipeline of projects is completed.

ESG

The Hidalgo County Urban County Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program, in collaboration with subrecipients has successfully leveraged a total of $787,798.42. These regulatory matching funds are essential for meeting the program's requirements and amplifying its impact.

Subrecipients Matching Funds come from the following variety of sources:

1. Private Monetary Funds: These are cash donations from private entities such as individuals, businesses, or philanthropic organizations. These contributions directly support the ESG program's initiatives.
2. In-Kind Donations: Non-cash contributions such as goods, services, or real property. For example, a local business might donate furniture for a shelter, or a service provider might offer free legal assistance to program participants.
3. Volunteer Work: The value of volunteer services can be counted towards the matching requirement. This includes time spent by volunteers working directly with program participants or supporting program operations. The value of this work is calculated based on standard rates for similar services.
4. Fundraisers: Events or campaigns organized to raise funds specifically for the ESG program. These can include charity events, online crowdfunding campaigns, or community drives.

Matching funds are essential for several reasons:

- Compliance: It ensures that Hidalgo County meets the federal requirement to match its ESG grant, which is necessary for continued funding.
- Enhanced Impact: By securing additional resources, the program can expand its services and reach more individuals in need.
- Community Engagement: Involving various stakeholders, from private donors to volunteers, fosters a sense of community ownership and support for the program.

Publicly Owned Land or Property

The Hidalgo County Urban County Program does not own any land or have any property within the Hidalgo County jurisdiction. Therefore, these types of resources were not used to address the needs identified in this plan. Instead, the program focused on leveraging financial resources and program income to meet community development goals.

Fiscal Year Summary – HOME Match	
1. Excess match from prior Federal fiscal year	0
2. Match contributed during current Federal fiscal year	0
3. Total match available for current Federal fiscal year (Line 1 plus Line 2)	0
4. Match liability for current Federal fiscal year	0
5. Excess match carried over to next Federal fiscal year (Line 3 minus Line 4)	0

Table 5 – Fiscal Year Summary - HOME Match Report

Match Contribution for the Federal Fiscal Year								
Project No. or Other ID	**Date of Contribution**	**Cash (non-Federal sources)**	**Foregone Taxes, Fees, Charges**	**Appraised Land/Real Property**	**Required Infrastructure**	**Site Preparation, Construction Materials, Donated labor**	**Bond Financing**	**Total Match**
N/A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 6 – Match Contribution for the Federal Fiscal Year

HOME MBE/WBE report

Program Income – Enter the program amounts for the reporting period				
Balance on hand at begin-ning of reporting period $	**Amount received during reporting period $**	**Total amount expended during reporting period $**	**Amount expended for TBRA $**	**Balance on hand at end of reporting period $**
0	18,253	18,253	0	0

Table 7 – Program Income

Minority Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises – Indicate the number and dollar value of contracts for HOME projects completed during the reporting period

	Total	Minority Business Enterprises				White Non-Hispanic
		Alaskan Native or American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	Black Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	
Contracts						
Dollar Amount	2,076,317.98	0	0	0	2,076,317.98	0
Number	18	0	0	0	6	0
Sub-Contracts						
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dollar Amount	0	0	0	0	0	0

	Total	Women Business Enterprises	Male
Contracts			
Dollar Amount	2,076,317.98	0	2.076.317.98
Number	18	0	18
Sub-Contracts			
Number	0	0	0
Dollar Amount	0	0	0

Table 8 - Minority Business and Women Business Enterprises

Minority Owners of Rental Property – Indicate the number of HOME assisted rental property owners and the total amount of HOME funds in these rental properties assisted

	Total	Minority Property Owners				White Non-Hispanic
		Alaskan Native or American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	Black Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dollar Amount	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 9 – Minority Owners of Rental Property

Relocation and Real Property Acquisition – Indicate the number of persons displaced, the cost of relocation payments, the number of parcels acquired, and the cost of acquisition

Parcels Acquired	0	0
Businesses Displaced	0	0
Nonprofit Organizations Displaced	0	0
Households Temporarily Relocated, not Displaced	0	0

Households Displaced	Total	Minority Property Enterprises				White Non-Hispanic
		Alaskan Native or American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	Black Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cost	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 10 – Relocation and Real Property Acquisition

CR-20 - Affordable Housing 91.520(b)

Evaluation of the jurisdiction's progress in providing affordable housing, including the number and types of families served, the number of extremely low-income, low-income, moderate-income, and middle-income persons served.

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Number of Non-Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	19	24
Number of Special-Needs households to be provided affordable housing units	6	0
Total	**25**	**24**

Table 11 – Number of Households

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of households supported through Rental Assistance	0	0
Number of households supported through The Production of New Units	5	6
Number of households supported through Rehab of Existing Units	20	18
Number of households supported through Acquisition of Existing Units	0	0
Total	16	**24**

Table 12 – Number of Households Supported

Discuss the difference between goals and outcomes and problems encountered in meeting these goals.

In FY 2025, the Hidalgo County Urban County Program (UCP) set ambitious goals in its Annual Action Plan to address the affordable housing needs of low- to moderate-income residents. While some activities progressed as planned, external factors affected the completion of certain objectives. Understanding the difference between goals and outcomes is essential when evaluating program performance and identifying areas for improvement.

Goals represent the specific targets established at the beginning of the reporting period, such as the number of households to be assisted, homes to be rehabilitated, or affordable housing units to be developed. Outcomes reflect the actual results achieved by the end of the reporting period. While outcomes may meet, exceed, or fall short of the original goals, they provide a clear picture of program effectiveness and highlight areas requiring adjustment.

For FY 2025, the **Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation (Rehab) Program** aimed to assist eligible low- and moderate-income homeowners with necessary repairs to improve housing safety, quality, and longevity. The program continued processing applications and conducting environmental reviews to prepare for rehabilitation work.

The **Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) Program** set a goal of producing affordable housing units for income-eligible households. Six housing units were completed during this reporting period. Several CHDO projects remain active in the development pipeline and are expected to produce completions in future periods.

Challenges encountered in meeting these goals included rising construction costs, contractor availability issues, and delays related to environmental and permitting processes. These factors slowed housing development timelines, particularly within the CHDO Program. Additionally, broader economic conditions, such as supply chain constraints and increased labor costs, further complicated project delivery.

To address these challenges, UCP continues to work closely with CHDOs, contractors, and local jurisdictions to identify solutions that reduce development timelines and costs. Strategies include streamlining regulatory processes, fostering partnerships with material suppliers, and exploring supplemental funding sources to offset cost increases.

Discuss how these outcomes will impact future annual action plans.

The outcomes from the FY 2025 program year will guide adjustments and priorities in the UCP's future Annual Action Plans.

For the **Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation (Rehab) Program** demand for rehabilitation services remains strong. Multiple applications are in process, with environmental clearances underway to prepare for rehabilitation work in the next program year. These pending projects are expected to result in substantial completions early in the next reporting period, positioning the program to get back on track with the housing rehabilitation targets established in the County's 5-Year Consolidated Plan. Maintaining current funding levels and exploring opportunities to increase program capacity will help ensure that more low- and moderate-income homeowners can receive essential home repairs and that long-term goals remain achievable.

For the **Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) Program** several projects remain in the active development phase, with expected completions in upcoming program years. These future completions will significantly improve performance metrics and help the County align with the affordable housing production goals in the 5-Year Consolidated Plan. Addressing persistent barriers—such as escalating construction costs, contractor availability, and permitting timelines—will be essential to ensure these projects move forward efficiently. Planned strategies include providing targeted technical assistance for CHDOs, strengthening partnerships with developers and suppliers, and securing supplemental funding to offset cost increases.

While no immediate changes are anticipated to the UCP's overall framework or long-term housing goals, these FY 2025 outcomes reinforce the need for continued flexibility in implementation. The strong pipeline of both Rehab and CHDO projects provides a clear path toward meeting and potentially exceeding 5-Year Consolidated Plan targets in future years. UCP will remain responsive to market conditions, regulatory changes, and community needs, ensuring that future Annual Action Plans are both realistic and strategically focused. This approach will allow the County to sustain progress toward safe, decent, and affordable housing while overcoming challenges that could otherwise slow development or rehabilitation progress.

Include the number of extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income persons served by each activity where information on income by family size is required to determine the eligibility of the activity.

Number of Households Served	CDBG Actual	HOME Actual
Extremely Low-income	0	3
Low-income	0	11
Moderate-income	0	10
Total	**0**	**24**

Table 13 – Number of Households Served

Narrative Information

In FY 2025, the Hidalgo County Urban County Program (UCP) administered CDBG and HOME funds to address local housing needs. While the CDBG program does not report individual households served—since it supports broader community improvements such as infrastructure, facilities, and public services—the HOME Program directly assisted 24 households: 3 extremely low-income (≤30% AMI), 11 low-income

(31–50% AMI), and 10 moderate-income (51–80% AMI). These efforts improved housing stability, affordability, and living conditions for vulnerable families.

The CAPER also addresses HUD requirements on "worst-case housing needs"— low- and moderate-income renter households burdened by paying more than half of their income for rent, living in severely substandard housing, or being involuntarily displaced, including those experiencing homelessness. The UCP's initiatives consistently aim to alleviate these severe housing challenges through dedicated programs like the Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) Program and the Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program.

Two primary initiatives advanced these goals. The CHDO Program partnered with local nonprofit developers, such as Proyecto Azteca and Affordable Homes of South Texas, to expand affordable homeownership opportunities. By offering zero-interest loans and limiting housing costs to 45% of annual income, the program provided alternatives to high-cost private lending and made homeownership attainable for low- and moderate-income families.

The Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program assisted families living in substandard housing by rehabilitating or reconstructing homes to meet current standards. Roughly half of participating households included a disabled member, ensuring accessibility and improved quality of life.

By targeting extremely low-, low-, and moderate-income households and adhering to HUD income limits, UCP continues to strengthen housing stability, accessibility, and affordability in Hidalgo County.

CR-25 - Homeless and Other Special Needs 91.220(d, e); 91.320(d, e); 91.520(c)

Evaluate the jurisdiction's progress in meeting its specific objectives for reducing and ending homelessness through:

Reaching out to homeless persons (especially unsheltered persons) and assessing their individual needs

In FY 2025, Hidalgo County made significant strides in addressing homelessness through the Urban County Program (UCP) and its partnerships with local agencies such as The Salvation Army, Catholic Charities of the RGV, and Women Together Foundation Inc. Leveraging Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds, UCP focused on reducing and ending homelessness by reaching out to unsheltered individuals, assessing their needs, and connecting them to appropriate resources. Outreach efforts included distributing informational materials at libraries, community centers, and public events, utilizing social media and hotlines, and engaging directly with unsheltered residents throughout Hidalgo County. The program also collaborated with Independent School Districts (McAllen, Edinburg, Mission, and Weslaco ISDs) to identify and support homeless families and unaccompanied youth, providing tailored housing plans and critical services. Strong coordination with local law enforcement further ensured that unsheltered individuals were identified and transported to shelters or emergency services as needed.

Data collection and coordinated service delivery were supported through participation in the Texas Homeless Network Continuum of Care (CoC) using the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), OSNIUM software for domestic violence cases, and the Coordinated Entry System, which streamlined assessments and connected individuals to the most appropriate services. UCP also actively participated in the FY 2026 Point-In-Time (PIT) Count, partnering with cities and service providers to obtain comprehensive data on the homeless population, which informs planning and resource allocation.

Special populations received targeted support, including homeless youth, victims of domestic violence, and individuals living with HIV/AIDS. Services provided through subrecipients included case management, emergency health and mental health services, transportation assistance, and connections to long-term housing and supportive programs. Key partners contributed critical services: The Salvation Army provided emergency shelter, meals, and case management; Women Together Foundation Inc. offered shelter and specialized support for domestic violence victims; and Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley delivered rental and utility assistance, food support, and case management for families and individuals experiencing homelessness.

Involvement with the Hidalgo County Prosperity Task Force – Housing Committee and Continuum of Care Development:

In FY 2025, UCP played an active role in the Hidalgo County Prosperity Task Force – Housing Committee, a collaborative effort focused on addressing housing and homelessness issues across the county. This task force brought together local governments, housing providers, and nonprofit organizations to align strategies and resources for improving housing stability.

Additionally, UCP continued to engage with the Texas Homeless Network (THN), which serves as the CoC Lead Agency, Collaborative Applicant, and HMIS Lead for the Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care (TX BoS CoC). Through this partnership, UCP supported efforts to streamline homelessness services, improve data collection through the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), and strengthen regional coordination. These efforts ensure that Hidalgo County is effectively connected to the broader TX BoS CoC system and can better assess and respond to the needs of individuals and families experiencing homelessness, particularly among vulnerable populations.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

In program year FY 2025, Hidalgo County, through its Urban County Program (UCP), worked diligently to address the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless individuals and families. Utilizing Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds, the UCP partnered with several key agencies to provide critical services tailored to vulnerable populations, including chronically homeless individuals, victims of domestic violence, individuals facing eviction, and those with mental health or substance abuse issues. These services were integral in preventing homelessness and supporting the transition to stable housing.

The UCP allocated ESG funds to support various emergency shelters and homeless prevention services. Agencies such as The Salvation Army and Catholic Charities of the RGV provided emergency shelter, meals, and case management services, helping individuals assess their needs and develop housing plans. Both agencies played crucial roles in offering safe, temporary shelter and supportive services while working to transition clients into permanent housing.

In addition, the Women Together Foundation, Inc. operated a transitional housing facility that served adult victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and their families. The foundation offered emergency shelter, transportation, advocacy, and social service referrals, along with a 24/7 crisis hotline and long-term housing solutions.

Helping low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families and those who are: likely to become homeless after being discharged from publicly funded institutions and systems of care (such as health care facilities, mental health facilities, foster care and other youth facilities, and corrections programs and institutions); and, receiving assistance from public or private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education, or youth needs

Hidalgo County is committed to helping low- and moderate-income individuals and families, particularly those at risk of homelessness after being discharged from publicly funded institutions and systems of care, such as health care facilities, mental health institutions, foster care, and corrections programs. Through the Urban County Program (UCP) and its Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program, Hidalgo County implemented significant strategies in FY 2025 to prevent homelessness by coordinating services through a Coordinated Entry System and participating in the Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care (CoC).

Hidalgo County's Coordinated Entry tool became fully operational and played a critical role in assisting individuals and families likely to become homeless, including those discharged from institutional care settings. The Coordinated Entry System allowed UCP and its ESG partners to receive referrals from community organizations, healthcare facilities, mental health providers, corrections institutions, and other agencies. These referrals were assessed using the VI-SPDAT (Vulnerability Index-Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool), which helped identify the level of housing support and services most appropriate for each participant. The tool was integrated with the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), which tracked and prioritized clients for housing assistance. This ensured that discharged individuals received timely support and were directed to the best service providers to prevent homelessness.

To prevent individuals from becoming homeless after being discharged from publicly funded institutions, Hidalgo County worked in partnership with the Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care (CoC), which serves as a regional coordination point for homeless services.

Hidalgo County's UCP played a vital role in homeless prevention by providing financial assistance and support services to individuals and families at risk of losing their homes. The Homeless Prevention component helped those at risk by offering temporary rental assistance, rent deposits, utility payments, and utility deposits. Many participants were already receiving public assistance, such as housing or social services, but were still at risk due to economic instability or lack of permanent housing.

The referral procedures developed as part of the Coordinated Entry System were embedded in UCP's written standards and policies. These procedures ensured that participants being discharged from various care systems were promptly assessed and connected with housing assistance and other services. The UCP's approach was built on collaboration with local agencies, healthcare providers, and institutions, ensuring that the discharge process was managed in a way that reduced the likelihood of homelessness.

Through these coordinated efforts in FY 2025, Hidalgo County and UCP made significant progress in making homelessness rare, brief, and nonrecurring by ensuring that low- and moderate-income individuals, especially those discharged from care facilities, had access to the necessary support services to stabilize their housing situations.

Helping homeless persons (especially chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth) make the transition to permanent housing and independent living, including shortening the period of time that individuals and families experience homelessness, facilitating access for homeless individuals and families to affordable housing units, and preventing individuals and families who were recently homeless from becoming homeless again

In FY 2025, UCP partnered with several key subrecipients to deliver these crucial services:

1. The Salvation Army – McAllen Shelter provided emergency shelter, meals, and case management for homeless individuals and families, helping them stabilize and transition to permanent housing. Through a combination of shelter services and ongoing support, The Salvation Army addressed the immediate needs of the homeless population while connecting them to permanent housing solutions.
2. Women Together Foundation Inc. specialized in providing emergency shelter and services for victims of domestic violence and their families. This subrecipient offered a safe environment, counseling, legal support, and housing assistance, helping individuals affected by domestic violence to rebuild their lives and secure long-term housing.
3. Women Together Foundation, Inc. operated transitional housing for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, providing safe shelter, advocacy, counseling, and access to social services. Their programs helped individuals stabilize and transition from crisis situations to independent living with supportive resources to ensure housing stability.

4. Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley provided essential services such as rental and utility assistance, case management, and rapid rehousing support to individuals and families at risk of homelessness or recently homeless. Their programs were instrumental in preventing homelessness and stabilizing housing situations for vulnerable families.

Although Hidalgo County does not operate its own Continuum of Care (CoC), it is part of the Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care (TX BoS CoC), which is led by the Texas Homeless Network (THN) and serves rural areas across the state, including Hidalgo County. Veterans experiencing homelessness were identified through the Coordinated Entry System and connected to appropriate housing and supportive services. Programs such as HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH), which provides permanent supportive housing and case management, were used to help veterans secure stable housing. The VI-SPDAT assessment tool was applied to prioritize veterans based on their level of need, ensuring access to housing, employment, healthcare, and other critical services. While UCP does not maintain a separate veteran's policy, veterans were included in the overall prioritization framework and received special consideration through the targeted programs and resources available within the TX BoS CoC.

A key strategy employed by the UCP in FY 2025 was the integration of diversion tactics within the Coordinated Entry System. Diversion focused on early intervention to prevent individuals and families from entering the shelter system by identifying alternative housing options, such as staying with family or friends. This approach not only stabilized the housing situations of those at risk but also preserved shelter resources for individuals without other options, ensuring that shelters were available for those most in need.

The UCP also utilized the VI-SPDAT (Vulnerability Index-Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool) in FY 2025 to assess individuals and families experiencing homelessness. This assessment tool helped UCP determine the most appropriate level of support for each client and matched them with the services best suited to their specific needs. By effectively allocating resources, UCP reduced the amount of time individuals and families spent in homelessness and increased their ability to maintain permanent housing.

Throughout the year, the UCP continued to engage regularly with program participants, ensuring that the necessary support was provided to prevent future episodes of homelessness. ESG subrecipients such as The Salvation Army, Catholic Charities of the RGV conducted frequent check-ins, addressing participants' needs in areas such as housing stability, health care, social services, employment, and education. This continuous engagement helped participants remain stable in their housing and worked to ensure that individuals and families did not return to homelessness.

In preparing for and administering the program, UCP consulted with local Public Housing Authorities (PHAs), including the Hidalgo County Housing Authority, the Pharr Housing Authority, the Mission Housing Authority, the Weslaco Housing Authority, and the McAllen Housing Authority. These consultations ensured that UCP aligned its efforts with the available public housing resources and expertise, further streamlining the transition of homeless individuals into permanent housing.

In FY 2025, the UCP played a crucial role in reducing homelessness and enhancing the quality of life for the county’s most vulnerable populations. By focusing on rapid rehousing, diversion strategies, tailored interventions, and ongoing support, the UCP helped homeless individuals and families move toward stable, permanent housing and achieve independent living. The collaborative efforts with key subrecipients and local PHAs ensured that Hidalgo County could effectively respond to the challenges of homelessness and work toward long-term housing solutions for its residents.

CR-30 - Public Housing 91.220(h); 91.320(j)

Actions taken to address the needs of public housing

In FY 2025, the Hidalgo County Urban County Program (UCP) supported public housing efforts through coordination, planning, and resource sharing, though it was not the primary administrator or funding source. Recognizing the importance of public housing for low- and moderate-income residents, UCP collaborated with local Public Housing Authorities (PHAs)—including the Hidalgo County Housing Authority and the housing authorities of Pharr, Mission, Weslaco, and McAllen—to align efforts with broader community development goals and integrate public housing into the county’s larger community development framework.

UCP provides access to PHAs with critical planning documents, including the Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plans, and the Analysis of Impediments (AI), allowing PHAs to structure their annual plans in compliance with federal guidelines and consistent with the county’s priorities. This support was instrumental in helping PHAs secure federal funding.

Throughout the year, UCP consulted with PHAs on modernization and renovation efforts—such as energy efficiency upgrades and accessibility improvements—ensuring alignment with neighborhood improvement strategies. While UCP provided no direct financial assistance, its coordination helped PHAs leverage resources and funding.

UCP also partnered with local law enforcement and PHAs to enhance safety in public housing developments through patrols, audits, and crime prevention measures.

Additionally, UCP promoted family self-sufficiency and economic mobility programs by coordinating with PHAs and community partners to offer job training, education, and other services. While UCP did not operate these programs directly, it played a key role in connecting residents with support networks and opportunities, including pathways to homeownership.

UCP issued letters of support for PHAs and housing developers seeking state and federal funding for projects serving low- and moderate-income residents. These letters demonstrated the County’s commitment to expanding affordable housing options.

In FY 2025, UCP also supported efforts to reduce barriers to affordable housing, aligning PHA initiatives with the goals outlined in the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice. Although UCP lacks zoning or regulatory authority, it advocated for policies supporting neighborhood revitalization and housing development.

Actions taken to encourage public housing residents to become more involved in management and participate in homeownership

UCP continued efforts to encourage resident engagement in public housing management and homeownership initiatives. Working with PHAs and nonprofits, UCP supported programs promoting financial independence and self-sufficiency. PHAs across the county implemented strategies to involve residents, including informational meetings, advisory board coordination, and programs like Family Self-Sufficiency and Pathway to Homeownership. Some PHAs partnered with nonprofits to offer credit counseling, job training, and other support services.

UCP partners with PHAs to conduct outreach events to educate residents about homeownership, covering topics like credit readiness, budgeting, the home purchase process, and long-term sustainability. These events often featured representatives from Workforce Solutions, legal aid providers, and health and financial literacy educators, offering a comprehensive approach to empowerment.

UCP also provided personalized consultations upon request, ensuring residents had access to guidance tailored to their specific circumstances. These efforts supported families in transitioning from public housing to homeownership.

Actions taken to provide assistance to troubled PHAs

To assist PHAs designated as "Troubled" by HUD, UCP reviewed the most recent Public Housing Assessment System (PHAS) scores and identified the La Joya and Donna Housing Authorities as needing support. According to HUD's PHAs guidance, housing authorities that score below 60 on their PHAS performance rating are designated as troubled. A desk review of the HUD website in March 2024 identified that the Donna Housing Authority received a PHAs score of 51 (release date September 4, 2018) and the La Joya Housing Authority received a PHAs score of 53 (release date July 15, 2019).

After becoming aware of these troubled designations, UCP sent letters to the cities and PHAs requesting their improvement plans and offering technical assistance. Support included guidance on strategic and financial planning, facilities management, and governance improvements. While letters of support for housing development have been provided, limited funding prevents UCP from offering direct financial assistance. UCP will continue outreach on a quarterly basis to provide ongoing technical assistance and support efforts to remove the troubled designation.

These actions reflect UCP's proactive approach to strengthening local PHAs and ensuring residents in affected developments receive quality housing and services.

CR-35 - Other Actions 91.220(j)-(k); 91.320(i)-(j)

Actions taken to remove or ameliorate the negative effects of public policies that serve as

barriers to affordable housing such as land use controls, tax policies affecting land, zoning ordinances, building codes, fees and charges, growth limitations, and policies affecting the return on residential investment. 91.220 (j); 91.320 (i)

In FY 2025, the Hidalgo County Urban County Program (UCP) continued proactive efforts to address barriers to affordable housing, including high land costs, rising construction expenses, and restrictive financing guidelines. UCP's strategy focuses on policy review, partnerships, and technical support to improve housing accessibility for low- and moderate-income residents.

UCP works closely with two local non-profits, Affordable Homes of South Texas, Inc. (AHSTI) and Proyecto Azteca, under its CHDO Program. These partnerships support the development of new affordable single-family housing, with proceeds from home sales reinvested into additional affordable units. Through these efforts, low- and moderate-income families have continued access to homeownership despite rising costs. UCP also supports homebuyers with financial literacy training and credit counseling, helping families navigate stricter underwriting and higher interest rates.

UCP continues its annual review of local policies and ordinances to identify potential barriers to affordable housing. Staff work with the County Planning Department to evaluate land use controls, zoning ordinances, building codes, and fees. The Planning Department, responsible for enforcing housing ordinances and handling complaints, assists in identifying potential problem areas. To date, no significant public policies or ordinances have been identified that negatively impact affordable housing development.

In addition to these local efforts, UCP advocates for long-term policy improvements at state and federal levels to reduce housing barriers. Examples of local strategies include: adopting zoning amendments to allow higher residential density, permitting accessory dwelling units, reducing parking requirements, waiving impact and permit fees for affordable projects, streamlining plan review and inspections, supporting modular and manufactured housing, offering low-interest loans or gap financing for developers, and coordinating affordable housing with transit investments. These combined efforts help expand the supply of affordable housing and improve opportunities for low- and moderate-income families across Hidalgo County.

Actions taken to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

In FY 2025, the Hidalgo County Urban County Program (UCP) undertook several targeted strategies to address obstacles that hindered its ability to meet the needs of underserved populations, with a focus on both HOME- and CDBG-funded activities. Given the challenges of rapid population growth, economic constraints, and limited resources, these actions aimed to increase the capacity of local organizations to provide critical services and ensure that affordable housing, public services, and essential programs reached vulnerable residents.

One of the primary challenges identified was the rapid population growth, which strained existing resources and increased demand for affordable housing and essential services. UCP also experienced challenges related to uncertainty surrounding Executive Order 14218, as some potential applicants expressed concerns about providing personal information required for program eligibility. Given the UCP's close proximity to the U.S Mexico border and the demographics of our service area, these concerns contributed to hesitation among some individual households to apply for assistance. To address these challenges , UCP provided continued support to key organizations such Affordable Homes of South Texas, Inc. (AHSTI) and Proyecto Azteca through the Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) program such as HUD guidance received and as much technical assistance as possible. UCP anticipates that the CHDO Program will meet its five-year housing projections as construction activity continues throughout the year.

During the program year, UCP focused on CDBG-funded public service activities and worked closely with public service agencies that experienced staff turnover and the onboarding of new personnel. With new staff in place, agencies required additional guidance to fully implement CDBG compliance requirements related to reporting, eligible activities, and reimbursement documentation. To address this obstacle, UCP held one-on-one meetings with agencies, provided technical assistance sessions and shared updated compliance tools to guide new staff through federal and local requirements. UCP also provided program ideas and examples to help agencies structure activities in a way that would meet their national objectives and ensure that funds were fully expended within the program year.

Infrastructure projects also faced challenges during the year as supply chain delays impacted progress. Essential equipment was placed on back order for extended periods, slowing construction schedules and pushing back completion dates. UCP addressed these issues by maintaining close communication with contractors and suppliers, monitoring delivery updates, and adjusting project timelines. These steps ensured projects remained on track for compliance with HUD timeliness requirements and could move forward once the necessary materials became available.

Recognizing the magnitude of these obstacles, Hidalgo County continued to designate social services, housing, infrastructure, public facilities, and economic development as high-priority areas in its FY 2024 planning and resource allocation. HUD-awarded funds were strategically used to advance these priorities, ensuring that they effectively served low- and moderate-income persons.

In FY 2025, UCP made significant progress in addressing obstacles to meeting underserved needs. Through partnerships with CHDO's and subrecipients UCP worked to improve housing affordability and increase access to community and essential services. These efforts reflect UCP's commitment to improving the quality of life for all residents, particularly those most vulnerable to economic hardship and housing instability.

Actions taken to reduce lead-based paint hazards. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

In FY 2025, the Hidalgo County Urban County Program (UCP) continued with taking actions to address and reduce lead-based paint hazards in housing rehabilitation projects, continuing its commitment to ensuring the safety of residents, particularly vulnerable populations such as children and the elderly. UCP has a comprehensive strategy that adhered to federal regulations, focused on community education, and enhanced contractor and staff training to mitigate lead exposure risks.

One of the primary actions taken in FY 2025 was the ongoing dissemination of lead hazard information to participants in the Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program. UCP provided all applicants with educational materials that highlighted the dangers of lead-based paint exposure, especially in older homes, and outlined the safety measures to be taken during rehabilitation. This educational outreach helped ensure that homeowners were fully informed about the potential health risks and the lead-safe procedures implemented during the renovation of their homes.

In compliance with 24 CFR Part 35, UCP has historically carried out lead risk assessments for all housing units built before 1978 that were undergoing rehabilitation. The UCP followed strict federal regulations, ensuring that any disturbances to lead-based paint during the renovation process triggered the use of lead-safe work practices. These practices included containing lead dust, removing paint safely, and conducting thorough clean-up operations to prevent contamination in the home environment. In FY 2025, UCP maintained this rigorous process for all applicable rehabilitation projects, ensuring compliance and safeguarding the health of residents.

To further strengthen program compliance and documentation, UCP's in house Monitoring Division developed a new Lead-Based Visual Inspection Form for use across HOME-funded programs. The form was created to enhance the consistency of lead hazard inspections, improve documentation, and support compliance with applicable federal lead-based paint requirements. Full implementation of the form is anticipated during the next program year.

To further enhance the safety of rehabilitation efforts, UCP requires that all contractors working on housing projects held the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Firm Certification for conducting lead-based paint activities. UCP also mandated that all workers receive training in lead-safe practices. This training was crucial in equipping contractors and workers with the skills to minimize lead exposure risks during renovations. UCP works with certified contractors who met EPA standards, ensuring that the renovation and rehabilitation projects were conducted with the highest level of safety and expertise.

At the county level, Hidalgo County supported UCP's efforts through collaborations with local health departments and community organizations. These partnerships helped in raising awareness about the dangers of lead exposure and in coordinating resources for testing and mitigating lead hazards. The Hidalgo County Health and Human Services Department played a crucial role in conducting lead testing for homes and providing additional educational resources to residents.

Overall, in FY 2025, UCP's efforts to reduce lead-based paint hazards were marked by a continued commitment to regulatory compliance, contractor certification, staff training, and community education. By working with certified contractors, enhancing staff expertise, and educating the public, UCP successfully mitigated lead-based paint risks in rehabilitation projects throughout Hidalgo County, contributing to a safer living environment for residents.

Actions taken to reduce the number of poverty-level families. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

In FY 2025, the Hidalgo County Urban County Program (UCP) implemented a targeted, results-driven approach to reduce the number of families living at or below the poverty level. Through strategic funding and coordination, UCP supported public service initiatives that directly addressed the root causes of poverty, including limited access to healthcare, employment, and essential resources.

UCP prioritized programs that empowered individuals and families to achieve greater self-sufficiency. This included expanding access to job training, employment support, and educational resources—critical tools in helping residents transition from public assistance to stable, long-term employment. The program also funded initiatives that removed barriers to economic participation, allowing more residents to pursue opportunities for income growth and independence.

Beyond direct services, UCP invested in infrastructure and community development projects that improved living conditions in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods. These efforts enhanced access to transportation, safety, and basic services, creating an environment more conducive to upward mobility.

To further strengthen economic outcomes, UCP supported projects aimed at job creation and small business development, laying the groundwork for a more resilient local economy. By focusing on long-term, sustainable solutions, UCP continued making measurable progress toward lifting families out of poverty and expanding opportunities across Hidalgo County.

Actions taken to develop institutional structure. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

In FY 2025, the Hidalgo County Urban County Program (UCP) continued to strengthen its institutional structure to support the efficient administration of HUD-funded programs, including the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), and HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME). UCP's coordination with stakeholders, subrecipients, and federal partners remained critical to ensuring compliance and effective use of resources.

The County's institutional structure is anchored by its Commissioners' Court, composed of a County Judge and four (4) Commissioners, which provides legislative oversight and ensures alignment between HUD regulations and county goals. UCP, as the designated administrator, collaborated with all four (4) county precincts and eighteen (18) participating cities to maintain inclusive and responsive program delivery across the jurisdiction.

UCP worked closely with key subrecipients such as Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley, The Salvation Army, and Affordable Homes of South Texas, Inc. (AHSTI), Nuestra Clinica Del Valle, Inc., among others. These partnerships were essential for delivering services ranging from homelessness prevention and affordable housing to health services.

Technical assistance is provided to subrecipients as needed and on an annual basis. UCP maintained strong lines of communication with subrecipients and participating entities through regular meetings focused on funding opportunities, project updates, and regulatory compliance. This helped ensure timely execution of projects and kept all partners informed about program expectations and deadlines.

Public engagement was also a key part of UCP's strategy. Public hearings were held in each participating city and precinct to inform residents and city councils about current funding applications, eligible activities, and funding opportunities for nonprofits. UCP also presented summaries of projects completed over the past five (5) fiscal years to demonstrate impact and promote transparency. To further encourage community involvement, UCP published bilingual bid invitations and project notices, keeping the public informed and promoting local participation in the bidding process.

Through coordinated governance, partner collaboration, proactive training, and ongoing public outreach, UCP continued to develop a resilient and responsive institutional framework capable of effectively managing federal funds and addressing the evolving needs of Hidalgo County residents.

Actions taken to enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

In FY 2025, the Hidalgo County Urban County Program (UCP) actively strengthened coordination among public and private housing providers and social service agencies to ensure that housing and supportive services were delivered in a cohesive and efficient manner. Recognizing the interrelated needs of the community, UCP facilitated partnerships, provided technical assistance, and supported regional collaboration to improve the quality of life for low- and moderate-income residents.

Key coordination efforts included providing technical assistance to local organizations in preparing state grant applications for projects benefiting low- and moderate-income communities, such as parks and public amenities. These efforts enhanced the capacity of public housing agencies and social service providers and promoted cross-sector collaboration.

UCP also engaged in regional infrastructure planning, working with public housing agencies, private developers, and service providers on priorities such as water, drainage, and wastewater management. These efforts ensured that infrastructure improvements supported housing developments and aligned with broader social service goals.

Particular attention was given to colonia communities—underserved rural areas lacking essential infrastructure—through partnerships with the Texas Secretary of State's office and other stakeholders, securing resources to improve housing conditions and expand basic services.

Notable partners in FY 2025 included:

- **Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley and The Salvation Army** – Emergency shelter and housing assistance

- **Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley and Open Hands** – Food security programs
- **Affordable Homes of South Texas, Inc. (AHSTI) and Proyecto Azteca** – Affordable housing development and rehabilitation

Through these efforts, UCP enhanced connections between housing and social services, expanded access to essential programs, improved infrastructure, and strengthened the support network available to Hidalgo County's low- and moderate-income residents, ensuring that housing and services work together to promote long-term stability and well-being.

Identify actions taken to overcome the effects of any impediments identified in the jurisdictions analysis of impediments to fair housing choice. 91.520(a)

In FY 2024, Hidalgo County continued its proactive and multifaceted efforts to address the impediments to fair housing choice identified in its comprehensive Analysis of Impediments (AI). The AI highlighted several key barriers faced by low- and moderate-income residents, including:

- Deterioration of the local housing stock
- Lack of knowledge about the traditional mortgage loan process
- Limited homeownership opportunities for low- and moderate-income families

To mitigate these challenges, the County—through the Urban County Program (UCP) and its HOME Division—implemented a range of targeted actions and initiatives designed to promote fair housing and expand access to safe, affordable housing throughout the region.

One of the most pressing issues identified in the AI was the deterioration of existing housing stock. The UCP addressed this through its Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program, which rehabilitates or reconstructs homes for low- and moderate-income households. This program remains a high funding priority given the ongoing need to bring homes up to safe, habitable standards in our region.

Recognizing the need for greater public awareness of fair housing rights and housing resources, UCP maintained and expanded its robust outreach efforts. Activities included:

- Publishing advertisements in local newspapers and distributing fair housing brochures when participating at community events.
- Posting flyers and brochures about fair housing laws and County housing programs in city halls, county precinct offices, and other publicly accessible locations.
- Ensuring that all program materials, advertisements, and correspondence prominently featured the Equal Housing Opportunity logo.
- Displaying HUD-approved Fair Housing posters in all UCP offices where housing activities are administered.

To uphold fair housing principles, UCP collected and reviewed demographic data (race, sex, ethnicity) from applicants and tenants to monitor the effectiveness of affirmative marketing efforts.

To further remove barriers to participation, UCP staff provided in-home visits for applicants with disabilities or without transportation and employed bilingual staff to assist Spanish-speaking residents. In addition, the County continued to construct and rehabilitate handicap-accessible units to meet the needs of residents who are elderly and/or have disabilities.

Finally, the County's website remained a vital tool for disseminating information about housing programs, fair housing laws, and avenues for reporting potential discrimination, ensuring broad and equitable access to resources.

Through these ongoing efforts in FY 2025—including housing rehabilitation and accessibility improvements—Hidalgo County demonstrated its continued commitment to promoting equal housing opportunity and reducing barriers for all residents, particularly those in low- and moderate-income households.

CR-40 - Monitoring 91.220 and 91.230

Describe the standards and procedures used to monitor activities carried out in furtherance of the plan and used to ensure long-term compliance with requirements of the programs involved, including minority business outreach and the comprehensive planning requirements

The Urban County Program is committed to maintaining a detailed oversight of all activities funded through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) programs. Effective monitoring is a critical component of this process, serving not only to verify compliance with federal and local requirements but also to promote accountability, transparency, and continuous improvement among subrecipients and partners.

UCP's monitoring strategy is designed to be both proactive and responsive, incorporating a comprehensive system that includes regular desk reviews, on-site monitoring visits, in-depth risk assessments, and the provision of ongoing technical assistance. This approach allows the program to identify potential issues early, address challenges before they escalate, and support subrecipients in building their capacity to deliver high-quality, compliant services. When non-compliance or performance deficiencies are identified, UCP works collaboratively with agencies to implement corrective actions and track resolution, ensuring that all funded projects are aligned with program goals and community development priorities.

UCP uses a structured monitoring approach designed to evaluate the compliance and performance of its subrecipients, partners, contractors, and internal operations. This approach includes both on-site and desk reviews, ensuring that all funded activities are thoroughly assessed for adherence to applicable regulations and program guidelines. The monitoring process is guided by HUD regulations, particularly 2

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CFR Part 200 and 24 CFR 91.230, which outline the requirements for oversight of CDBG, HOME, and ESG programs.

UCP conducted its annual risk assessment to strategically prioritize monitoring activities for the fiscal year. This assessment considered various factors, including prior experience with each subrecipient, the complexity of their funded activities, past performance, financial audit results, and overall contract compliance. Based on the outcomes of this risk evaluation, UCP developed a structured monitoring plan that outlined the order and type of monitoring.

Subrecipients identified as high risk were prioritized for comprehensive on-site monitoring visits, while those classified as low or medium risk were scheduled for desk reviews. During the on-site monitoring visits, staff conducted a detailed review of project files, including source documentation and beneficiary records, to verify compliance with HUD regulations.

The desk reviews involved evaluating the internal project file which included performance reports, beneficiary eligibility, financial expenditures, and supporting documentation submitted by subrecipients.

Ongoing technical assistance was provided to subrecipients and partners, offering guidance on regulatory compliance, program implementation, and best practices to enhance performance. UCP is committed to promoting equitable participation in infrastructure development by actively encouraging the involvement of minority-owned businesses in all phases of CDBG- and HOME-funded projects. Through targeted outreach, pre-bid meetings, and collaboration with local business networks, UCP ensures that minority contractors and suppliers are aware of upcoming opportunities for public infrastructure work, including street improvements, drainage projects, and public facility construction.

These outreach efforts are integrated into procurement and monitoring processes, with participation tracked and evaluated in alignment with HUD's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) requirements. By fostering an inclusive contracting environment, UCP not only expands economic opportunities for underrepresented businesses but also strengthens the capacity of the local contracting community to contribute to Hidalgo County's long-term development goals.

Citizen Participation Plan 91.105(d); 91.115(d)

Describe the efforts to provide citizens with reasonable notice and an opportunity to comment on performance reports.

In FY 2025, the Hidalgo County Urban County Program (UCP) will make considerable efforts to ensure citizens had reasonable notice and opportunities to comment on performance reports regarding the use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds. These efforts complied with the regulations outlined in 24 CFR 91.105(d) and 91.115(d), ensuring a transparent and inclusive citizen participation process.

To encourage public input, UCP held a 15-day public comment period for the FY 2025 CAPER. The public hearing will be held on September 3, 2026 at Hidalgo County Urban County Program Office at 6:00 p.m.

The public comment period is supported by a thorough outreach strategy to inform the community. The public hearing notice was advertised in The Monitor Newspaper and El Periódico USA ensuring accessibility for non-English speakers. UCP, the cities and precincts posted the notice at their respective offices and various libraries throughout Hidalgo County. These notices provided detailed information about the hearings, including times and locations, encouraging broad participation from all community members. Additionally, the public notice was posted on the Hidalgo County website, providing a digital platform for citizens to stay informed about upcoming public comment periods and hearing schedules.

UCP will ensure that its efforts were inclusive by offering accessibility accommodations in all public notices. These included services for the hearing impaired, translation services for non-English speakers, and assistance for individuals with disabilities, reinforcing the program's commitment to providing equal access to all residents.

UCP actively engaged with local government officials, non-profit organizations, and residents through a series of public hearings and outreach efforts, creating an open forum for dialogue and feedback. These interactions not only ensured that program planning and funding decisions were responsive to the community's most pressing needs, but also reinforced transparency by openly sharing goals, progress, and decision-making processes with all stakeholders.

CR-45 - CDBG 91.520(c)

Specify the nature of, and reasons for, any changes in the jurisdiction's program objectives and indications of how the jurisdiction would change its programs as a result of its experiences.

In FY 2025, the Hidalgo County Urban County Program (UCP) continued its commitment to meeting the objectives outlined in its Consolidated Plan, with a focus on addressing community needs through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Although the program's overall objectives remained unchanged, several operational challenges impacted the timely execution of activities. One of the significant hurdles encountered by the UCP during this reporting period was staff shortages. This shortage, compounded by administrative changes, led to delays in project implementation and the expenditure of grant funds. These staffing challenges affected the program's capacity to maintain its usual pace in delivering services and completing projects within the expected timelines.

In addition to the internal challenges within UCP, some of the partner agencies involved in implementing these activities also faced operational difficulties. These partners, including various public service agencies, experienced staffing changes and delays in launching services designed to benefit the general public. These setbacks contributed to the slowed progress in expending funds, as the agencies struggled to align their activities with UCP's timelines. Despite these difficulties, UCP worked closely with its partners, monitoring their progress to ensure that the projects remained on track. While some projects were delayed, they are expected to meet their objectives as the operational challenges are fully addressed.

Key partners that supported UCP in its efforts included various municipalities within Hidalgo County, local public service organizations, and non-profit agencies. These partners, alongside UCP, remain dedicated to ensuring that federal funds are used effectively to benefit the community. Furthermore, UCP reported no Section 108 loan activity during the reporting period, as there were no open loans related to the program.

Looking ahead, UCP recognizes the need to strengthen its internal staffing capacity, streamline administrative processes, and provide earlier technical assistance to partner agencies to mitigate delays in future program years. By making these adjustments, UCP aims to improve timeliness in project implementation and ensure that community development projects continue to effectively serve the low- and moderate-income populations of Hidalgo County.

Does this Jurisdiction have any open Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) grants?

No

[BEDI grantees] Describe accomplishments and program outcomes during the last year.

CR-50 - HOME 24 CFR 91.520(d)

Include the results of on-site inspections of affordable rental housing assisted under the program to determine compliance with housing codes and other applicable regulations

Please list those projects that should have been inspected on-site this program year based upon the schedule in 24 CFR §92.504(d). Indicate which of these were inspected and a summary of issues that were detected during the inspection. For those that were not inspected, please indicate the reason and how you will remedy the situation.

In FY 2025, the Hidalgo County Urban County Program (UCP) did not have any HOME-assisted rental housing developments scheduled for on-site inspection under 24 CFR §92.504(d), as the only property in the current monitoring cycle, Casa Messina, a 76-unit multifamily complex with two HOME-assisted units, was inspected in the prior program year (February 13, 2026). That inspection confirmed full compliance with 24 CFR §92.251 (Property Standards) and required no corrective actions. The next inspection is scheduled for February 2029, and in the interim, UCP will continue routine monitoring to ensure ongoing compliance.

Provide an assessment of the jurisdiction's affirmative marketing actions for HOME units. 24 CFR 91.520(e) and 24 CFR 92.351(a)

The County’s effort towards affirmative marketing utilizes the HOME Division to ensure that eligible households have access and opportunity to participate in its programs and services. The Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program serves to ameliorate the deterioration of the present housing stock. Given the large number of the County’s housing stock in need of rehabilitation, this need remains a high priority for present and future funding resources. The County also continues to process fair housing complaints through the Urban County Program structure. Homebuyer programs and services are marketed to residents in low- to moderate-income neighborhoods and those with limited English proficiency. Also, the HOME Division has three full-time equivalent (FTE) employees that are bilingual and offer assistance with clients with limited English proficiency.

This continued effort on the County's behalf is done so in recognition of the importance the County places on fair housing issues. In terms of community outreach to promote fair housing and disseminate information about the County’s housing programs, the following activities were undertaken:

- Recipients are informed of the County's affirmative marketing policy by having it referenced in the agreements
- The UCP carries out outreach and provides tenants and rental property owners with copies of the fair housing brochures (in English and Spanish)
- The UCP periodically posts flyers and brochures which describe fair housing laws and services, in the city hall offices (throughout the County of Hidalgo) and its county precincts which are open to the public.
- The UCP uses the Equal Housing Opportunity logo on all correspondence and advertising prepared for all its housing programs
- The UCP prominently displays in all offices in which housing activities takes place using the HUD approved Fair Housing poster
- The UCP posts in a conspicuous position, on the project site, a sign displaying prominently the Equal Housing Opportunity and statement.
- The UCP and its CHDOs maintain copies of advertisements, brochures, flyers, and letters to community contacts
- The UCP maintains information on the race, sex and ethnicity of applicants and tenants to demonstrate the results of the owner's affirmative marketing efforts. In instances of noncompliance by a project owner, a finding will be issued and corrective action taken will be required by the project owner in the

time specified. The project owner will for the period of affordability maintain information demonstrating compliance with the requirements in this marketing plan

- When applicable, staff will perform house visits for those applicants who have a disability and/or who have no means of transportation
- Applications are taken by bilingual staff
- The UCP constructs/rehabilitates handicap accessible housing for those households that require it
- In addition, the County's web site continues to play a vital role in targeting information to the public and ensuring program information reaches a broad audience
- UCP Office and its web site provide contact information to individuals/applicants who feel they have been discriminated against regarding fair housing
- If necessary, UCP staff will record complaint information and file in Fair Housing binder to report to the HUD Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Office
- The UCP website, at https://www.hidalgocounty.us/1196/Fair-HousingDiscrimination-Complaint, provides the following web-link for residents to learn how to file a fair housing complaint
- UCP incorporates affirmative marketing practices by (1) including statements in procurement and Notice Of Funding Availability (NOFA) that UCP encourages bids/applications from Minority- and Women-Owned Businesses (M/WBE), and (2) awarding additional points in UCP's NOFO scoring criteria to M/WBE applicants to promote equitable access to funding.

Refer to IDIS reports to describe the amount and use of program income for projects, including the number of projects and owner and tenant characteristics

PROGRAM INCOME, RECAPTURED AND REPAYMENT FUNDS

According to IDIS PR-09 and PR-23 reports, UCP received $18,253.23 in Program Income during FY 2025. These funds were applied to the Housing Rehabilitation Program, allowing UCP to extend services to additional low- and moderate-income households in need of essential home repairs. Program Income supported improvements that addressed safety, accessibility, and energy efficiency, helping preserve affordable housing stock for vulnerable residents.

Overall, UCP's use of program income in FY 2025 reflects its commitment to ensuring housing stability for Hidalgo County's most vulnerable households by focusing on rehabilitation needs, maintaining strong partnerships with local non-profits, and adhering to federal program requirements to ensure long-term affordability and community stability.

PROJECT # AND HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

In FY 2025, UCP assisted a total of eighteen (18) households through its Rehabilitation Program. Three of these households were extremely low-income (0–30% AMI), thirteen were in the 31–60% AMI category, and two were in the 61–80% AMI range. All households served were Hispanic, and fifteen were elderly, one was disabled, and two were not disabled, underscoring the program's ongoing commitment to supporting aging low- and moderate-income residents in Hidalgo County. No households assisted during this reporting period were identified as disabled.

In addition, UCP funded six (6) new affordable homes through its CHDO Program. All six households assisted fell between 51%-80% AMI range. These efforts are part of UCP's broader strategy to promote homeownership among low- to moderate-income families by working with Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs), including Affordable Homes of South Texas, Inc. (AHSTI) and Proyecto Azteca. These non-profit partners play a critical role in providing new, affordable housing units and ensuring the sustainability of the program through their development efforts.

Overall, UCP's work in FY 2025 highlighted its dedication to addressing the housing needs of low- and moderate-income households through strategic partnerships with local non-profits, and a robust focus on compliance with federal guidelines. By leveraging available resources, UCP continues to improve housing conditions for the county's most vulnerable populations, ensuring long-term affordability and community well-being.

Describe other actions taken to foster and maintain affordable housing. 24 CFR 91.220(k) (STATES ONLY: Including the coordination of LIHTC with the development of affordable housing). 24 CFR 91.320(j)

In FY 2025, the Hidalgo County Urban County Program (UCP) took several actions to foster and maintain affordable housing, focusing on rehabilitation of existing homes, investment of HOME funds through Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs), and compliance with HOME program requirements to ensure long-term affordability. These strategies are designed to preserve existing housing stock, expand affordable housing opportunities, and serve the County's low- and moderate-income residents.

The Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Program remained a cornerstone of UCP's strategy to maintain affordable housing. During the year, UCP processed applications and completed environmental reviews for multiple projects, with construction completions anticipated in the next program year. By targeting critical repairs such as roofing, electrical and plumbing upgrades, and accessibility modifications, UCP helps preserve affordable housing, prevents deterioration, and allows homeowners to remain safely housed.

UCP also advanced new housing opportunities through the CHDO Program. UCP provided HOME funds and technical assistance to its CHDO partners, resulting in the completion of six single-family units during FY 2025 and supporting several additional units in active development. By certifying, monitoring, and funding CHDOs, UCP ensures that qualified nonprofit developers have the capacity to deliver new affordable homes for low- and moderate-income households.

UCP's CHDO partners—Affordable Homes of South Texas, Inc. (AHSTI) and Proyecto Azteca—brought specialized expertise in homeownership counseling, sustainable construction, and colonia development. With UCP's support, these organizations reinvest program proceeds into additional HOME-eligible activities, such as new construction.

Collectively, these actions by UCP preserved existing affordable housing, expanded affordable homeownership opportunities, and strengthened the long-term housing stability of low- and moderate-income families across Hidalgo County.

CR-58 – Section 3

Identify the number of individuals assisted and the types of assistance provided

Total Labor Hours	CDBG	HOME	ESG	HOPWA	HTF
Total Number of Activities	1	0	0	0	0
Total Labor Hours	12,506				
Total Section 3 Worker Hours	5,237				
Total Targeted Section 3 Worker Hours	0				

Table 14 – Total Labor Hours

Qualitative Efforts - Number of Activities by Program	CDBG	HOME	ESG	HOPWA	HTF
Outreach efforts to generate job applicants who are Public Housing Targeted Workers					
Outreach efforts to generate job applicants who are Other Funding Targeted Workers.					
Direct, on-the job training (including apprenticeships).					
Indirect training such as arranging for, contracting for, or paying tuition for, off-site training.					
Technical assistance to help Section 3 workers compete for jobs (e.g., resume assistance, coaching).					
Outreach efforts to identify and secure bids from Section 3 business concerns.					
Technical assistance to help Section 3 business concerns understand and bid on contracts.	1				

Division of contracts into smaller jobs to facilitate participation by Section 3 business concerns.					
Provided or connected residents with assistance in seeking employment including: drafting resumes,preparing for interviews, finding job opportunities, connecting residents to job placement services.					
Held one or more job fairs.					
Provided or connected residents with supportive services that can provide direct services or referrals.					
Provided or connected residents with supportive services that provide one or more of the following: work readiness health screenings, interview clothing, uniforms, test fees, transportation.					
Assisted residents with finding child care.					
Assisted residents to apply for, or attend community college or a four year educational institution.					
Assisted residents to apply for, or attend vocational/technical training.					
Assisted residents to obtain financial literacy training and/or coaching.					
Bonding assistance, guaranties, or other efforts to support viable bids from Section 3 business concerns.					
Provided or connected residents with training on computer use or online technologies.					
Promoting the use of a business registry designed to create opportunities for disadvantaged and small businesses.					
Outreach, engagement, or referrals with the state one-stop system, as designed in Section 121(e)(2) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.					
Other.					

Table 15 – Qualitative Efforts - Number of Activities by Program

Narrative

During the reporting period, UCP completed four (4) activities subject to Section 3 requirements. One activity was HUD #8537, the 2020 CDBG-CV Health Facility which closed in September 2024. It generated a total of 12,505.72 labor hours. Of this total, 5,236.50 hours were performed by Section 3 workers. The activity also provided technical assistance to help Section 3 business concerns understand and bid on contracts. This effort supported local capacity and economic inclusion.

The remaining three activities were HUD #9043 for the City of Alton Street Improvements, HUD #9044 for the City of Peñitas Street Improvements, and HUD #9046 for the City of Sullivan City Street Improvements.

These projects were entered into IDIS as Section 3 covered activities, however, they did not meet the labor hour thresholds that would trigger Section 3 reporting. As a result, no Section 3 worker or business participation was recorded for these activities. They are reflected in the CAPER as Section 3 eligible but did not generate Section 3 labor hours, Section 3 worker data, or Section 3 business concerns. UCP will continue to monitor all Section 3 activities to ensure that any future projects meeting the thresholds are reported accurately in IDIS.

During the reporting period, the Hidalgo County Urban County Program (UCP) HOME Division did not engage in any projects that met or exceeded the $200,000 threshold necessary for classification as a Section 3 project. Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act mandates that certain HUD-funded projects provide economic opportunities to low- and very low- and moderate-income individuals, particularly those receiving government assistance for housing. This requirement is specifically applicable to projects involving substantial financial commitments, typically exceeding $200,000, and focuses on enhancing access to employment, contracting, and training opportunities.

In the same period, the Hidalgo County Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program did not undertake any activities related to housing rehabilitation, housing construction, or other public construction projects. As a result, there were no activities that necessitated compliance with Section 3 under the ESG Program.