



Hidalgo County • Department of Budget & Management

American Rescue Plan Act

Exhibit A - Budget Amendments

#	ARPA Project No.	ARPA Project Name	Prior Budget	New Budget
1	21-123-023	Hidalgo County Precinct 3 Park Improvements	\$2,474,094.73	\$2,446,904.73
2	22-200-076	Hidalgo County Wi-Fi Project	\$4,428,985.43	\$4,428,985.41
3	24-122-371	Hidalgo County Precinct 2 Revitalize and Renew Home Replacement Program	\$210,000.00	\$202,272.97
4	24-115-377	Hidalgo County Public Safety COVID-19 Response	\$27,940,736.36	\$27,973,610.93

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

FAQ 17.16:

- Recipient may use SLFRF funds to cover increased costs attributable to pre-existing obligations to accommodate the change or contingency prior to December 31, 2024.
- Recipients may also cover contract cost increases after December 31, 2024, using SLFRF funds that the recipient does not use as initially reported to cover particular projects.
- Recipients may cover cost of amendments to contracts if the amended contract is within substantially the same scope and for substantially the same purpose as the contract incurred by December 31, 2024.

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Compliance and Reporting Guidance, December 19, 2024:

While recipients may not incur new obligations for the use of SLFRF funds after December 31, 2024, recipients may reclassify SLFRF funds from a reported activity to another project that would be eligible under the program rules.



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Project Description

Project Name:

Hidalgo County Precinct 3 Park Improvements

Project Number:

ARPA-21-123-023

Program:

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

Department Name:

Hidalgo County Precinct 1

ARPA Expenditure Category:

2: Negative Economic Impacts

ARPA Eligibility Category:

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

Project Description:

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

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



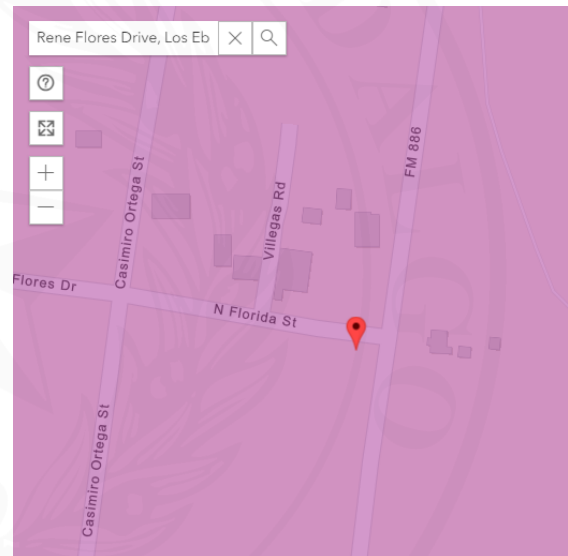
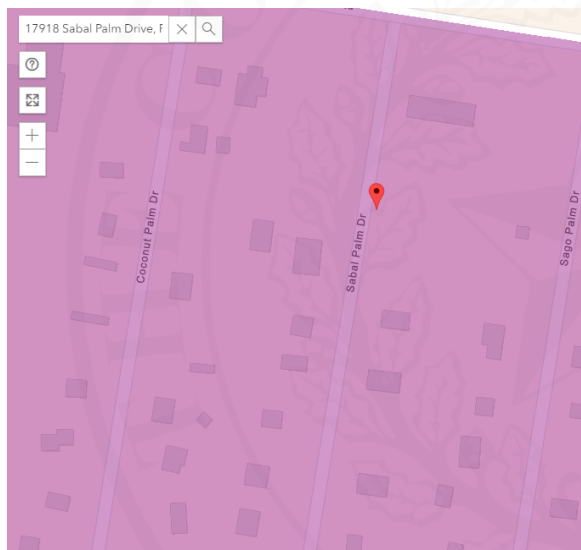
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neighborhood cleanup, and other projects to revitalize public spaces.¹ In the final rule, to further decrease administrative burden and enhance recipient flexibility, Treasury is allowing recipients to also presume that low-income households were disproportionately impacted. Treasury anticipates that adding low-income households as a presumed eligible population will maintain targeting of funds to populations and communities most likely to have experienced severe pandemic impacts, while providing a more flexible approach for recipients.²

Fiscal Impact: \$2,446,904.73

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



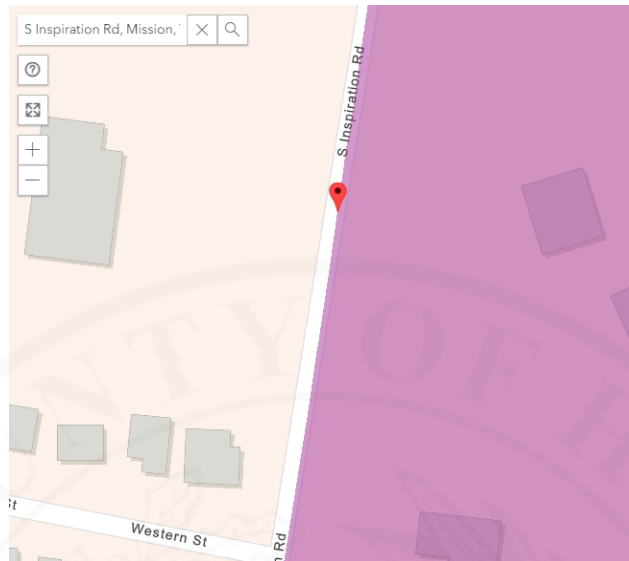
¹ Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4373

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



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

https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sadda/sadda_qct.html

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

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

LMISD by County Subdivision: Sullivan City CCD

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

LMISD by Place: Los Ebanos CDP

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



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LMISD by Place: Abram CDP

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

Source: HUD Exchange Low and Moderate Income Survey Data (LMISD) Map Application
(<https://hud.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ffd0597e8af24f88b501b7e7f326bedd>)



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Project Description

Project Name:

Hidalgo County Wi-Fi Project

Project Number:

ARPA-22-200-076

Department Name:

Information Technology

ARPA Expenditure Category:

5: Infrastructure

ARPA Eligibility Category:

5.21 Broadband: Other projects

Project Description:

In response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, the purpose of the Hidalgo County Wi-Fi Project is to increase connectivity to assist citizens with distance learning while seeking to improve technological improvements as well as telework capability. In an effort to comply with COVID-19 health and safety guidelines, this project will work with County functions to continue an established lease with the Radio Tower, leasing spaces to serve the community, replace damaged or weather wi-fi poles, provide technical support and by mounting equipment of Wi-Fi connectivity in order to effectively and efficiently assist citizens. This project will provide the minimum level of service which will include but not limit to, maintain a level of service that will meet applicable health-based standards and establish or improve broadband service to unserved or underserved populations that were impacted by COVID-19 public health emergency.

The COVID-19 public health emergency has underscored the importance of universally available, high-speed, reliable, and affordable broadband coverage as millions of Americans rely on the internet to participate in, among other critical activities, school, healthcare, and work. Recognizing the need for such connectivity, SLFRF funds can be used to make necessary investments in broadband infrastructure that increase access over the long term, as well as the necessary supports to purchase internet access or gain digital literacy skills needed to complete activities of daily living during the pandemic.¹ These commenters recommended that Treasury permit, as assistance to households for internet access, investments in public wi-fi networks, free wi-fi in public housing communities, and other equipment that offers internet access to end users by utilizing existing broadband networks.² Treasury has determined that these services,

¹ Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. Federal Register, 87(18), p. 4361

² Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. Federal Register, 87(18), p. 4362



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which expand internet access without constructing new networks, are an appropriate enumerated eligible use as assistance to households to respond to a negative economic impact, and they are permitted under the final rule.³

Fiscal Impact: \$4,428,985.41

³ Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. Federal Register, 87(18), p. 4362



Project Description

Project Name:

Hidalgo County Precinct 2 Revitalize and Renew Home Replacement Program

Project Number:

ARPA-24-122-371

Program:

The Hidalgo County Precinct 2 Revitalize and Renew Home Replacement Program will be part of the Hidalgo County American Rescue Plan Act Housing Program

Department Name:

Hidalgo County Precinct 2

ARPA Expenditure Category:

2: Negative Economic Impacts

ARPA Eligibility Category:

2.18 Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance*^

Project Description:

The pandemic has highlighted the longstanding crisis of unaffordable housing in the US.¹ Poor housing conditions have been linked with worse health outcomes and infectious disease spread.² Due to the negative economic impacts of COVID-19, marginalized populations in Hidalgo County have been unable to address substandard housing conditions. It is the intent of Hidalgo County Precinct 2 to partner with Proyecto Azteca Inc., a non-profit self-help construction company that serves low-income families in colonias and other rural areas in Hidalgo County to implement the Revitalize and Renew Home Replacement Program to mitigate housing, health and safety hazards to low income family dwellings. US Treasury allows interventions that support durable and sustainable home ownership and supports programs that fall under the HOME program. As such, the Homeowner Reconstruction Assistance (HRA) program is funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME Program or HOME). HRA funds organizations to provide

¹

[https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8595088/#:~:text=The%20coronavirus%20disease%202019%20\(COVID,foreclosure%20for%20millions%20of%20households.](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8595088/#:~:text=The%20coronavirus%20disease%202019%20(COVID,foreclosure%20for%20millions%20of%20households.)

² <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7605696/>



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services including the reconstruction of owner-occupied housing on the same site.³ Accordingly, the Hidalgo County Urban County Program implements the Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program to assist low and moderate income homeowners to address the deterioration of substandard homes by rehabilitating them to conform to minimum property standards.⁴ This collaboration between the County of Hidalgo Precinct 2 and Proyecto Azteca, Inc., to implement the Revitalize and Renew Home Replacement Program, will provide income eligible families critical housing services in response to the ongoing effects of COVID-19 and mitigate its adverse outcomes.

Treasury has determined that supportive housing or other programs or services to improve access to stable, affordable housing among individuals who are homeless, and the development of affordable housing to increase supply of affordable and high-quality living units are responsive to the needs of impacted populations, not only disproportionately impacted populations. This final rule reflects this clarification and builds on the objectives stated in the interim final rule to improve access to stable, affordable housing, including through interventions that increase the supply of affordable and high-quality living units, improve housing security, and support durable and sustainable homeownership.⁵ For purposes of this test, Treasury will presume that any projects that would be eligible for funding under either the National Housing Trust Fund (HTF) or the Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) are eligible uses of SLFRF funds.⁶

Fiscal Impact: \$202,272.97

*Evidence-Based -

<https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/strategies-and-solutions/what-works-for-health/strategies/housing-rehabilitation-loan-grant-programs>

³ <https://www.tdhca.texas.gov/programs/homeowner-reconstruction-assistance-hra-program>

⁴ <https://www.hidalgocounty.us/2219/HOME-Investment-Partnership-Program>

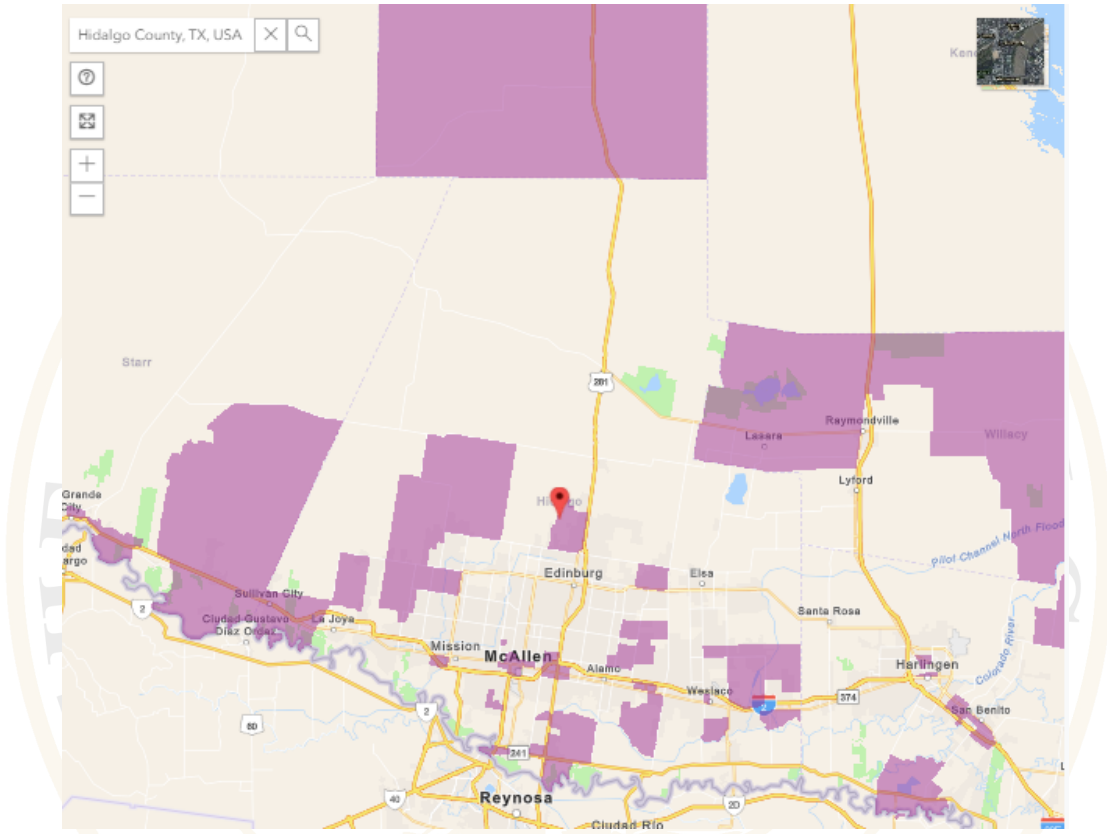
⁵ Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4365

⁶ Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), p. 4366



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^Below is the Qualified Census Tract Analysis for Hidalgo County. Eligible families will be assessed using QCT and/or Low-to-Moderate Income (LMI) analysis.



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



September 2, 2026

Hidalgo County
Treasurer's Office
2810 US-281 Business Hwy 281
Edinburg, TX, 78539-6243

RE: Request for Budget Category Revision

Proyecto Azteca respectfully requests approval to revise the budget categories for the referenced project to reflect the final project expenditures.

The requested revised budget categories are as follows:

Homes: \$162,573.03
Site Preparation: \$34,760.94
Temporary Housing: \$4,939.00

Total Project Expenditures: \$202,272.97

These revisions reflect the actual expenditures incurred in completing the project and do not increase the total amount of funding awarded by Hidalgo County.

The original project budget was \$210,000.00. Based on final expenditures of \$202,272.97, Proyecto Azteca acknowledges a remaining balance of \$7,727.03 to be returned to Hidalgo County.

We respectfully request Hidalgo County Commissioners Court approval of the revised budget categories listed above.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. Please contact me should you require any additional information or documentation.

Sincerely,

Oliver De La Garza
Executive Director
Proyecto Azteca

Revitalize and Renew Home Replacement Program Budget

Revitalize and Renew Home Replacement Program Budget	
Line Item Description	Funding Request
Homes	\$162,573.03
Site Preparation for Home	\$34,760.94
Temporary Housing and other provisions	\$4,939.00
Total Program Budget	\$202,272.97



Project Description

Project Name:

Hidalgo County Public Safety COVID-19 Response

Project Number:

ARPA-24-115-377

Department Name:

Budget and Management

ARPA Expenditure Category:

3: Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity

ARPA Eligibility Category:

3.1: Public Sector Workforce: Payroll and Benefits for Public Health, Public Safety, or Human Services Workers

Project Description:

Law enforcement agencies were faced with the challenge of maintaining operational levels of service while keeping officers, employees, and the community safe during COVID-19.¹ Daily activities required in-person work and community interaction. Law enforcement, as first responders, continued to work at increased levels of exposure whilst implementing and enforcing COVID-19 safety measures, outreach services, assisting the health department, and responding to public safety needs to name a few. As COVID 19 has evolved, law enforcement has made significant changes in routine activities.² The pandemic influenced law enforcement in three primary areas: 1) interventions to minimize and slow the spread of COVID-19; 2) nature of interactions; 3) responses to changes in crimes.³ To combat the virus, law enforcement has shifted operations to address healthcare and public health needs in addition to traditional security and public safety priorities.⁴ The same holds true for Hidalgo County. To uphold public safety, the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office continues to implement COVID-19 operational preparedness and prevention of disease transmission strategies to preserve the health, safety, and well-being of employees as first responders including but not limited to patrol and field operations as a result of the pandemic and in preparation for future health responses in real-time, including infectious diseases. Furthermore, Sheriff's Office employees continue to respond to situations exacerbated by the pandemic including domestic violence and mental health incidents utilizing strategies to build trust and positive relationships with the community

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

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

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

⁴ https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/30/13/23-0776_article



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thus improving community safety outcomes. For these reasons, Hidalgo County has determined that Sheriff's Office employees are continuously dedicated to responding to the long-term effects of COVID-19. As such, Hidalgo County aims to dedicate ARPA funds for payroll and benefits for Sheriff's Office employees as permitted in the Final Rule to restore and bolster public sector capacity and support the County's ability to deliver uninterrupted critical services with the continuous implementation of prevention and mitigation strategies. This project will retroactively reimburse the County beginning January 1, 2024.

Under the interim final rule, funds may be used for payroll and covered benefits for public safety, public health, health care, human services, and similar employees of a recipient government, for the portion of the employee's time that is spent responding to COVID-19. For administrative convenience, the recipient may consider public health and safety employees to be entirely devoted to responding to COVID-19, and therefore their full payroll and covered benefits eligible to be covered, if the employee, or his or her operating unit or division, is "primarily dedicated" to responding to COVID-19, meaning that more than half of the employee, unit, or division's time is dedicated to responding to COVID-19.⁵ Public safety employees include sheriffs and deputy sheriffs, emergency medical responders, correctional and detention officers and those who directly support those employees. In the final rule, Treasury is clarifying that recipients will be permitted to fund the full payroll and covered benefits of public health and safety staff primarily dedicated to COVID-19 response throughout the period of performance for the SLFRF program, though recipients should periodically reassess their determination of primarily dedicated staff, including as the public health emergency and response evolves.⁶

Fiscal Impact: \$27,973,610.93

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

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