



Hidalgo County Head Start Program
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To: Hidalgo County Commissioners' Court
Head Start Policy Council
From: Irma Peña, Head Start Executive Director
Date: September 16, 2026
Subject: Head Start Community Assessment

As per §1302.11(b)(1) all Head Start programs must conduct a comprehensive community assessment at least once over the five-year grant period and annually review and update any significant changes needed.

The Hidalgo County Head Start Program (HCHSP) contracted the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley – Data and Information Systems Center to develop the program's Community Assessment. The following are the factors used:

- Identify populations most in need of services including prevalent social or economic factors, challenges, and barriers experienced by families and children;
- Inform the program's design and to ensure equitable, inclusive, and accessible service delivery that reflect needs and diversity of the community;
- Inform the enrollment, recruitment, and selection process to prioritize the enrollment of those populations with relevant circumstances identified under paragraph (b)(1)(i) of this section;
- Identify strengths and resources in the community that can be leveraged for service delivery, coordination, and partnership efforts for education, health, nutrition, and referrals to social services to eligible children and families; and,
- Identify the communication methods and modalities available to the program that best engage with prospective and enrolled families in accessible ways.

HCHSP will use the Community Assessment's data to develop the program goals and objectives to serve the children and families most in need in our demographic area.



2026 Hidalgo County Head Start Community Assessment

Prepared for
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Executive Summary

Key Findings

Number of eligible children in the service area

- There are an estimated 17,058 income-eligible children ages 0–5 in Hidalgo County who are not currently receiving Early Head Start, Head Start, or other early childhood services. (Page 32).

Children experiencing homelessness

- There are 22 homeless children under 18 in Hidalgo County. (Page 25).

Children in foster care

- There are 135 children (0-17) in foster care in Hidalgo County. (Page 25).

Children with disabilities

- ECI, which serves families with children 0-3 with disabilities and development delays served 2,648 children and their families in Hidalgo County. (Page 32).
- According to the Texas Education Agency, there are 2,848 children between the ages of 3 to 5 with a disability in public school. (Page 33).

Education, health, nutrition and social service needs

- According to data analysis for Hidalgo County, the top concerns in their communities are: Per Capita Income (\$23,117), Children 3-5 below 100% Poverty (36.4%), Limited English Proficiency (29.6%), Children Eligible for free lunch (86.6%), Housing Costs Burden (27.5%), Households with no motor vehicles (5.6%), High School Diploma (26.2%), and lack of health insurance (28.2%).

Other child development, childcare centers programs that serve eligible children.

- According to data from the Texas Education Agency there were 16,031 three and four-year olds who were enrolled in public pre-kindergarten programs in Hidalgo County in 2025-2026. (Page 28).
- A total of 7,696 children 3 to 5 receive childcare services through Hidalgo County Head Start, UMOs Migrant and Seasonal Head Start, and Workforce Solutions' Child Care Management Services programs. (Page 31).

Resources that are available in the community to address the needs of eligible children and their families.

- There is a network of agencies and community organizations that administer or provide programs to help low-income families and children with food, housing, health care, education and jobs in the communities in the service area. (Page 34).

Strengths of the community

- Community strengths include a young and growing population, strong family and cultural support systems, expanding healthcare and educational institutions, a growing workforce and economy, strong nonprofit and faith-based networks, and extensive community resources available to support children and families throughout Hidalgo County. (Page 38).

Findings indicate continued socioeconomic, healthcare, educational, and childcare needs among low-income families with young children throughout Hidalgo County. Population growth, high child poverty rates, healthcare access challenges, and unmet childcare demand continue to support the need for comprehensive early childhood education and family support services within the county.

Despite the presence of multiple early childhood service providers, an estimated 17,058 income-eligible children ages 0–5 in Hidalgo County are not currently receiving Early Head Start, Head Start, or other early childhood services. This represents approximately 60.5 percent of the estimated income-eligible child population and demonstrates a continued need for comprehensive early childhood education, family support, health, nutrition, disability, and school readiness services throughout Hidalgo County.



Recommendations

Recruitment Area for Grantee

- There is an unmet need of 17,058 income-eligible children ages 0–5 for Early Head Start and Head Start services within the existing recruitment/service area of Hidalgo County. Based on the analysis conducted for this Community Assessment, there are no recommended changes to the current recruitment/service area.

Locations of Centers and Facilities

- The existing locations of the Head Start centers are near the existing communities of eligible children and families living in cities and rural areas of Hidalgo County. There are no recommended changes to the locations of centers.

Criteria for Recruitment and Selection

- Existing criteria for recruitment and selection are set to select the children and families with the greatest need for services. There are no recommended changes to the existing recruitment and selection criteria.



Methodology

This Community Assessment was developed using secondary data sources and spatial analysis to evaluate demographic, economic, educational, healthcare, childcare, and social service conditions affecting eligible children and families throughout Hidalgo County.

Data sources utilized in this report include the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS), Texas Education Agency (TEA), Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Office of Head Start Program Information Reports (PIR), Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Kids Count Data Center, ESRI demographic data, and other federal and state public datasets.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and spatial analysis were utilized to evaluate population distribution, poverty concentrations, child population density, and the location of existing Head Start centers and community resources throughout Hidalgo County.

The information collected and analyzed in this report is intended to support community planning, program evaluation, and identification of unmet needs among eligible children and families within the service area.

Overview of the Grantee

The Hidalgo County Commissioners Court serves as the Grantee for the Hidalgo County Head Start Program (HCHSP).

HCHSP administers a federally funded Head Start program that provides center-based early childhood education and comprehensive support services to eligible low-income children ages 0 to 5 and their families throughout Hidalgo County.

The program promotes school readiness and supports children's cognitive, social, emotional, physical, and language development through a comprehensive service delivery model designed to strengthen children and families in a safe and supportive learning environment.

Core Program Services:

Education and Child Development Services

HCHSP supports children's school readiness through individualized learning experiences that promote early literacy, language development, social-emotional growth, problem-solving skills, and overall child development. Children participate in age-appropriate educational activities through structured instruction, guided play, and positive adult-child interactions.



Health and Nutrition Services

The program provides health, nutrition, mental health, and developmental support services to ensure children are healthy and prepared to learn. Services include health screenings, developmental assessments, nutritious meals, oral health services, and referrals to medical, dental, and behavioral health providers as needed.

Family and Community Engagement Services

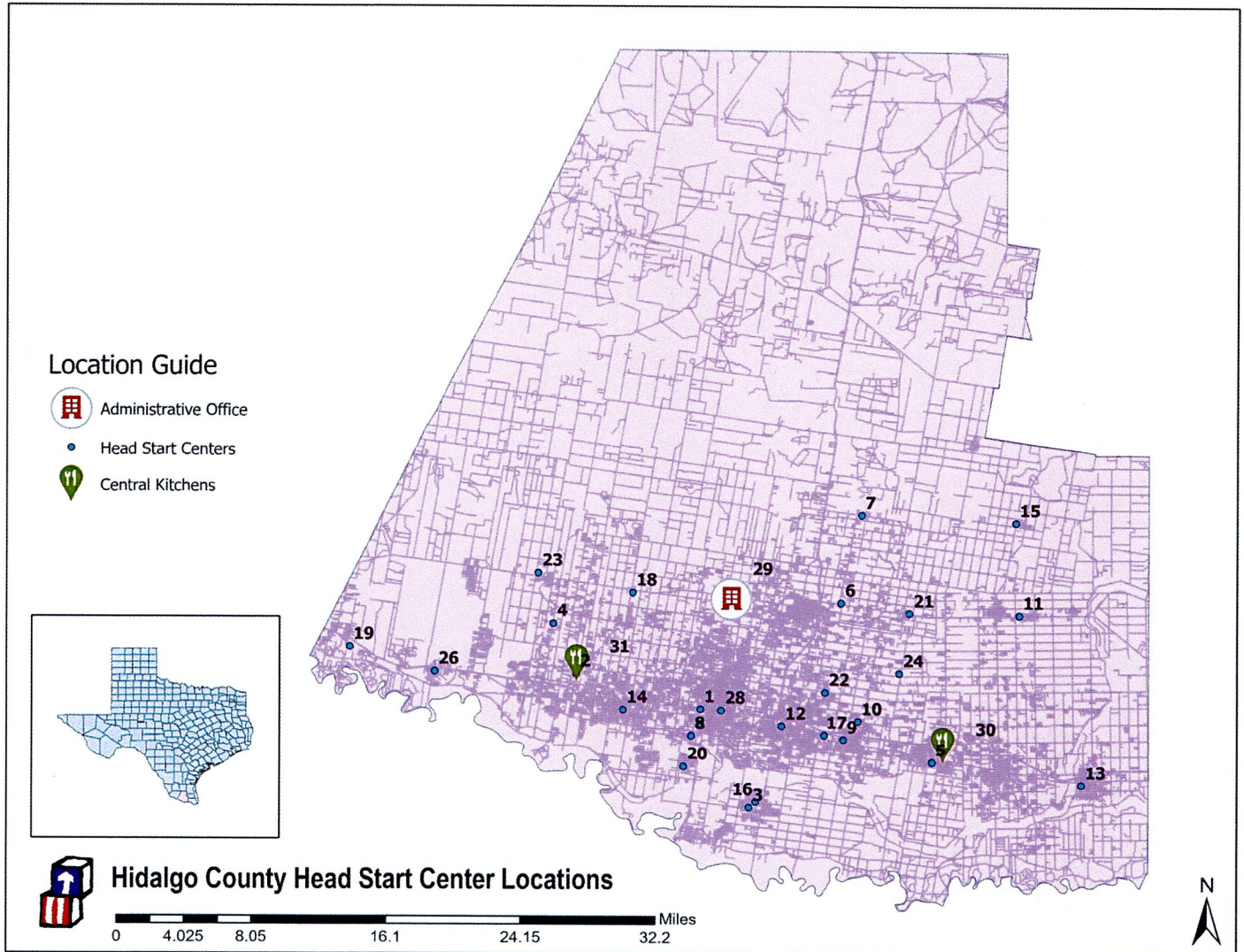
HCHSP works collaboratively with parents and families to strengthen family well-being and support long-term family goals. Services may

include parent engagement activities, family support services, referrals to community resources, educational opportunities, and assistance related to housing stability, employment, and financial self-sufficiency.

HCHSP Services Snapshot (2025–2026)	
Funded Enrollment	2,720 slots
Program Option	Locally Designed Program Option (LDO), Center-based, Full Day
Participants by Age	2 years old (1.6%), 3 years old (49.6%), 4 years old (48.7%)
Source: Office of Head Start, DISC, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.	

Hidalgo County Head Start Locations Map

Hidalgo County Head Start Program (HCHSP) delivers these services through a network consisting of 636 employees, 265 volunteers, 25 service centers, one administrative office, one sub-administrative office, and two central kitchens serving families throughout Hidalgo County.

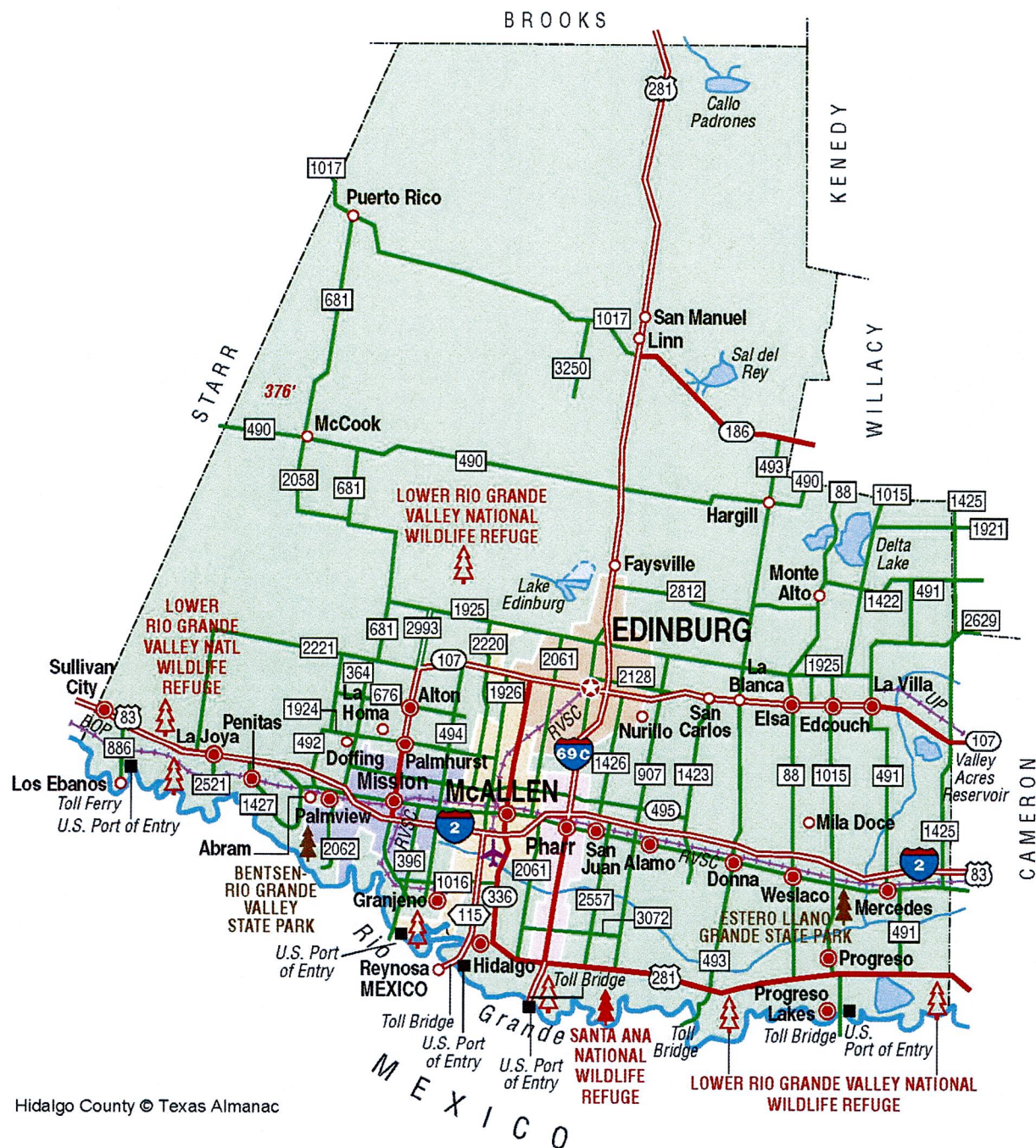


Hidalgo County Head Start Locations Directory

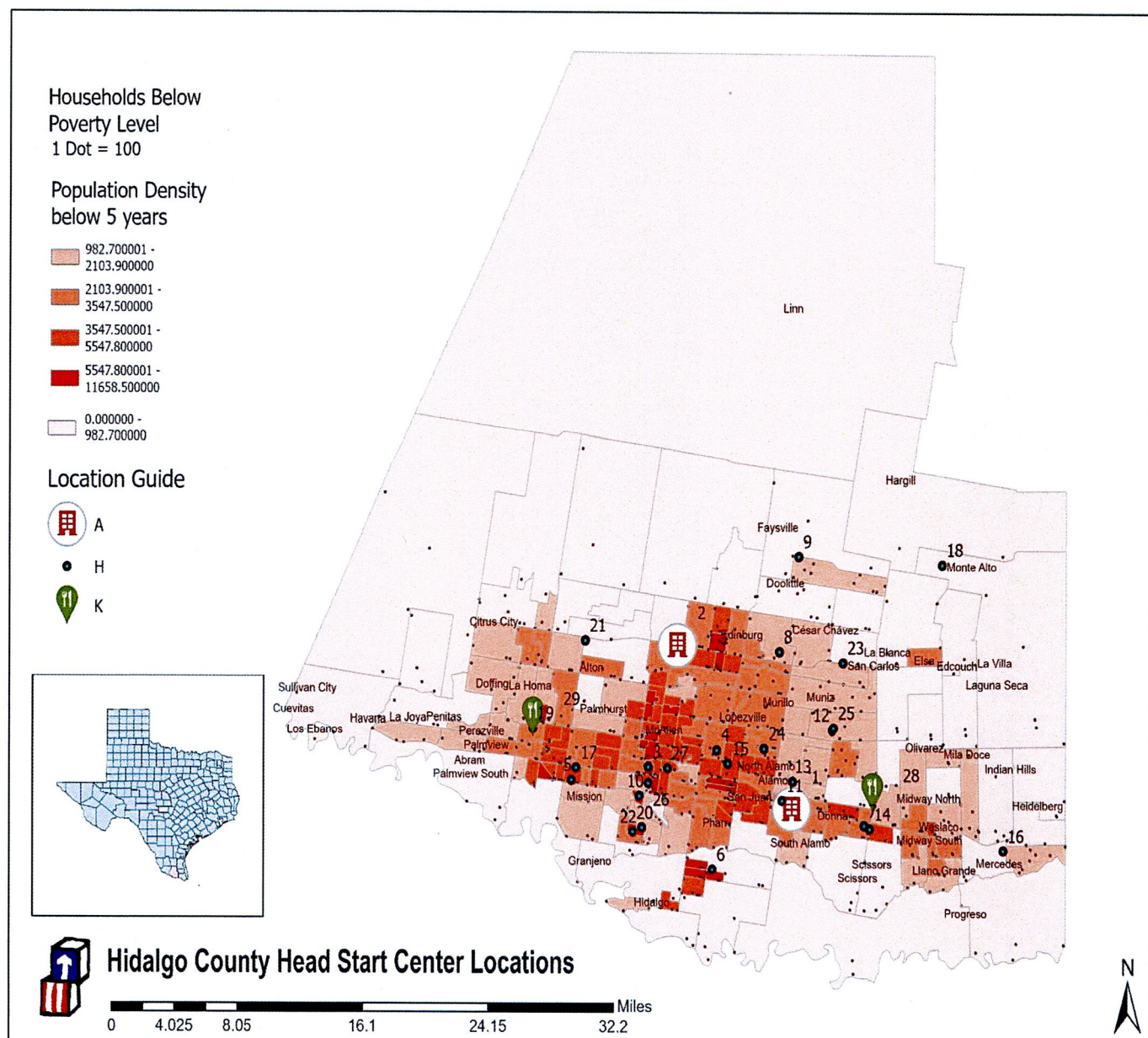
ID	HCHS Locations	Address	City	State	Zip
1	Alamo Sub-Station	303 South 7 th	Alamo	TX	78516
2	LBJ Administration Building	1901 W. State Hwy 107	McAllen	TX	78504
3	Alvarez - McAllen ISD	2606 Gumwood	McAllen	TX	78501
4	ARNOLD – PSJA ISD	615 W. El Dora Rd.	Pharr	TX	78577
5	CASTRO – Mission ISD	200 S. Mayberry St.	Mission	TX	78572
6	CESAR CHAVEZ – PSJA ISD	401 E Thomas Rd.	Pharr	TX	78577
7	DONNA EHS – Donna ISD	1402 Silver Avenue	Donna	TX	78537
8	EDINBURG – Edinburg CISD	3215 Richardson Rd	Edinburg	TX	78539
9	EDINBURG NORTH – Edinburg CISD	3500 East F.M. 2812	Edinburg	TX	78539
10	ESCANDON – McAllen ISD	2901 Colbath	McAllen	TX	78504
11	FARIAS – PSJA ISD	1100 W acacia St.	Alamo	TX	78516
12	GARZA HS/EHS – DONNA ISD	8801 W. Alberta Rd.	Donna	TX	78537
13	GUERRA – PSJA ISD	807 FM 495	Alamo	TX	78516
14	GUZMAN – Donna ISD	510 S. Salinas Blvd.	Donna	TX	78537
15	LONGORIA – PSJA ISD	2500 N Cypress	Pharr	TX	78577
16	MERCEDES (MEL) – Mercedes ISD	950 W. 6th St.	Mercedes	TX	78570
17	MISSION EHS – Mission CISD	1105 East 8th Street	Mission	TX	78572
18	MONTE ALTO – Monte Alto ISD	25249 1st St.	Monte Alto	TX	78538
19	PALMVIEW	618 N Breyfogle Rd.	Palmview	TX	78574
20	ROOSEVELT – McAllen ISD	4801 S. 26th	McAllen	TX	78503
21	SALINAS – Mission CISD	10820 N. Conway	Mission	TX	78573
22	SAM HOUSTON – McAllen ISD	3221 Olga Ave	McAllen	TX	78503
23	SAN CARLOS – Edinburg CISD	134 North 86th Street	San Carlos	TX	78539
24	SAN JUAN EHS – PSJA ISD	601 Earling Rd.	San Juan	TX	78589
25	SINGLETERRY – Donna ISD	9113 N. Val Verde Rd.	Donna	TX	78537
26	THIGPEN-ZAVALA – McAllen ISD	2500 Galveston Ave	McAllen	TX	78501
27	WILSON – McAllen ISD	1200 W. Hackberry	McAllen	TX	78501
28	Donna Central Kitchen	510 Salinas Blvd.	Donna	TX	78537
29	Palmview Central Kitchen	1208 Paula Dr. Unit III	Palmview	TX	78574

Service Area Map

Hidalgo County



The analysis shows that many existing Head Start centers are located near areas demonstrating elevated levels of socioeconomic need and higher populations of young children, particularly within the central and southern portions of Hidalgo County, including areas surrounding McAllen, Pharr, Mission, Edinburg, Donna, and Weslaco. The map also highlights several densely populated areas where concentrations of young children and poverty overlap, which may assist in evaluating service accessibility, transportation considerations, and the distribution of resources throughout Hidalgo County.



Data and Analysis

Profile of the Service Area

Using secondary data sources, DISC collected data on population, ethnicity, employment, education, income, public assistance, and health, nutrition, and social services for the service area of Hidalgo County.

Population

According to the U.S. Census Bureau 2020–2024 American Community Survey (ACS), Hidalgo County has an estimated population of 891,977 residents and a population density of 568 persons per square mile,

Population	Total Population	Total Land Area (Square Miles)	Population Density (Per Square Mile)
Hidalgo County	891,977	1,571.23	568
Texas	30,188,424	261,258.63	116
United States	334,922,499	3,533,467.48	95
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2020-24			

substantially higher than the Texas and U.S. averages. This population concentration may indicate continued demand for accessible early childhood education and family support services throughout the county.

Hispanic Population

The population in Hidalgo County (92%) is predominately of Hispanic origin. Origin can be viewed as the heritage, nationality group, lineage, or country of birth of the person or the person’s parents or ancestors before their arrival in the United States. People who identify their origin as Hispanic, or Latino may be of any race.

Hispanic Population	Hispanic or Latino Population	Hispanic or Latino Population, Percent	Non - Hispanic Population	Non - Hispanic Population, Percent
Hidalgo County	819,984	91.93%	71,993	8.07%
Texas	11,991,467	39.72%	18,196,957	60.28%
United States	64,759,370	19.34%	270,163,129	80.66%
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2020-24.				

Population Change

Between the 2000 Census and the 2020–2024 American Community Survey estimates, Hidalgo County’s population increased by approximately 322,515 residents (56.6%), substantially higher than the U.S. growth rate of 19.4%. Continued population growth may increase demand for childcare, educational, healthcare, and family support services throughout the county.

Population Change	Total Population, 2000 Census	Total Population Estimates, 2022 ACS	Population Change from	Percent Change from 2000-2022 Census/ACS
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			2000-2022 Census/ACS	
Hidalgo County	569,462	891,977	322,515	56.6%
Texas	20,851,666	30,188,424	9,336,758	44.8%
United States	280,405,781	334,922,499	54,516,718	19.4%
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey , 2020-24; Census 2000.				

Population Projections

The State Demographer with the Texas State Data Center, which produces the official population estimates for Texas and its counties, projects the population in Hidalgo County to grow 11% from 2020 to 2030, and for Texas (15.1%) by the next decennial census.

Population Projections	Population, 2020	Population, 2030	Population Change from 2020-2030	Percent Change from 2020-2030
Hidalgo County	870,781	966,834	96,053	11.0%
Texas	29,145,505	33,546,497	4,400,992	15.1%
Source: Texas State Data Center, Vintage 2024 Population Projections Program. https://demographics.texas.gov/Projections/				

Educational Attainment

Educational attainment, calculated for individuals over 25 from 2020 to 2024, reveals that 14.0% of Hidalgo County residents have at least a bachelor's degree, while 26.2% ended their formal education after high school. Higher educational attainment is associated with better health outcomes and higher wages. However, educational attainment in Hidalgo County is lower than both Texas and national averages.

Educational Attainment Persons Over 25	No HS Diploma	HS Only	Some College	Associates Degree	Bachelors Degree	Graduate or Professional Degree
Hidalgo County	29.77%	26.15%	17.73%	5.72%	14.05%	6.58%
Texas	14.03%	24.28%	20.12%	7.75%	21.48%	12.34%
United States	10.39%	26.04%	19.08%	8.81%	21.61%	14.08%
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey , 2020-24.						

Attainment - No High School Diploma

Educational attainment is an important indicator of family and community well-being. In Hidalgo County, approximately 153,601 adults age 25 and older (29.8%) do not have a high school diploma or equivalent, which is substantially higher than both the Texas (14.0%) and U.S. (10.4%) averages. Lower educational attainment among adults may be associated with higher levels of economic hardship and can influence employment opportunities, household income, and access to resources. Lower educational attainment among adults may contribute to ongoing economic and workforce challenges affecting families throughout Hidalgo County.

No High School Diploma	Total Population Age 25+	Population Age 25+ with No High School Diploma	Population Age 25+ with No High School Diploma, Percent
Hidalgo County, TX	516,001	153,601	29.77%
Texas	19,717,474	2,766,197	14.03%
United States	230,807,303	23,992,410	10.39%
Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2020-24.			

High School Graduation Rates

High school graduation rates are an important indicator of educational outcomes and overall community well-being. In Hidalgo County, 94.2% of students graduated within four years, exceeding both the Texas (91.4%) and U.S. (88.2%) averages. Strong educational attainment trends may reflect positive long-term outcomes for children and families and Strong graduation outcomes may reflect positive long-term educational trends and the value of early childhood educational support systems. This is measured by the Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate (ACGR), which tracks a group of first-time 9th graders, adjusting for students who transfer in or out, emigrate, or pass away. The ACGR reflects the percentage of this cohort that graduates within four years.

Graduation Rates	Student Cohort	Est. Number of Diplomas Issued	Cohort Graduation Rate
Hidalgo County, TX	13,989	13,183	94.2%
Texas	377,768	345,450	91.4%
United States	3,479,541	3,067,953	88.2%
Source: US Department of Education, EDFacts. TEA (Texas Education Agency 2023)			

Employment

Employment is a key indicator of economic health, as struggling economies often see increased reliance on public assistance and government programs. In Hidalgo County, employment grew by 8.4% from 2019 to 2023, outpacing both the U.S. (2.2%) and Texas (7.7%) employment growth rates during the same period. Employment growth indicates improving economic conditions within Hidalgo County during the study period.

Employment	Employment 2020	Employment 2025	Change 2020 to 2025	% Change 2020 to 2025
Hidalgo County	322,063	381,384	59,321	18.42%
Texas	12,879,942	15,218,369	2,338,427	18.16%
United States	147,795,000	163,493,000	15,698,000	10.62%
Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, LAUS, annual, non-adjusted.				

Unemployment Rates

Employment conditions can affect a family's financial stability and access to essential resources such as healthcare, childcare, transportation, and nutritious food. Although Hidalgo County's unemployment rate has declined in recent years as economic conditions improved, the county continues to experience higher unemployment levels compared to both Texas and the United States. In 2025, Hidalgo County's unemployment rate was 6.3%, compared to 4.2% for Texas and 4.3% nationally. Higher unemployment levels

may contribute to increased economic challenges for families and may affect the need for community assistance and family support services throughout the county.

Unemployment Rates	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Hidalgo County	11.5%	8.9%	6.5%	6.1%	6.0%	6.3%
Texas	7.7%	5.6%	3.9%	4.0%	4.1%	4.2%
United States	8.1%	5.4%	3.7%	3.6%	4.0%	4.3%
Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics , LAUS, annual, non-adjusted.						

Young People Not in School and Not Working

Youth disengagement from school and employment can be an indicator of broader social and economic challenges within a community. In Hidalgo County, approximately 6,320 youth ages 16–19 (10.1%) are neither enrolled in school nor employed, exceeding both the Texas (8.2%) and U.S. (6.9%) averages. Higher

	Population Age 16-19	Population Age 16-19 Not in School and Not Employed	Population Age 16-19 Not in School and Not Employed, Percent
Hidalgo County	62,633	6,320	10.09%
Texas	1,726,131	141,082	8.17%
United States	17,593,720	1,215,928	6.91%
Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2020-24.			

rates of disconnected youth may reflect barriers related to education, employment opportunities, and family resources. These conditions can influence long-term community well-being and highlight the importance of programs and support services that strengthen educational and family outcomes across Hidalgo County.

Median Household Income and Per Capita Income

This indicator reports median household income from the latest 5-year American Community Survey estimates, including the income of all individuals aged 15 and older in a household. In Hidalgo County, there are 270,210 households with an average income of \$74,303 and a median income of \$54,338. Compared to state and national levels, Hidalgo County remains one of the poorest counties in the U.S., with both median household and per capita incomes significantly lower than those of Texas and the U.S.

Incomes	Median Household Income	Per Capita Income
Hidalgo County	\$54,338	\$23,117
Texas	\$78,476	\$40,751
United States	\$80,734	\$44,672
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey , 2020-24.		

Poverty All Ages

Poverty is a key indicator of economic hardship and an important factor affecting the demand for Head Start and family support services.

According to the 2020–2024 American Community Survey, approximately 235,512 residents

(26.7%) in Hidalgo County live below the federal poverty level, substantially higher than both the Texas (13.8%) and U.S. (12.5%) averages. Higher poverty levels reflect ongoing socioeconomic challenges affecting families throughout Hidalgo County.

Poverty All Ages	All Ages Persons in poverty	All Ages Poverty Rate
Hidalgo County	235,512	26.67%
Texas	4,074,940	13.79%
United States	40,735,661	12.45%
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey , 2020–24.		

Poverty Rate Change

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, poverty rates declined between 2020 and 2024 in Hidalgo County and the United States as economic conditions and employment opportunities improved following the COVID-19 pandemic. During this period, Hidalgo County's poverty rate decreased from 28.4% to 26.7%. Although poverty levels have improved, Hidalgo County continues to experience poverty rates substantially higher than both the Texas and U.S. averages, indicating continued economic challenges for many families throughout the county.

Poverty Rate Change	Persons in Poverty 2020	Poverty Rate 2020	Persons in Poverty 2024	Poverty Rate 2024	Poverty Rate % Points Change
Hidalgo County	242,121	28.40%	235,512	26.67%	-1.7%
Texas	3,984,260	14.20%	4,074,940	13.79%	-0.4%
United States	40,910,326	12.80%	40,735,661	12.45%	-0.4%
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey , 2020–24, Census 2020.					

Children Under 18 Below 100% Poverty

Children living in poverty are among the primary populations served by Head Start and Early Head Start programs. According to the 2020–2024 American Community Survey, approximately 99,999 children under age 18 (36.4%) in Hidalgo County live

Children at or Below 100% FPL	Population Under 18	Population Under 18 in Poverty	Percent Population Under 18 in Poverty
Hidalgo County	274,435	99,999	36.4%
Texas	7,456,419	1,391,226	18.7%
United States	72,384,401	11,678,577	16.1%
Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2020–24.			

below the federal poverty level. This rate is substantially higher than both the Texas (18.7%) and U.S. (16.1%) averages. Higher child poverty levels may indicate greater demand for early childhood education, nutrition assistance, family support services, and other programs designed to improve outcomes for children and families throughout Hidalgo County.

Children 0-2 Below 100% Poverty

Children 0-2 at or Below 100% FPL	Population 0-2	Estimated Population 0-2 in Poverty	Percent Population 0-2 in Poverty
Hidalgo County	38,275	13,947	36.4%
Texas	1,116,710	208,378	18.7%
United States	10,776,477	1,738,246	16.1%
Source: Esri Detailed Age Report; US Census Bureau, American Community Survey , 2020-24.			

Children 3-5 Below 100% Poverty

Children 3-5 at or Below 100% FPL	Population 3-5	Estimated Population 3-5 in Poverty	Percent Population 3-5 in Poverty
Hidalgo County	39,146	14,265	36.4%
Texas	1,171,002	218,509	18.7%
United States	11,408,360	1,840,168	16.1%
Source: Esri Detailed Age Report; US Census Bureau, American Community Survey , 2020-24.			

Receiving Medicaid

Medicaid enrollment is an important indicator of populations that may experience greater healthcare, economic, and social support needs. According to February 2026 data from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, approximately 210,747 residents in Hidalgo County received Medicaid benefits, including 150,773 children, representing 71.5% of all Medicaid recipients in the county. The high proportion of children receiving Medicaid may reflect continued economic and healthcare needs among families with young children throughout Hidalgo County.

Receiving Medicaid	Population Receiving Medicaid	Children Receiving Medicaid	Percent of Children Receiving Medicaid
Hidalgo County	210,747	150,773	71.5%
Texas	3,834,104	2,747,060	71.6%
Source: Texas Health and Human Services Commission, Medicaid data, Feb 2026.			

Receiving TANF

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) provides financial assistance and support services to low-income families with children to help meet basic needs and promote self-sufficiency. In Hidalgo County, there were 808 TANF cases,

Receiving TANF	TANF Cases	TANF Recipients	TANF Children
Hidalgo County	808	2,125	1,989
Texas	8,948	21,696	17,386
Source: Texas Health and Human Services Commission, TANF data, March 2026			

serving 2,125 recipients, including 1,989 children, according to March 2026 data from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. Hidalgo County accounts for approximately 9% of all TANF cases in Texas, indicating continued economic challenges among vulnerable families with young children.

SSI Recipients

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a federal program that provides financial assistance to aged, blind, and disabled individuals with limited income and resources to help meet basic needs such as food, clothing, and shelter. According to the 2020–2024 American Community Survey, approximately 19,612 households in Hidalgo County reported receiving SSI income. Higher levels of SSI

participation may indicate the presence of economically vulnerable populations that could require additional healthcare, social support, and family assistance services.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI) FOR HOUSEHOLDS	Number
Hidalgo County	19,612
Texas	505,111
United States	6,658,317
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2020-24.	

CHIP Enrollment

Enrollment in the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) declined between 2020 and 2025 in both Hidalgo County and Texas. During this period, Hidalgo County experienced a 47.4% decrease in CHIP enrollment, while Texas experienced a 50.2% decline statewide. Changes in enrollment trends may reflect policy adjustments, eligibility transitions, and post-pandemic program changes affecting healthcare coverage among children and families.

CHIP Enrollment	2020	2025	% Change 2020-2025
Hidalgo County	11,050	5,818	-47.35%
Texas	340,731	169,747	-50.18%
Source: Texas Health and Human Services Commission, Chip data, FY 2020 and FY 2025.			

Receiving SNAP (0-5)

Approximately 26,836 children under age five in Hidalgo County receive SNAP benefits, indicating continued economic need among families with young children and highlighting the importance of programs and services that support children’s educational, nutritional, and developmental needs.

Receiving SNAP Ages (0-5)	SNAP Cases	SNAP Recipients	SNAP Ages < 5
Hidalgo County	79,513	185,277	26,836
Texas	1,427,563	3,053,226	429,658
Source: Texas Health and Human Services Commission, SNAP data, April 2026.			

Population with Limited English Proficiency

This indicator reports the percentage of the population aged 5 and older who speak a language other than English at home and speak English less than "very well." In Hidalgo County, 29.6% of the population has limited English proficiency, a significantly higher percentage compared to Texas (13%) and the U.S. (8.6%).

Population with Limited English Proficiency	Population Age 5+ with Limited English Proficiency	Percent Population Age 5+ with Limited English Proficiency
Hidalgo County	243,104	29.57%
Texas	3,666,736	12.98%
United States	27,139,643	8.58%
U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey , 2020-24.		

Households with No Motor Vehicle

Access to reliable transportation is an important factor influencing a family's ability to obtain childcare, healthcare, employment, and other essential services. According to the 2020–2024 American Community Survey, approximately 15,247 households (5.6%) in Hidalgo County do not have access to a

Households with No Motor Vehicle	Total Occupied Households	Households with No Motor Vehicle	Percent Households with No Motor Vehicle
Hidalgo County	270,210	15,247	5.64%
Texas	55,054,795	3,001,020	5.45%
United States	129,227,496	10,793,323	8.35%
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey , 2020-24.			

motor vehicle. Although this percentage is like the Texas average (5.5%), households without transportation may experience challenges accessing Head Start centers, medical appointments, employment opportunities, and family support services. Transportation limitations may create barriers to accessing childcare, healthcare, employment, and family support services.

Housing Costs – Cost Burden

Housing affordability is an important factor affecting family stability and overall well-being. According to the 2020–2024 American Community Survey, approximately 74,183 households (27.5%) in Hidalgo County are considered cost-burdened, meaning they spend a significant portion of

Housing Costs – Cost Burden	Total Occupied Households	Cost-Burdened Households	Percent Cost-Burdened Households
Hidalgo County	270,210	74,183	27.45%
Texas	10,992,816	3,377,289	30.72%
United States	129,227,496	38,509,052	29.80%
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey , 2020-24.			

their income on housing expenses. Housing cost burdens can reduce the financial resources available for childcare, healthcare, transportation, and other essential needs.

Uninsured Population

Lack of insurance is a significant barrier to accessing healthcare, including primary and specialty care, contributing to poor health outcomes. In Hidalgo County, the rate of uninsured individuals stands at 28.2%, highlighting a major challenge in accessing necessary health services.



Uninsured Population	Insurance Population	Number Insured	Number Uninsured	Percent Uninsured
Hidalgo County	884,598	634,715	249,883	28.2%
Texas	29,696,761	24,610,973	5,085,788	17.1%
United States	329,980,753	302,245,842	27,734,911	8.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#), 2020-24.

Child Abuse/Neglect Victims 0-5

Confirmed cases of child abuse and neglect involving children ages 0–5 are important indicators of child and family vulnerability. Between 2021 and 2025, the number of confirmed child abuse and neglect victims ages 0–5 in Hidalgo County decreased by approximately 5.2%, while Texas experienced a 24.2% decrease statewide.

Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations – Confirmed Victims 0-5	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	% Change in Child Abuse/Neglect Victims 2021-2025
Hidalgo County						
Victims	903	729	793	797	856	-5.2%
Victims/1,000 Child Population	3.5	2.8	3.1	3.1	3.4	
Texas						
Victims	37,206	30,425	31,416	29,249	28,190	-24.2%
Victims/1,000 Child Population	4.9	4.2	4.3	4	3.8	

Source: [Texas Department of Projective and Regulatory Services](#). Data Book. Fiscal Years 2021-2025.

Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Price Lunch

Free or reduced-price lunches are provided to students from families with incomes below 185% (for reduced-price lunches) or 130% (for free lunches) of the federal poverty threshold through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). In the latest report, 186,288 out of 215,222 public-school students in Hidalgo County were eligible for the program, representing 86.6% of students—significantly higher than the Texas state average of 61.4%.

Children Eligible for Free/ Reduced Price Lunch	Total Students	Number Free/ Reduced Price Lunch Eligible	Percent Free/ Reduced Price Lunch Eligible
Hidalgo County	215,222	186,288	86.6%
Texas	5,532,518	3,398,047	61.4%
United States	46,694,706	24,748,121	54.7%
Data Source: National Center for Education Statistics, NCES - Common Core of Data. 2023-24.			



Births

Birth trends are an important indicator for evaluating potential demand for early childhood education and family support services. In Hidalgo County, the number of births increased slightly from 13,800 in 2019 to 13,944 in 2023, representing a 1.0% increase during the period. Similarly, births in Texas increased by 2.8% between 2019 and 2023. Although annual birth totals fluctuated during this time, the relatively stable number of births suggests a continued need for services supporting young children and families throughout Hidalgo County.

Births	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	% Change in Births 2019-2023
Hidalgo County	13,800	13,383	13,260	14,400	13,944	1.04%
Texas	377,710	368,317	373,706	389,806	388,114	2.75%

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services, [Center for Health Statistics](#), 2019-2023.

Teen Births

Teen parents may face unique educational, economic, and health-related challenges that can affect family stability and child well-being. According to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Hidalgo County had a teen birth rate of 33.9 births per 1,000 females ages 15–19, substantially higher than both

the Texas (22.7) and U.S. (15.5) rates. Higher teen birth rates may indicate an increased need for early childhood education, family support services, healthcare access, and resources that support young parents and their children throughout Hidalgo County.

Teen Births	Female Population Age 15–19	Births to Mothers Age 15–19	Teen Birth Rate (Per 1,000 Population)
Hidalgo County	265,512	9,001	33.9
Texas	7,142,202	162,128	22.7
United States	73,099,680	1,133,045	15.5

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC - National Vital Statistics System. Accessed via County Health Rankings. 2017-2023.

LOW BIRTH-WEIGHT BIRTHS (<2,500 GRAMS)

Low birth-weight births, defined as births weighing less than 2,500 grams, are an important indicator of infant health and may be associated with increased medical and developmental risks. Between 2019 and 2023, the number of low birth-weight births in Hidalgo County increased from 1,261 to 1,360, representing a 7.9% increase. During the same period, Texas experienced a 6.5% increase in low birth-weight births. These trends may indicate continued healthcare and support needs among infants and families throughout Hidalgo County.

Births- Low Birth-weight	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	% Change in Births 2019-2023
Hidalgo County	1,261	1,187	1,244	1,359	1,360	7.85%
Texas	31,910	30,456	32,888	34,661	33,967	6.45%

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services, [Center for Health Statistics](#), 2019-2023.

WIC Program (Woman)

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) provide nutritional assistance, health screenings, education, and support services to low-income pregnant women, postpartum women, infants, and young children who may be at nutritional risk. According to 2024 data from the Texas Department of State Health Services, approximately 13,580 women in Hidalgo County received WIC benefits.

WIC Program (Pregnant Women/Expectant Mothers)	2024
Hidalgo County	13,580
Texas	208,712
Source: Texas Department of State Health Services, 2024. Accessed through Kids Count Data Center .	

WIC Recipients (0-4)

According to 2023 data from the Texas Department of State Health Services, approximately 10,992 infants under age one and 28,914 children ages one to four in Hidalgo County participated in the WIC program.

WIC Recipients	Ages Under 1	Ages 1-4
Hidalgo County	10,992	28,914
Texas	186,758	387,572
Source: Texas Department of State Health Services, 2024. Accessed through Kids Count Data Center .		

Access to Primary Care Physicians

Access to primary healthcare services is an important factor affecting the overall health and well-being of children and families. According to 2025 data from the Texas Department of State Health Services, Hidalgo County had approximately 61 primary care physicians per 100,000 residents, lower than the Texas rate of approximately 80 physicians per 100,000 residents.

Access to Primary Care Physicians	Total Population	Primary Care Physicians Total	Primary Care Physicians, Rate per 100,000 Pop.
Hidalgo County	915,411	556	60.7
Texas	32,204,920	25,747	79.9
Source: Texas Department of State Health Services, Primary Care Physicians , 2025.			

Access to General Dentists

Like primary care access, residents of Hidalgo County have fewer dentists per 100,000 population (24.3) compared to the state average in Texas (40.7), highlighting a gap in dental care availability in the area.

Access to General Dentists	Total Population	General Dentists Total	Dentists, Rate per 100,000 Pop.
Hidalgo County	915,411	222	24.3
Texas	32,204,920	13,104	40.7
Source: Texas Department of State Health Services, General Dentists , 2025.			

Special Populations

Special populations such as undocumented immigrants, children in foster care, inmates in jails, persons with substance abuse problems, domestic violence and homeless persons were examined as part of the community assessment.

Special Populations	Hidalgo County	Texas
Foster Care (2024)		
Children in Foster Care 0-17	135	9,749
Family Violence (2024)		
Family Violence	8,819	250,048
Alcohol Consumption (2022)		
Adults Drinking Excessively	105,719	4,185,585
Percentage of 18+ Population	17.1%	18.9%
Tobacco Usage (2022)		
Adults Regularly Smoking Cigarettes	123,989	3,843,416
Percentage of 18+ Population	13.8%	12.6%
Undocumented Immigrants (2023)		
Undocumented Immigrants Total	109,000	1,966,000
Undocumented Immigrants 5-13 enrolled in School	2,000	73,000
Undocumented Immigrants 14-18 enrolled in School	3,000	64,000
Homeless Population (2024)		
Number of Homeless Adults	189	10,081
Number of Homeless Children under 18	22	1,332
Inmates (April 2026)		
County Jail Population	1,130	72,037
Sexual Assault (2024)		
Sexual Assault Population	701	20,620
Hate Crime (2024)		
Hate Crime Population	3	453

Crime Offenses and Rates

Crime rates are commonly used indicators of community safety and overall neighborhood conditions. According to the 2024 Texas Crime Report, Hidalgo County reported approximately 17,350 criminal offenses, resulting in a crime rate of approximately 1,903 offenses per 100,000 residents. Reported offenses included crimes such as assault, burglary, robbery, and theft-related offenses. Community safety conditions may influence family well-being, neighborhood stability, and access to safe environments for children and families throughout Hidalgo County.

Crime	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Auto	Total
Hidalgo County								
-Offenses	28	493	257	2,116	1,490	11,724	1,242	17,350
-Rate Per 100K	3.1	54.1	28.2	232	163.4	1,285.60	136.2	1,903

Source: Texas Department of Public Safety, The Texas Crime Report for 2024.

Head Start Enrollment

Hidalgo County Head Start administers the Head Start program in Hidalgo County with a cumulative enrollment of 2,720 children.

Head Start Enrollment	Funded Enrollment Slots
Hidalgo County Head Start	2,720
Source: Head Start Management, May 2026.	



Migrant and Season Head Start Enrollment

UMOS administers Migrant and Seasonal Head Start programs in Hidalgo County, with a cumulative enrollment of 1,140 children. These programs support the education and development of children from migrant and seasonal farmworker families.

Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Enrollment	Funded Enrollment Slots
UMOS	1,140
Source: Texas Health and Human Services, Child Care Licensing Statistics , May. 2026.	



Early Head Start Enrollment

Different early Head Start Programs in Hidalgo County support a total funded enrollment of 1,050 slots.

Early Head Start Enrollment	Funded Enrollment
Hidalgo County Early Head Start Program Inc	254
UTRGV Early Head Start Services	372
Avance Early Head Start Program	424
Total	1,050
Source: Texas Health and Human Services, Child Care Licensing Statistics , May 2026.	

Early Head Start Unmet Need, Children Ages 0-2

Early Head Start serves pregnant women, infants, and toddlers from birth to age 3. According to data from organizations providing childcare and early childhood services for low-income children in Hidalgo County, a total of 3,458 children under age 3 receive services through the Early Head Start program, public school early childhood programs, and Workforce Solutions Child Care Management Services (CCMS).

To estimate the unmet need for children ages 0–2, the population of children in this age group was identified at 38,275. Based on American Community Survey data indicating that 36.4 percent of children under age 3 live below the federal poverty level, an estimated 13,947 children ages 0–2 may be income-eligible for Early Head Start services.

After accounting for the 3,458 children currently receiving services, an estimated 10,489 income-eligible children remain unserved or underserved. This finding highlights the continuing need for additional early childhood education, childcare, and family support services for infants and toddlers throughout Hidalgo County.

Unmet Need for Early Head Start in Hidalgo County (Ages 0–2)	
Children 0 to 2 Population in Hidalgo County	38,275
Times Percentage of Children Living in Poverty (36.4%)	13,947
Less Children 0-2 Served by Early Head Start, CCMS, and Public Schools	3,458
Unmet Need Children 0-2 for Early Head Start in Hidalgo County	10,489
Source: UTRGV calculations using ESRI, Early Head Start, CCMS, and ACS data.	



Other Child Development and Child Care Programs Serving Eligible Children

Public Schools Programs Serving Children 0-5

According to data from the Texas Education Agency, public schools in Hidalgo County had 234 children enrolled in early childhood programs, 16,031 children in pre-kindergarten programs, and 15,842 children in kindergarten programs.

School District	Charter Status	Early Childhood	Pre-K	Kinder
Brilliant Academy	Open Enrollment Charter	N/A	199	98
Horizon Montessori Public Schools	Open Enrollment Charter	N/A	244	130
Idea Public Schools	Open Enrollment Charter	N/A	64	4,819
Vanguard Academy	Open Enrollment Charter	N/A	775	541
Excellence In Leadership Academy	Open Enrollment Charter	19	20	23
Donna ISD	Traditional ISD/CSD	12	1,073	724
Edcouch-Elsa ISD	Traditional ISD/CSD	10	439	255
Edinburg CISD	Traditional ISD/CSD	42	3,034	2,023
Hidalgo ISD	Traditional ISD/CSD	10	172	150
McAllen ISD	Traditional ISD/CSD	72	1,188	1,164
Mercedes ISD	Traditional ISD/CSD	10	301	210
Mission CISD	Traditional ISD/CSD	10	1,235	788
Pharr-San Juan-Alamo ISD	Traditional ISD/CSD	10	3,264	1,843
Progreso ISD18	Traditional ISD/CSD	N/A	91	67
Sharyland ISD	Traditional ISD/CSD	18	311	447
La Joya ISD	Traditional ISD/CSD	10	1,976	1,302
Weslaco ISD	Traditional ISD/CSD	10	1,288	1010
La Villa ISD	Traditional ISD/CSD	N/A	38	16
Monte Alto ISD	Traditional ISD/CSD	10	61	50
Valley View ISD	Traditional ISD/CSD	10	258	182
Total		234	16,031	15,842

Source: [Texas Education Agency, PEIMS Standard Reports, Student Enrollment Reports](#), 2025-2026.

Licensed Childcare Providers Serving Children 0-5

According to data from the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Hidalgo County has 490 childcare providers, including 418 licensed childcare centers, 38 licensed childcare homes, 10 listed family homes, and 22 registered homes. Together, these providers have the capacity to serve 33,280 children.

Licensed Child Care Providers	Hidalgo County
Licensed Child Care Centers	
Number	418
Capacity	32,546

Licensed Child Care Homes	
Number	38
Capacity	452
Listed Family Homes	
Number	10
Capacity	30
Registered Child Care Homes	
Number	22
Capacity	252
Total Number	488
Total Capacity	33,280

Source: Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, May 2026.



Head Start Unmet Need, Children Ages 3–5

Head Start serves children ages 3 to 5 who are not yet age-eligible for kindergarten. According to data from organizations providing early childhood education and childcare services for low-income children in Hidalgo County, a total of 7,696 children ages 3–5 receive services through the Hidalgo County Head Start Program (2,720 children), the UMOS Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Program (1,140 children), and Workforce Solutions Child Care Management Services (CCMS) (3,836 children).

To estimate the unmet need for Head Start services, the population of children ages 3–5 in Hidalgo County was identified at 39,146 children. Based on American Community Survey data indicating that 36.4 percent of children under age 6 live below the federal poverty level, an estimated 14,265 children ages 3–5 may be income-eligible for Head Start services.

After accounting for the 7,696 children currently receiving services, an estimated 6,569 income-eligible children remain unserved or underserved. This represents approximately 46.1 percent of the estimated income-eligible population, indicating a continued need for early childhood education, childcare, and school readiness services for preschool-aged children throughout Hidalgo County.

Unmet Need for Head Start in Hidalgo County (Ages 3–5)	
Children 3 to 5 Population in Hidalgo County	39,146
Times Percentage of Children Living in Poverty (36.4%)	14,265
Less Children 3 to 5 Served by Hidalgo County Head Start, UMOS and CCMS	7,696
Unmet Need Children 3 to 5 for Head Start in Hidalgo County	6,569
Percent of Eligible Children Unserved	46.1%
Source: UTRGV calculations using ESRI, Hidalgo County Head Start, UMOS, CCMS, and ACS data.	

Geographic Distribution of Unmet Need for Early Head Start and Head Start Services (Children Ages 0–5)

The estimated unmet need for Early Head Start and Head Start services in Hidalgo County is 17,058 children ages 0–5. To identify where these children may reside, the countywide unmet need was allocated based on the geographic distribution of the population ages 0–5 across cities and rural areas of the county. This approach provides an estimate of where potentially income-eligible children who are not currently receiving services may be located.

The analysis indicates that the largest concentrations of unmet need are found in McAllen (1,391 children), Edinburg (1,178 children), Pharr (938 children), and Mission (843 children). Together, these four cities account for approximately 43.3 percent of the countywide unmet need. In addition, an estimated 3,353 children, representing 33.3 percent of the total unmet need, reside in rural and unincorporated areas of Hidalgo County.

These findings suggest that while unmet need exists throughout the county, the greatest concentrations are located in the larger urban communities and rural areas. The results may assist Hidalgo County Head Start and community partners in targeting outreach efforts, prioritizing enrollment activities, and evaluating opportunities for future service expansion to better meet the needs of low-income children and families.

UNMET NEED CHILDREN 0-5, HIDALGO COUNTY	Percent of Population Ages 0–5	Estimated Unmet Need 0-5 Population
Alamo	2.1%	355
Alton	2.4%	410
Donna	1.9%	331
Edcouch	0.4%	61
Edinburg	11.8%	2,004
Elsa	0.6%	98
Granjeno	0.0%	6
Hidalgo	1.5%	257
La Joya	0.5%	89
La Villa	0.2%	38
McAllen	13.9%	2,366
Mercedes	1.8%	309
Mission	8.4%	1,434
Palmhurst	0.3%	44
Palmview	1.7%	287
Penitas	0.7%	123
Pharr	9.4%	1,596
Progreso	0.6%	94
Progreso Lakes	0.0%	8
San Juan	3.7%	632
Sullivan City	0.4%	69
Weslaco	4.3%	740
Rural areas	33.4%	5,705
Hidalgo County	100.0%	17,058
Sources: Esri estimates, American Community Survey 2020-24. UTRGV DISC Calculations 2026		

Children with Disabilities

Early Childhood Intervention

Children 0-3 Receiving ECI Services

The Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) program is a statewide initiative that provides support to families with children, from birth to age three, who have disabilities and developmental delays. ECI helps families through developmental services to ensure children reach their potential. In Hidalgo County, 5% of the population received ECI services.

Early Childhood Intervention	Birth-to-3 Population	Children Served: Comprehensive Services	Percent of Population Served: Comprehensive Services
Hidalgo County	58,677	2,648	5%
Texas	1,580,127	67,970	4.3%

Children 3-5 with a Disability in Public School

According to the Texas Education Agency, there were 2,848 children ages 3–5 with a disability enrolled in public schools in Hidalgo County during the 2025–2026 school year. The largest reported disability categories were speech impairment, with 1,224 students, followed by autism, with 970 students, and noncategorical early childhood, with 288 students. These three categories account for the majority of identified disabilities among young children in public school settings.

This data highlights the continued need for early childhood programs, screening, referral services, and coordinated support for children with disabilities and developmental needs across Hidalgo County. Head Start and Early Head Start programs play an important role in identifying developmental concerns early and connecting families to appropriate educational, health, and disability services.

Note: Counts marked “-999” were suppressed because student counts were fewer than five.

Children 3-5 with a Disability in Public School	Hidalgo County
AUDITORY IMPAIRMENT	28
AUTISM	970
DEVELOPMENTAL DELAY	142
EMOTIONAL DISTURBANCE	-999
INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY	41
NONCATEGORICAL EARLY CHILDHOOD	288
ORTHOPEDIC IMPAIRMENT	19
OTHER HEALTH IMPAIRMENT	117
SPEECH IMPAIRMENT	1,224
TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY	-999
VISUAL IMPAIRMENT	-999
	2,848
Source: Texas Education Agency. -999 = not available as student counts less than five are not added in compliance with FERPA. 2025-2026.	

Community Resources for Eligible Children and Families

In the service area, there is a strong network of agencies and community organizations that offer programs to assist low-income families and children with essential needs such as food, housing, healthcare, education, and employment opportunities. These resources play a vital role in supporting the well-being of the community.

Texas Health and Human Services Commission (SNAP, TANF, Medicaid)

135 E. Business Highway 83, Alamo, TX 78516, (956) 787-0026
 2520 S. Veterans Blvd., Edinburg, TX 78540, (956) 383-5344
 2520 N. Closner, Edinburg, TX 78541, (956) 383-3120
 ¼ Mile S. of Highway 107 on FM 88, Elsa, TX 78543, (956) 262-4701
 4501 W. Business Highway 83, McAllen, TX 78501, (956) 630-9441
 202 W. 2nd St., Mercedes, TX, 78570, (956) 565-2445
 4015 N. Conway, Mission, TX 78573, (956) 585-1579
 1503 W. Polk, Pharr, TX 78577, (956) 787-3131
 3412 E. Moreland, Weslaco, TX 78596, (956) 969-9115

Texas Department of Family & Protective Services (Child and Adult Abuse)

135 E. Business Highway 83, Alamo, TX 78516, (956) 781-5991
 2520 N. Closner Blvd., Edinburg, TX 78541, (956) 316-2489
 2520 S. Veterans Blvd., Edinburg, TX 78541, (956) 383-5344
 300 E. Canton Rd., Edinburg, TX, 78539, (956) 381-5791
 1919 Austin Ave., McAllen, TX 78501, (956) 682-1301
 510 S. Texas Blvd., Weslaco, TX 78596, (956) 969-9280

Food Assistance

RGV Food Bank, 724 North Cage Blvd., Pharr, TX 78577, (956) 682-8101

General Assistance (Housing, Food, Utility Bills)

Salvation Army, 1600 N. 23rd St., McAllen, TX 78501, (956) 682-1468
 Catholic Charities RGV, 700 N. Virgen de San Juan Blvd., San Juan, TX 78589, (956) 702-4088

Social Security Administration (SSI)

3004 N. McColl Rd., McAllen, TX 78501, 1-855-886-9628

Attorney General (Child Support)

3508 N. Jackson Rd., Ste. 600, Pharr, TX 78577, 1-800-252-8014

Womens Infants and Childrens Program (WIC)

Edinburg WIC Clinic, 3105 E. Richardson, Edinburg, TX, 78539, (956) 380-0363
 Mission WIC Clinic, 211 South Schuerbach Rd., Mission, TX, 78572, (956) 581-2723
 Pharr WIC Clinic, 1903 North Knights, Pharr, TX 78577, (956) 783-1151
 Hidalgo WIC Clinic, 702 East Tejano, Hidalgo, TX 78557, (956) 843-8151
 Donna WIC Clinic, 301 South 8th Street, Donna, TX 78537, (956) 464-2251
 Weslaco WIC Clinic, 1901 North Bridge, Weslaco, TX 78596, (956) 968-0594
 Mercedes WIC Clinic, 540 S. Texas, Mercedes, TX 78570, (956) 565-2603

Elsa WIC Clinic, 708 East Edinburg Street, Elsa, TX 78543, (956) 262-1324
Progreso WIC Clinic, 510 N. FM 1015, Progreso, TX 78579, (956) 514-0236
Alton WIC Clinic, 3509 E. Main Ave., Suite 104, Alton, TX 78573, (956) 519-7159
Alamo WIC Clinic, 313 E. Business 83, Suite 113, Alamo, TX 78516, (956) 783-5369
Mission WIC Clinic II, 722 N. Breyfogle, Suite 2-C, Mission, TX 78572, (956) 584-3334
McAllen WIC Clinic II, 220 S. Bicentennial, Suite D, McAllen, TX 78501, (956) 972-0554
Edinburg WIC Clinic II, 113 Dawson, Edinburg, TX 78539, (956) 316-1434
Pharr WIC Clinic II, 300 W. Hall Acres Rd., Ste. A, Pharr, TX 78577 (956) 781-4920
San Carlos WIC Clinic, 230 North 86th Street, Edinburg, TX 78539, (956) 318-1476
Weslaco WIC Clinic II, 417 South Oregon Avenue, Weslaco, TX 78596, (956) 968-3516
North San Juan WIC Clinic, 509 E. Earling Road, San Juan, TX 78589, (956) 702-7788
McAllen WIC Clinic III, 3001 North 23rd Street, Suite 8, McAllen, TX 78502, (956) 683-1822
Alton WIC Clinic II, 3503 W. 5 Mile Rd., Ste 5, 6, 7, Mission, TX 78574, (956) 583-5791
Alamo WIC Clinic II, 1429 S. Tower Rd., Alamo, TX 78516, (956) 784-3523

Early Childhood Intervention (ECI)

Easter Seals Rio Grande Valley, Inc., 1217 Houston St., McAllen TX 78501, (956) 631-9171
Region One Education Service Center, 1900 W. Schunior, Edinburg, TX 78540, (956) 651-1960

Summer Food Service Program Sites

USDA, Summer Food Service Program, click on link to find a site, over 100 sites.
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Public Housing (Low-Rent and Section 8)

Alamo Housing Authority, 309 N. 9 th St., Alamo, TX 78516, (956) 787-2352
Edcouch Housing Authority, 209 Pacific Ave., Edcouch, TX 78538, (956) 262-2471
Edinburg Housing Authority, 910 S. Sugar Rd., Edinburg, TX 78539, (956) 383-3839
Hidalgo Housing Authority, 704 E. Texano Dr., Hidalgo, TX 78557, (956) 843-8561
La Joya Housing Authority, 945 S. Leo Ave., La Joya, TX 78560, (956) 581-7069
McAllen Housing Authority, 2301 Jasmine Ave., McAllen, TX 78501, (956) 686-3951
Mercedes Housing Authority, 306 W. 5 th St., Mercedes, TX 78570, (956) 565-3139
Mission Housing Authority, 1300 E. 8 th St., Mission, TX 78572, (956) 585-9747
Pharr Housing Authority, 104 W. Polk, Pharr, TX 78577, (956) 787-1822
San Juan Housing Authority, 700 Maldonado, San Juan, TX, (956) 781-3130
Hidalgo County Housing Authority, 1800 N. Texas Blvd., Weslaco, TX 78596, (956) 969-5865
Weslaco Housing Authority, 600 N. Airport Dr., Weslaco, TX 78596, (956) 969-1538

School Districts (Independent and Charter)

Donna ISD, 116 N. 10 th St., Donna, TX 78537, (956) 464-1600
Edcouch-Elsa ISD, P.O. Box 127, Edcouch, TX 78538, (956) 262-6000
Edinburg CISD, 411 N. 8 th Ave., Edinburg, TX 78541, (956) 289-2300
Hidalgo ISD, 324 E. Flora St., Hidalgo, TX, (956) 843-4401
La Joya ISD, 200 W. Expressway 83, La Joya, TX 78560, (956) 323-2000
La Villa ISD, P.O. Box 9, La Villa, TX 78562, (956) 262-4755
Mercedes ISD, 206 W. 6 th St., Mercedes, TX 78570, (956) 514-2000
Mission CISD, 1201 Bryce Dr., Mission, TX 78572, (956) 323-5500
Monte Alto ISD, 1 st St., Monte Alto, TX 78538, (956) 262-1381
PSJA ISD, 601 E. Kelly, Pharr, TX 78577, (956) 354-2000
Progreso ISD, P.O. Box 610, Progreso, TX 78579, (956) 565-3002

Sharyland ISD, 1106 N. Shary Rd., Mission, TX 78572, (956) 580-5200
Valley-View ISD, 9701 S. Jackson Rd., Pharr, TX 78577, (956) 340-1000
Weslaco ISD, 319 W. 4 th St., Weslaco, TX 78596, (956) 969-6500
McAllen ISD, 2000 N. 23 rd St., McAllen, TX 78501, (956) 618-6000
Excellence in Leadership Academy, 915 W. Expressway 83, Mission, TX, (956) 424-9504
Horizon Montessori Public Schools, 519 S. Texas Blvd., Weslaco, TX, (956) 969-3092
Idea Public Schools, 505 Angelita Dr., Ste. 9, Weslaco, TX 78599, (956) 377-8000
Vanguard Academy, 1200 E. Kelly, Pharr, TX 78577, (956) 781-1701

Mental Health and Substance Abuse

Tropical Texas Behavioral Health, 1901 S. 24 th Ave., Edinburg, Texas, (956) 289-7000
Tropical Texas Behavioral Health, 601 W. 6 th St., Weslaco, Texas, (956) 968-8551
Palmer Drug Abuse Program, 115 N. 9 th , McAllen, TX 78501, (956) 687-7714
Behavioral Health Solutions, 5510 N. Cage, Pharr, TX 78577, 1-800-748-3580, (956) 878-7110

Workforce Solutions (Work, Child Care, Unemployment)

WF Solutions, 2719 W. University Dr., Edinburg, TX 78539, (956) 380-0008
WF Solutions, 901 Travis St., Ste. 7, Mission, TX 78572, (956) 519-4300
WF Solutions, 1600 N. Westgate, Ste. 400, Weslaco, TX 78596, (956) 969-6100

Texas Rural Legal Aid (Legal Assistance)

316 S. Closner Blvd., Edinburg, TX 78539, (956) 393-6200
300 S. Texas, Weslaco, TX 78596, (956) 447-4800

Homelessness and Temporary Shelter

Salvation Army, 1600 N. 23 rd St., McAllen, TX 78501, (956) 682-1468
Catholic Charities RGV, 700 N. Virgen de San Juan Blvd., San Juan, TX 78589, (956) 702-4088

Immunizations

Edinburg Clinic: 3105 E. Richardson., Edinburg, TX 78539 (956-318-2040)
Hidalgo Clinic: 702 East Texano, Hidalgo, Texas 78557, (956) 843-7463
Elsa Clinic: 708 E. Edinburg, St., Elsa, TX 78543, (956) 262-1141
McAllen Clinic: 300 E. Hackberry, McAllen, TX 78501 (956-682-0824)
Mission Clinic: 211 N. Schuerbach Rd, Ste. 1, Mission, TX 78572 (956-581-8596)
Pharr Clinic: 300 W. Hall Acres Ste. B, Pharr, Texas 78577 (956-787-1531)
Weslaco Clinic: 1901 North Bridge, Weslaco, Texas 78596 (956-968-7541)
Pulmonary Clinic: 1304 S. 25th Avenue, Edinburg, Texas 78542 (956-387-0118)

Adult Education and Literacy (ABE, GED, ESL, Literacy)

McAllen Adult Learning Center, 4305 N. McColl, McAllen, TX 78504, (956) 984-6274
Pharr Adult Learning Center, 317 W. Gore St., Pharr, TX 78577, (956) 984-6277
Region One, 1900 W. Schunior, Edinburg, TX, (956) 984-6270
La Union del Pueblo Entero, 209 W. Dawes Ave., Alton, TX, (956) 584-3636
La Union del Pueblo Entero, 1225 N. Baseline Rd., Mercedes, TX, (956) 565-2761
La Union del Pueblo Entero, Cesar Chavez Rd. and Bus. 83, San Juan, TX 78589, (956) 787-2233

Texas A&M HEP Program, 3516 E. Expressway 83, Weslaco, TX, (956) 447-9355
UTRGV HEP Program, 1201 W. University Dr., Edinburg, TX 78539, (956) 665-2521
South Texas College, 3201 Pecan Blvd., McAllen, TX 78501, (956) 872-3585

Domestic Violence

Mujeres Unidas, 1-800-580-4879, (956) 630-4878
Family Crisis Center of the Rio Grande Valley, 9956) 423-9305

Indigent Health Care

Edinburg Health Clinic, 3105 E. Richardson R., Edinburg, TX 78539, (956) 318-2087
Edinburg Regional Medical Center, 1102 W. Trenton Rd., Edinburg, TX 78541, (956) 388-6704
McAllen Health Clinic, 300 E. Hackberry, McAllen, TX 78501, (9556) 682-0824
McAllen Medical Center, 301 W. Expressway 83, McAllen, TX 78503, (956) 971-5645
Mission Health Clinic, 211 N. Schuerbach Rd., Mission, TX 78572, (956) 581-8596
Mission Hospital, 906 S. Bryan Rd., Ste. 103, Mission, TX 78572, (956) 323-1980
Weslaco Health Clinic, 1901 N. Bridge, Weslaco, TX 78596, (956) 969-4700
Knapp Medical Center, 1401 E. 8 th St., Weslaco, TX 78596, (956) 969-5587
Pharr Health Clinic, 300 W. Hall Acres, Pharr, TX 78577, (956) 787-3980
Rio Grande Regional Hospital, 222 E. Ridge, Ste., #118, McAllen, TX 78503, (956) 632-6586
Doctors Hospital at Renaissance, 5519 S. McColl, Edinburg, TX 78539, (956) 362-5566

Community Strengths

Community strengths were identified through the review of secondary research of existing publications and studies such as the *Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council's Regional Strategic Plan, 2011-2016*, the *Hidalgo County Community Service Agency's Community Needs Assessment 2015* and various studies conducted by University of Texas Rio Grande Valley's Data and Information Systems Center. The identified strengths of communities in Hidalgo County:

- Young population
- Abundant workforce
- Growing economy, businesses, and job creation
- Hispanic culture and heritage
- New university (UTRGV) and medical school
- Hospitals and health care services
- Low cost of living
- Entrepreneurial spirit
- International trade and infrastructure
- Natural resources
- Recreation
- Tourism
- Retail destination
- Cultural diversity
- Climate
- Quality schools
- Community involvement of faith-based organizations
- Availability of social support network and agencies
- Availability of land for development
- Responsive community leaders
- Business Incubators
- Industrial Parks
- Low unemployment rate
- More students graduating.
- New Texas A&M university, McAllen
- Sustainable power using Solar and Wind energies.