

# Hidalgo County

## Resolution honoring essential employees that participated in the Summer Food Service Program

*Whereas*

in Texas, more than one in five children struggle with hunger. And because of school closures from COVID-19, Texas received approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to provide more than \$1 billion in pandemic food benefits to families with children that have temporarily lost access to free or reduced-price school meals; and

*Whereas*

during the spring with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, school districts and institutions of higher education throughout Hidalgo County (and across the world) adjusted to a new way of teaching and learning; and

*Whereas*

since March, in conjunction with the USDA, participating school districts and their employees took action to ensure children were fed; and

*Whereas*

the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) funds the Summer Meals Program – including the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the Seamless Summer Option (SSO). In addition, the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) administers the Summer Meals Program in Texas; and

*Whereas*

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue recently announced the extension of three additional nationwide waivers, giving child nutrition program operators the flexibility they need to continue leveraging innovative solutions in support of social distancing – such as delivery and grab n’ go – throughout the remaining summer months until school is back in session; and

*Whereas*

with that came the challenge of providing for the nutritional needs of students. Many public and private schools demonstrated innovative ways to continue to provide free breakfast, snacks, lunch and dinner to support the needs of students and families during this time; and

*Whereas*

from March to July of 2020 Region One, which encompasses Hidalgo County, said a total of 19 Districts participated in providing more than 9 million meals. Based on the number of campuses participating across the Rio Grande Valley, when private schools are considered, there is confidence that Hidalgo County schools served a grand total of more than 10 million meals to hungry students during this period.

*Now therefore, be it resolved* that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court is honored to recognize the hard work of the essential staff within schools, both public and private, that participated in the distribution of meals for kids. Hidalgo County thanks you for your consideration, innovation and time in assisting all school sites in order to keep children and families fed during this COVID-19 crisis.

**Approved this 8<sup>th</sup> day of September 2020.**



*Richard F. Cortez*

**RICHARD F. CORTEZ**  
County Judge

*David L. Fuentes*

**DAVID L. FUENTES**  
County Commissioner, Pct. 1

*Eduardo "Eddie" Cantu*

**EDUARDO "EDDIE" CANTU**  
County Commissioner, Pct. 2

*Joe M. Flores*

**JOE M. FLORES**  
County Commissioner, Pct. 3

*Ellie Torres*

**ELLIE TORRES**  
County Commissioner, Pct. 4

*Arturo Guajardo, Jr.*

Attest: **ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR.**  
County Clerk