In compliance with the State of Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) requirements, the County of Hidalgo Urban County Program (UCP) proposes to submit an Emergency Services – Help for Colonias Program application to the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). As such, UCP hereby announces a public hearing regarding the submittal of the Emergency Services – Help for Colonias Program application.

The goal of the Emergency Services – Help for Colonias Program is to: (1) Assist residents in the Hidalgo County Colonia Self-Help Center service area colonias impacted by the public health and economic crisis resulting from the Coronavirus (Covid-19), (2) Expend aging TXCDBG funds effectively to meet the current needs, and (3) Focus funding on the counties identified by the legislature for Colonia Self-Help Center assistance.

Program Design

Eligible Activities: Emergency Services – Help for Colonias Program funds will be used for Subsistence Payments to low-income households whose income has been significantly reduced as a result of social distancing and other public health restrictions issued beginning March 2020.

- Housing assistance – up to three months of mortgage expenses, and or
- Assistance for Food and Other Needs – up to three months of funding, calculated as the Maximum Monthly SNAP Amount by family size for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program administered by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.
- Maximum of $2,000 in grant funds per family.

Eligible Beneficiaries: Families eligible to receive Emergency Services – Help for Colonias Program funds must meet all of the following requirements as certified by the family during the application process:

- Residence in a non-entitlement community within Hidalgo County – priority will be given to residents of identified colonias (excludes cities of Edinburg, McAllen, Mission and Pharr).
- 2019 Income equal to or less than 50% of the county’s Area Median Family Income (very low-income as defined by HUD – https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/il/il19/Section8-IncomeLimits-FY19.pdf); and
- Income reduced as a result of public health restrictions beginning March 2020.

A Public Virtual Hearing will be held Tuesday, June 16, 2020, which starts at 10:00 a.m. during the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court meeting located at 100 E. Cano St., Edinburg, TX 78539. Interested parties may view the request to submit application to the TXCDBG – Emergency Services – Help for Colonias Program online at https://www.hidalgocounty.us/1939/Commissioners-Court-LIVE. To participate in public comment, please call: (956) 292-7630 and you will be given further instructions and be provided with a toll free number at that time. Please call between the hours of 9:30 A.M. and 10:00 A.M. to participate in the Urban County Program Public Hearing regarding the Citizen Participation Plan.

It is the objective of Hidalgo County to comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the ADA Amendment Act of 2008, the Fair Housing Act, and the Architectural Barriers Act in all respects. Persons with disabilities/handicapped, non-English speaking, or limited English proficiency (LEP) who may require an interpreter shall be provided upon request by calling (956) 787-8127 at least three (3) days in advance. Persons who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, deaf-blind or speech-disabled may use Relay Texas at (800) 735-2989 to call the Hidalgo County Urban County Program (UCP) and request arrangements in order to participate in the citizen participation process. Hidalgo County Urban County Program does not discriminate on the basis of disability status in the admission of, or access to, or treatment in its federally assisted programs or activities.

For more information, please contact the Hidalgo County Urban County Program office at (956) 787-8127. Written comments may be forwarded to:

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