



State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

# **RECOVERY PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT**

Prepared for Cameron County Residents

&



July 31, 2023

# CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS

## 2025 Recovery Plan

<b>GENERAL OVERVIEW</b> .....	<b>2</b>
Executive Summary .....	2
Uses of Funds.....	3
Promoting Equitable Outcomes.....	4
Community Engagement.....	5
Labor Practices.....	5
Use of Evidence.....	6
TABLE OF EXPENSES BY EXPENDITURE CATEGORY..	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
<b>PROJECT INVENTORY</b> .....	<b>7</b>

## GENERAL OVERVIEW

### **Executive Summary**

Cameron County has expended over \$63,000,000 or 75% of the \$82,000,000 State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds granted to its jurisdiction. It will not be difficult to obligate 100% of the total grant amount by the December 31, 2024 deadline and to spend 100% of the funds by the December 31, 2026 deadline. The County's intended and actual use of the funds has helped support a strong and equitable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting economic downturn within the jurisdiction.

The County has established an internal program of implementation and management team strategy to maximize the programmatic impact and achieve effective, efficient, and equitable outcomes. Further, the County has funded a broad spectrum of eligible use of funds in response to the specific needs of the County and to best support its communities and residents.

The funds expended so far have not only gone to fund projects within Cameron County, they have been leveraged to obtain additional funding. The County and its subrecipients have sought funding from the USDA, Small Business Administration, Texas Parks and Wildlife, and many more state and federal agencies. ARPA funds continue to be integral in obtaining additional funds for services and infrastructure throughout our jurisdiction.

In addition to public sector projects, the County used funds to assist non-profit organizations as a significant response to the Covid-19 public health emergency and its negative economic impacts. Cameron County has been proactive by funding unsolicited requests to seven (7) food pantries located throughout the County. Food insecurity grew throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, leading thousands of our residents to food pantries. Additionally, funding was dispersed to five (5) nonprofits, including three (3) Boys & Girls Clubs, who predominately serve low-income children. With the closures of schools and daycares, essential workers relied even more on groups like the Boys & Girls club, and Cameron County sought to bolster these non-profits whose fund-raising activities were cancelled or curtailed.

Cameron County also used ARPA funding to encourage vaccination to all those eligible. In one of its first major projects, the County utilized a percentage of the funds to provide financial incentive for students to obtain the COVID-19 vaccine. The County encouraged vaccination as children were returning to classrooms to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus. Currently, Cameron County has an 85% rate of residents that are fully vaccinated and 99% who are partially vaccinated. Funds were also used to provide services to our inmate population, hold vaccination clinics and also to try and divert young offenders from jails and detention centers where they would be at a greater risk of exposure. Additionally, we funded infusion treatment centers for Covid-19 impacted residents.

The County has also afforded premium pay to its eligible employees who continued to provide vital services to its residents and protected the health and well-being of the residents during the COVID-19 pandemic and its continually emerging variants. All County employees were deemed essential and continued to provide essential services to County residents. Cameron

County has funded projects that seek to provide needed services to our residents without the need for in-person interaction, but our employees still continue to staff County offices.

Cameron County has determined the amount of Revenue Loss due to COVID-19 for period ending December 31, 2020, and has earmarked such funds to provide general services, (services that were curtailed and/or stopped during the pandemic year) to the constituents. While the County has broad latitude to use the Fiscal Recovery Funds for the provision of government services, the County intends to use these funds for improving County roads. Cameron County has committed more than \$12,000,000.00 to our roads and bridges. Additionally, we focused on the modernization of cybersecurity, and the protection of critical infrastructure. To date, we have spent more than \$3,000,000.00 in upgrading, protecting and modernizing our networks.

Finally, the County will continue to make necessary investments for extending water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure to unserved areas and the residents therein. Cameron County has funded over \$7,000,000 in water infrastructure projects thus far and has obligated almost \$3,000,000.00 to bring broadband internet to our County's rural underserved areas.

## **Uses of Funds**

The County created an internal program implementation and management team strategy to maximize the programmatic impact; thus, achieving effective, efficient, and equitable outcomes.

The broad eligible uses of funds, coupled with the specific needs of the County and its residents will enable the County to better support its communities and populations.

The County, as allowed by the SLFRF, has used and intends to use remaining funds to:

1. To respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency or its negative economic impacts;
2. To respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to such workers of the recipient, or by providing grants to eligible employers that have eligible workers who performed essential work;
3. To provide government services with funds that the County lost due to the COVID–relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year of the recipient prior to the pandemic.
4. To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

This will be accomplished by direct intervention projects and by partnering with private and non-profit groups, water supply corporations, and small incorporated communities all involved in providing much needed assistance and services to the County's rural areas, "colonias" (unincorporated, low-income areas of our County) and our underserved populations in the community overall.

## Revenue Replacement

The County has determined the revenue replacement for the period ending December 31, 2022, is \$28,272,358.00. The intend use of these funds was developed by identifying and prioritizing the services and projects which were decreased and/or stopped due to the loss of such revenue.

## Other ARPA Funds - Cameron County's Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERA)

ERA-1: Grant amount \$12,786,338: These funds must have been spent by September 30, 2022. The County contracted the implementation of this grant to the Community Development Corporation of Brownsville (CDCB) and the Cameron County Housing Authority, as a supplement to in-house program. At the September 30, 2022 final date, ERA-1 funds expenditures totaled \$11,157,185.00.

EPA-2: The second grant consisting of two allocation amounts \$10,117,231.00 and \$3,198,494.20 (High Need) for a total of \$13,315,725. Cameron County and its subrecipients continued its rental assistance program and as of June 30, 2023 has expended a total of \$10,092,776.00

LATCF: Cameron County received \$488,429.80 through the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund and intends to supplement ARPA funding with these funds.

## Promoting Equitable Outcomes

The County will continue to make use of all funding, especially SLFRF funds, to provide needed services and assistance to County residents with the highest investment priority allocation to the residents with the most need, and to those with a history of being underserved. All projects will be developed and approved to strategically and positively impact the minority and low-income population.

Cameron County will continue to promote equitable outcomes by designing, planning and implementing projects with equity in mind. This will be accomplished by considering and measuring equity at the various stages of the program, including:

- a. Goals: The County will continue to target rural and Colonia residents, as well as those residents of small incorporated, but-low income communities. Of the infrastructure projects funded, water projects were funded prioritizing water suppliers that serviced rural communities.
- b. Awareness: The County will continue developing appropriate promotional stratagems and taking it into the geographical areas of concern – not wait for them, but go to them. Cameron County continues to work within our communities to promote awareness and promote the leveraging of ARPA funds.

- c. Access and Distribution: In addition to “b” above, the County will utilize its offices as well as the offices in small communities to operate within the geographical areas of concern.
- d. Outcomes: The County will continue to develop and assess projects with intended outcomes focused on closing gaps, reaching universal levels of service, or disaggregating progress by race, ethnicity, and other equity dimensions where relevant for the policy objective.

The County’s planned and current use of funds prioritizes economic and racial equity as a goal. Again, the County will target rural and Colonia residents as well as residents of unincorporated small communities. These communities typically lack adequate roads, water, wastewater and drainage infrastructure. Data shows that Colonia residents tend to be low-income, and mostly Hispanic.

#### Negative Economic Impacts and Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities

The County will continue using its Emergency Rental Assistance Grants 1 and 2 to address the issue of housing instability facing households most impacted by the economic downturn brought about by Covid-19 pandemic.

#### **Community Engagement**

The County conducted a “Public Hearing” during the August 10, 2021 Regular Meeting of the County Commissioners Court. A power point presentation was presented at the beginning of the public hearing. The County will continue to inform the public and solicit their input, especially through the County’s website. Within Cameron County’s website, we also post ARPA funded projects and their funded amounts to ensure effective and transparent communication with our residents.

The County continues soliciting input, but more importantly, asked for funding proposals from community-based organizations and small incorporated communities. We created a simple, and concise application process. Additionally, our internal departments worked with community partners on projects where ARPA funds could be leveraged for additional funding from state and federal agencies.

The County has funded rural water supply corporations to enable them to improve and expand their water treatment and distribution, and raw sewer collection and treatment infrastructure systems. These servicers have also engaged their constituents through board meetings and have highlighted ARPA funded projects through their websites. We made efforts to engage rural residents by disseminating awareness information in our smaller communities and in both English and Spanish to reach those with limited English proficiency.

#### **Labor Practices**

All projects, but most specifically infrastructure projects, have been developed and approved with highest labor practices as an integral component.

## **Use of Evidence**

Based on the development of the County's Recovery Plan, none of the approved ongoing or planned projects require the Use of Evidence for project evaluation. The County will make the necessary adjustments if and when the circumstances change.

## PROJECT INVENTORY

**Project Number:** CC-001  
**Project Approved Date:** 06/08/2021  
**Project Name:** Back-up Power Generator  
**Expenditure Category:** 1.4 Public Health: Prevention in Congregate Setting  
**Funding Amount:** \$101,500

**Project Description & Status:**

The purchase of a 400 KW Generator for the County’s Emergency Operations Center located at 964 E. Street, will assist in the mitigation tactics for COVID-10 and other emergency events.

Project is complete.

**Project Number:** CC-002  
**Project Approved Date:** 06/08/2021  
**Project Name:** Air Conditioning Improvement  
**Expenditure Category:** 1.4 - Public Health: Prevention in Congregate Settings  
**Funding Amount:** \$109,640

**Project Description & Status:**

The NINOS Head Start Center needs replacement based that AAON HVAC System is not operational. The current two-system HVAC will be replaced with a one-unit to cover NINOS area to include current HVAC software controls, that will assist in implement the mitigation tactics for COVID-10 and other emergency events.

Project is complete.

**Project Number:** CC-003  
**Project Approval Date:** 08/10/2021  
**Project Name:** Premium Pay  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 4.1 Premium Pay -Public Sector Employees  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$6,137,600

**Project Description & Status:**

The County Executive, with the advice and consent of the Commissioners’ Court, determined that all County employees as of August 10, 2021 are considered essential, and is taking into



account the lower income eligibility in connection with the ARPA Premium Pay for employees deemed essential as critical infrastructure workers in the amounts indicated by Commissioner' Court as necessary and appropriate to respond to the heightened and risk to workers who must be physically present at the jobsite, in connection with the continued threat and risk associate with the COVID-19 and its emerging variants, and the decision made by Commissioners Court is based on the ARPA requirements and the analysis of Commissioners' Court with respect to essential workers. Such premium pay is being afforded to employees according to the below scale.

Employees earning up to \$40,000 will receive:	\$3,500
Employees earning from \$40,001 to \$59,999 will receive:	\$3,000
Employees earning more than \$60,000 will receive:	\$2,500

Project is complete.

**Project Number:** CC-004  
**Project Approval Date:** 08/17/2021  
**Project Name:** COVID-19 Vaccine Incentive  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 1.14 Public Health Other Services  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$275,000

**Project Description & Status:**

This COVID-19 Vaccine Incentive project provides a financial incentive of \$50 to young people from the ages of 5 to 18 years of age for obtaining the vaccine (First Shot). This project will be implemented during the period of time of August 10, 2021 until funds are exhausted. Verification process will be performed by the Cameron County's Health Department. The intent of the project is to have as many as possible students take the vaccine as they start classes this school year of 2021-2022.

Project is complete.

**Project Number:** CC-005  
**Project Approval Date:** 08/17/2021  
**Project Name:** COVID-19 Pay  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 1.9 Public Health: Payroll Costs for Public Health  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$230,801

**Project Description & Status:**

Compensation for the Cameron County Health Authority for services provided associated with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, retroactively effective from June 1, 2021 through the end of the calendar year.

Project is complete.

**Project Number:** CC-006  
**Project Approval Date:** 08/17/2021  
**Project Name:** Expending Broadband (Lozano, Texas)  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 5.17 Infrastructure: Broadband: Other Projects  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$70,000

**Project Description & Status:**

Expansion of broadband infrastructure into unserved areas of the County is one of the County’s highest priorities. The project is being done in the rural community of Lozano, Texas which is a “Colonia” located in HUD’s Qualified Census Tract 78575 (Brownsville-Harlingen Metropolitan Area).

Project technology to be deployed is 5G Deployment which will afford 100x50 speed package; no data caps; \$50 month (tax exempt), month to month service. The system will serve 1,500 households with minimum speed standard of reliable 100Mbps symmetrical upload and download. The system will also serve the 1,500 families with minimum speed standard of reliable 100Mbps symmetrical upload and download and 20 Mbps upload.

Project is complete.

**Project Number:** CC-007  
**Project Approval Date:** Approved 08/31/2021  
**Project Name:** Compensation Plan  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 6.1 Revenue Replacement Provision of General Services  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$1,748,618

**Project Description & Status:**

In Fiscal Year 2019 the Cameron County Commissioner’s Court approved a Compensation and Classification Plan to address both internal and external inequities in relation to pay for like positions. The Commissioners’ Court hired external consultants to review all positions to be considered as part of the plan. Pay for individuals is based on a set range based on a job code and an adjustment based on years of service within a particular position. Due to the financial constraints caused the COVID 19 pandemic, the Court was unable to fund the planned adjustments and increases for employees for the 2021 fiscal year. Utilizing the loss of Revenue funds for continued operations, salaries were adjusted in accordance with the

approved plan beginning 10/01/2021. The adjustments are to be absorbed within the individual funds when the revenue streams normalize.

Project is complete.

**Project Number:** CC-008  
**Project Approval Date:** 08/21/2021  
**Project Name:** Expending Broadband (Arroyo City)  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 5.17 Infrastructure: Broadband: Other Projects  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$430,000

**Project Description & Status:**

Expansion of broadband infrastructure into unserved areas of the County is one of the County’s highest priorities. The project is being done in the rural community of Arroyo City, Texas is a “Colonia” located in the HUD’s Qualified Census Tract 78575 (Brownsville-Harlingen Metropolitan Area).

Project technology to be deployed is 5G Deployment which will afford 100x50 speed package; no data caps; \$50 month (tax exempt), month to month service. The system will serve 1,500 households with minimum speed standard of reliable 100Mbps symmetrical upload and download. The system will also serve the 1,500 families with minimum speed standard of reliable 100Mbps symmetrical upload and download and 20 Mbps upload.

Project is complete.

**Project Number:** CC-09  
**Project Approval Date:** 09/21/2021  
**Project Name:** East Loop  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 6.1 Revenue Replacement: Provision of General Services  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$3,000,000

**Project Description & Status:**

Provision of Government Services: The Cameron County Regional Mobility Authority (CCRMA) is working to increase Brownsville residents’ quality of life. The CCRMA is planning a complete system of transportation infrastructure additions and upgrades for Cameron County that will support economic development and increase safety for the benefit of the entire region. The East Loop Corridor (currently identified in the 2021 UTP) is one of several projects that will integrate regional planning, multi-modal options, and modern technology to develop a world-class transportation system in Cameron County. The new East Loop will provide a greater international access to the West 10 Monterrey via MEX-2 and 10 Port Isabel and South Padre Island to the Northeast. Along with this feature it will maximize

access to the existing Veterans International Bridge. It will also provide connectivity from the Port of Brownsville, the Brownsville/South Padre Island International Airport/ and the Airport Foreign Trade Zone to IH-69E and University Boulevard. The new East Loop Project will eliminate hazardous and overweight traffic from six (6) school zones in the area and avoid 17 traffic signals on the existing route. The TBWC flood control levee would be relocated as part of this project to the south immediately north of the restricted use zone (RUZ). The levee would require approximately 49 acres of ROW. As a result of moving the levee, around 171 acres of land would be removed from the Rio Grande floodplain and returned to developable land. The East Loop Project consists of the construction of a four and a six-lane roadway from SH 4 to 169E (U.S. 77/83) and the Veterans International Bridge. The East Loop Project consists of a 10-mile-long segment of roadway and will connect to the South Point Connector Road. This will become the overweight corridor connecting the Veterans Bridge with the Port of Brownsville. In 2009, the State Legislature designated the East Loop as the overweight corridor once it was operational. The Value Engineering was completed in April 2014. Schematics are 100% complete. The Value Engineering recommendations were incorporated into the 100% schematics. The total construction cost of the East Loop Project is approximately \$100 million. The Environmental Assessment of the East Loop Project is underway, and an environmental clearance is expected in 2021. Approximate 85 parcels will be acquired in 2022 and 2023 with an expected "Ready to Let" date of Fall 2023. Currently CCRMA is requesting full funding for the project and for it to be part of the 2022 UTP.

Project more than 50% complete.

**Project Number:** CC-010  
**Project Approval Date:** 09/21/2021  
**Project Name:** SPI Second Excess  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 6.1 Revenue Replacement: Provision of General Services  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$1,500,000

**Project Description & Status:**

Provision of Government Services: This is the most critical safety project in Texas. South Padre Island has been recognized as the cleanest beach in Texas. As a result, South Padre Island needs a dependable, safe exit facility during Hurricane Season. With the current Queen Isabella Memorial Causeway, it is estimated that it could take most of the day to exit the Island to high ground during Hurricane Season.

The 2nd Access Project to South Padre Island will involve a second crossing on a new location to the island and provide a needed alternate route from the island to the mainland. The 2nd Access also would facilitate evacuation of the island in the event of a hurricane or other natural disaster. The project will include a bridge approximately 8 miles long as well as improvements to roadways on the mainland and on the island. The Project consists of three major components: the mainland roadway, the Laguna Madre crossing bridge and the island roadway. The route under consideration includes a mainland roadway consisting of a four-

lane road, crossing of the Laguna Madre with about 8 miles of four-lane bridge. The total length of the SPI 2nd Access Project is approximately 17.6 miles. The project and the Final Environmental Impact Study are both currently on hold by TxDOT, the reviewing agency.

One of the goals of the Camron County Regional Mobility Authority (CCRMA) is to increase project feasibility by driving down potential costs (initial and life cycle costs) and reducing the scope of environmental impacts. The CCRMA determined a Value Engineering Study would be of the most cost-efficient means to accomplish this. Through several meetings with TxDOT administration and Transportation Commissioners the CCRMA was able to have TxDOT sponsor the cost of the study and provide technical experts from other districts to participate. The VE study took place the first week of October 2016 on South Padre Island. In December 2016, the CCRMA was able to finalize the VE recommendations to be pursued and developed which can result in more than \$200 million dollars in cost savings including a possible 80% reduction in impacts to sea grass and required mitigation. This is very significant advance for this Project and will require some project scope and design changes, but overall, the value alone makes any potential delay worth it. The CCRMA has recently hired a consultant to evaluate the VE recommendation of a Twin Span structure and possible have one span constructed as an interim option. The consultant will evaluate the options and update the 2016 estimates to current TxDOT bid prices.

The current estimated cost to advance the Schematic & Environmental Development is \$3,000,000, which will provide for 50% of the cost for schematic and environmental development for the construction of a transportation infrastructure system specifically a second access causeway to South Padre Island.

Project less than 50% complete.

**Project Number:** CC-011  
**Project Approval Date:** 10/12/2021  
**Project Name:** Loaves and Fishes of RGV Harlingen Food Pantry  
**Project Submitted by:** Initiated by Cameron County  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.1 Negative Economic Impacts: 2.1 Household Assistance  
**Project Funding Amount** \$60,000

**Project Description & Status:**

Food Assistance to County Residents: The food pantry provides food commodities to and prepared meals at the site to people in need and the homeless population. The funds will assist the pantry to better address the needs of families, especially due to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Project more than 50% complete.

**Project Number:** CC-012  
**Project Approval Date:** 10/12/2021  
**Project Name:** San Benito Food Pantry  
**Project Submitted by:** Initiated by Cameron County  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.1 Negative Economic Impacts: Household Assistance  
**Project Funding Amount** \$40,000

**Project Description & Status:**

Food Assistance to County Residents: The food pantry provides food commodities to people in need and the homeless population. The funds will assist the pantry to better address the needs of families, especially due to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Project is complete.

**Project Number:** CC-013  
**Project Approval Date:** 10/12/2021  
**Project Name:** Port Isabel Food Pantry  
**Project Submitted by:** Initiated by Cameron County  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.1 Negative Economic Impacts: Household Assistance  
**Project Funding Amount** \$40,000

**Project Description & Status:**

Food Assistance to County Residents: The food pantry provides food commodities to people in need and the homeless population. The funds will assist the pantry to better address the needs of families, especially due to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Project is complete.

**Project Number:** CC-014  
**Project Approval Date:** 10/12/2021  
**Project Name:** Good Neighbor Settlement House Food Pantry  
**Project Submitted by:** Initiated by Cameron County  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.1 Negative Economic Impacts: Household Assistance  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$60,000

**Project Description & Status:**

Food Assistance to County Residents: The food pantry provides food commodities to and prepared meals at the site to people in need and the homeless population. The funds will assist the pantry to better address the needs of families, especially due to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Project is complete.

**Project Number:** CC-015  
**Project Approval Date:** 10/12/2021  
**Project Name:** Ozanam Center Food Pantry  
**Project Submitted by:** Initiated by Cameron County  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.1 Negative Economic Impacts: Household Assistance  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$60,000

**Project Description & Status:**

Food Assistance to County Residents: The food pantry provides food commodities to and prepared meals at the site to people in need and the homeless population. The funds will assist the pantry to better address the needs of families, especially due to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Project is more than 50% complete.

**Project Number:** CC-016  
**Project Approval Date:** 10/12/2021  
**Project Name:** Los Fresnos Food Pantry  
**Project Submitted by:** Initiated by Cameron County  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.1 Negative Economic Impacts: Household Assistance  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$40,000

**Project Description & Status:**

Food Assistance to County Residents: The food pantry provides food commodities to people in need and the homeless population. The funds will assist the pantry to better address the needs of families, especially due to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Project is more than 50% complete.

**Project Number:** CC-017  
**Project Approval Date:** 12/21/2021  
**Project Name:** Harlingen Neighborhood Food Pantry  
**Project Submitted by:** Initiated by Cameron County  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.1 Negative Economic Impacts: Household Assistance  
**Project Funding Amount** \$60,000

**Project Description & Status:**

Food Assistance to County Residents: The food pantry provides food commodities to people in need and the homeless population. The funds will assist the pantry to better address the needs of families, especially due to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Project is complete.

**Project Number:** CC-018  
**Project Approval Date:** 09/21/2021  
**Project Name:** San Jose Road  
**Project Submitted by:** Cameron County  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 6.1 Revenue Replacement: Provision of General Services  
**Project Funding Amount** \$2,200,000

**Project Description & Status:**

Road Improvement/Expansion: Construction of an extension of a 2-lane (28 foot) rural roadway with 2-foot shoulders from FM 509 to FM 1846. Construction will consist of roadway base, asphalt, drainage, signing/stripping and signals. This project, when completed, will connect three (3) Farm-to-Market (FM) Roads.

Project is complete.

**Project Number:** CC-019  
**Project Approval Date:** 12/21/2021  
**Project Name:** Old Alice Road  
**Project Submitted by:** Cameron County  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 6.1 Revenue Replacement: Provision of General Services  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$1,500,000



**Project Description & Status:**

Road Improvement/Expansion: Currently, Old Alice Road consists of sections that are unpaved and paved. The paved sections of the road are at the south and north ends towards SH 550 and SH 100, respectively. From approximately 0.1 miles north of SH 550 to approximately 0.9 miles north of SH 550, Old Alice Road is a caliche roadway. From approximately 0.9 miles north of SH 550 to 2.6 miles north of SH 550, the facility is a dirt roadway. The existing Old Alice Road is a 20 to 22 feet (ft.) wide rural roadway consisting of two variable width travel lanes of 10 to 11 ft. and no shoulders within 120 ft. right-of-way (ROW) width. The proposed improvements are to reconstruct and widen the existing roadway to provide for a paved four lane urban roadway with shoulders and sidewalks within the existing right-of-way. The right of way is in place, design is to be completed by April 2021 and the project will be environmentally cleared by December 2021. The project is fully funded from CAT 7 funds from the RGVMPPO.

Project is less than 50% complete.

**Project Number:** CC-020  
**Project Approval Date:** 10/26/2021  
**Project Name:** Benavides Park  
**Project Submitted by:** Joe Vega  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.22 Negative Economic Impacts: Strong Healthy Communities  
**Project Funding Amount** \$600,000

**Project Description & Status:**

Cameron County Parks is proposing the development of a covered basketball court located at the Pedro "Pete" Benavides Park. The park is located at the corner of Browne Rd. and California, in the southmost area of Brownsville, Texas surrounded by 36 Colonias. The Park is constructed on 64 acres of land adjacent to Resaca de la Guerra. Amenities at the park include a lighted adult softball field, lighted little league baseball field, two lighted full-sized soccer fields, lighted basketball court, lighted volleyball court, playground and splash pad area, four small picnic pavilions, one large picnic pavilion, BBQ areas, a one-mile Resaca front nature trail with two nature observation stations and a 1.5-mile walking trail with 5 integrated workout stations. The covered basketball court will allow for residents to enjoy this multi-use structure for playing basketball, having aerobics/Zumba activities, health fairs, civic meetings, community gatherings and many outdoor recreational events.

The proposed covered basketball court will be approximately 66' x 100' in size. The facility will meet all requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and will be equipped with shaded structures, benches and bleachers. The covered basketball court will serve as a multi-purpose use facility allowing for recreational programs such basketball games, Zumba, aerobics and other forms of exercising. The facility will also be utilized for outdoor health fairs, civic meetings, vaccination drives, and educational opportunities.

This project is located in the unincorporated area of Cameron County and it is surrounded by 36 Colonias. These areas are underserved with minimal access to recreational facilities. This project will enhance the quality of life for the residents of these communities and Cameron County.

The covered basketball court will serve as a multi-purpose use facility allowing for recreational programs such as basketball games, Zumba, aerobics and other forms of exercising. These types of recreational programs will enhance health in the community especially for those with high blood pressure, diabetes and other underlying conditions. The facility will also be utilized for outdoor health fairs, civic meetings, vaccination drives, and educational opportunities that will enhance the probabilities of avoiding COVID.

Project is complete.

**Project Number:** CC-021  
**Project Approval Date:** 11/23/2021 (Reserved)  
**Project Name:** Olmito Nature Park  
**Project Submitted by:** Joe Vega  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.22 Negative Economic Impacts: Strong Healthy Communities  
**Project Funding Amount** \$400,000  
**Project Description & Status:**

The Olmito Nature Park will have an array of recreational opportunities which include fishing, kayaking, walking and other forms of exercising. These types of recreational programs will enhance health in the community especially for those with high blood pressure, diabetes and other underlying medical conditions. The facility will also be utilized for indoor/outdoor health fairs, civic meetings, vaccination (including COVID-19) drives, and educational opportunities that will enhance the probabilities of avoiding COVID-19).

The Olmito Park Project is aimed to allow Cameron County to develop a nature park adjacent to Lake Olmito Resaca. The proposed park will be situated on a 39-acre tract of land with approximately 3,240 feet of waterfront. The property was donated to Cameron County by Frank Michael McKinney and Jane E. McKinney.

The construction of the parking areas will be low impact development with permeable material that will allow water runoff to infiltrate through the system.

Finally, this project is located in the unincorporated areas adjacent to low-income and underserved Colonia of Olmito, Texas.

Project is less than 50% complete.

**Project Number:** CC-022  
**Project Approval Date:** 11/23/2021  
**Project Name:** Santa Rosa Community Park Improvements  
**Project Submitted by:** Cameron County Parks & Recreation  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.22 Negative Economic Impacts: Strong Healthy Communities  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$2,045,000

**Project Description & Status:**

Expansion of the County's Park System.

The Santa Rosa Community Park Improvements will have an array of recreational opportunities which include swimming, basketball, aerobics, Zumba, and other forms of exercising. These recreational programs will enhance health in the community especially for those with high blood pressure, diabetes and other medical underlining medical conditions. The facility will also be utilized for outdoor health fairs, civic meetings, vaccination drives, and educational opportunities that will enhance the probabilities of avoiding COVID.

The Santa Rosa Community Park is located in the small City of Santa Rosa, Texas and it is situated on approximately a 5-acre tract of land. The Park is maintained and operated by Cameron County. On June 24, 2019, the Park experience extensive damage due to floods from a devastating storm. The floods destroyed the only public swimming pool in the lower part of the mid-valley rural area along with homes, businesses, infrastructure and tearing apart lives as families were forced to move from the area for housing. The resultant flooding floated the pool from the ground, causing such extensive damage that the pool cannot be repaired.

The proposed improvements will include replacing the swimming pool and add needed park amenities and opportunities that have never been available in Santa Rosa. The added improvements will include a covered outdoor basketball court, a family pavilion, trail improvements, benches, environmental interpretive/educational signs, native landscaping and butterfly gardens

Project is complete.

**Project Number:** CC-023  
**Project Approval Date:** 11/09/2021  
**Project Name:** San Benito Boys & Girls Clubs  
**Project Submitted by:** Liz Chavez  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.10 Negative Economic Impacts: Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit

**Project Funding Amount:** \$333,333

**Project Description & Status:**

The COVID-19 pandemic has created numerous negative outcomes for our most vulnerable citizens – our children, especially those living in disadvantaged circumstances and economically distressed areas. Boys & Girls Clubs in communities across Cameron County can step into the gap and help encourage more equitable recovery for kids who need us most by supporting youth in the following ways:

- 1) Provide evidence-based academic support in afterschool and summer programs that supplement school efforts to address lost learning;
- 2) Strengthen social, emotional, and behavioral skills for kids who have struggled with issues exacerbated by COVID;
- 3) Secure more opportunities for career preparation among teens who have been set back by economic impacts of COVID;
- 4) Supplement feeding programs that ensure better nutrition for youth in communities experiencing health inequities along socioeconomic lines;
- 5) Improve ventilation upgrades and adaptations in Club facilities (congregate settings) to address COVID mitigation;
- 6) Support costs of personal protective equipment, cleaning supplies, health professional screenings and related costs for ensuring safe environments for kids.

Support from COVID relief funds for the “Club Ready” project will support essential services provided by the Club and serve vulnerable youth, predominantly from low-income communities, who have disproportionately been impacted by the effects of COVID-19. Services such as:

- Daily structured afterschool and summer outreach to our most at need young residents in a safe place with proper COVID 19 protocols in place.
- Instruction, encouragement, and facilitation for COVID 19 prevention to members and families

The expectation of this project is to address the COVID-19 needs of disproportionately impacted populations of children and their families. Evaluation will be measured by our already in place reporting standards. Boys and Girls Club of America requires an annual report from each site outlining programs and impact. In addition, we measure our impact locally on a monthly basis.

Boys & Girls Club is committed to equity and ensuring underserved youth access to high quality programs that provide: Educational support and enrichment, Technology access and instruction, Sports league participation, Art, Nutrition through quality meals, and social & emotional development.

Project is more than 50% complete.

**Project Number:** CC-024  
**Project Approval Date:** 11/09/2021  
**Project Name:** Harlingen Boys & Girls Clubs  
**Project Submitted by:** Gerald Gathright  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.10 Negative Economic Impacts: Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$333,333

**Project Description & Status:**

The COVID-19 pandemic has created numerous negative outcomes for our most vulnerable citizens – our children, especially those living in disadvantaged circumstances and economically distressed areas. Boys & Girls Clubs in communities across Cameron County can step into the gap and help encourage more equitable recovery for kids who need us most by supporting youth in the following ways:

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- 3) Secure more opportunities for career preparation among teens who have been set back by economic impacts of COVID;
- 4) Supplement feeding programs that ensure better nutrition for youth in communities experiencing health inequities along socioeconomic lines;
- 5) Improve ventilation upgrades and adaptations in Club facilities (congregate settings) to address COVID mitigation;
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Boys & Girls Club is committed to equity and ensuring underserved youth access to high quality programs that provide: Educational support and enrichment, Technology access and instruction, Sports league participation, Art, Nutrition through quality meals, and social & emotional development.

Project is complete.

**Project Number:** CC-025  
**Project Approval Date:** 11/09/2021  
**Project Name:** Los Fresnos Boys & Girls Clubs  
**Project Submitted by:** Edward Barron  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.10 Negative Economic Impacts: Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$333,333

**Project Description & Status:**

The COVID-19 pandemic has created numerous negative outcomes for our most vulnerable citizens – our children, especially those living in disadvantaged circumstances and economically distressed areas. Boys & Girls Clubs in communities across Cameron County can step into the gap and help encourage more equitable recovery for kids who need us most by supporting youth in the following ways:

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- 2) Strengthen social, emotional, and behavioral skills for kids who have struggled with issues exacerbated by COVID;
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- 4) Supplement feeding programs that ensure better nutrition for youth in communities experiencing health inequities along socioeconomic lines;
- 5) Improve ventilation upgrades and adaptations in Club facilities (congregate settings) to address COVID mitigation;
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Support from COVID relief funds for the “Club Ready” project will support essential services provided by the Club and serve vulnerable youth, predominantly from low-income communities, who have disproportionately been impacted by the effects of COVID-19. Services such as:

- Daily structured afterschool and summer outreach to our most at need young residents in a safe place with proper COVID 19 protocols in place.
- Instruction, encouragement, and facilitation for COVID 19 prevention to members and families.

The expectation of this project is to address the COVID-19 needs of disproportionately impacted populations of children and their families. Evaluation will be measured by our already in place reporting standards. Boys and Girls Club of America requires an annual report from each site outlining programs and impact. In addition, we measure our impact locally on a monthly basis.

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Project is complete.

**Project Number:** CC-026  
**Project Approval Date:** 12/21/2021  
**Project Name:** Las Rusias Water Plant Renovation Project  
**Project Submitted by:** Military Highway Water Supply Corporation  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 5.10 Infrastructure - Drinking Water Treatment  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$515,886

**Project Description & Status:**

Infrastructure Project: Military Highway WSC is currently experiencing odor and coloration in its water. This is due, in part, to non-functional clarifiers at the Las Rusias Water Plant in Los Indios.

Originally commissioned in 1995, the effectiveness of the Las Rusias Water Plant has significantly decreased due to aging. The plant’s two clarifiers, which function to remove particles and solids from untreated water, are non-functional. On October 7, 2021, the TCEQ initiated an enforcement action against Military Highway WSC due to the plant's high arsenic levels in its water. This is due to the plant's non-functional clarifiers.

Military Highway WSC has received multiple quotes to completely overhaul and replace the systems of the two clarifiers in the Las Rusias Water Plan. This includes new membranes, new cranes, new rakes, new support columns, new motors, etc. With a total price of \$300,000, Military Highway WSC is currently in a financial position to match 33.3% of the project costs with local revenues. This project is shovel ready, and all funding from Cameron County will be allocated directly to construction.

This project will be a game changer for Military Highway WSC, as it will reduce odor and coloration in water.

Project is 50% complete.

**Project Number:** CC-027  
**Project Approval Date:** 12/21/2021  
**Project Name:** La Paloma Waterline Replacement Project  
**Project Submitted by:** Military Highway Water Supply Corporation  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 5.10 Infrastructure -Drinking Water: Distribution  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$184,114

**Project Description & Status:**

Infrastructure Project: Military Highway WSC is currently experiencing odor and coloration in its water. This is caused by loss of pressure due to breaks in aging water lines. To remediate this issue, Military Highway WSC has identified three critical corridors of aging water lines that need replacement. This project will benefit approximately 13,137 individuals, 62 businesses, and 3,012 households.

As background, whenever there are breaks in water lines, pressure is lost in the entire Military Highway WSC system. The breakage in the identified corridors is primarily due to aging water lines. The 3 identified corridors are "repeat offenders," meaning that these corridors have had multiple breaks over the last several years. By replacing these lines, the integrity and resilience of Military Highway WSC's system will be fortified.

Military Highway WSC is currently in a financial position to match 40% of the project costs with local revenues. This project is shovel ready. All funding from Cameron County will be allocated directly to construction. Military Highway WSC is hopeful it can team up with Cameron County to undertake this necessary project, which will safeguard the health and safety of the citizens of Cameron County.

Project is complete.

**Project Number:** CC-028  
**Project Approval Date:** 11/23/2021  
**Project Name:** Cybersecurity Monitoring Service  
**Project Submitted by:** Juan Saldana, Cameron County IT Director  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 6.1 Revenue Replacement: Provision of General Services  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$700,000

**Project Description & Status:**

Provision of Government Services: Enhancing the County's network security by adding a monitored service that acts as an additional layer of protection in the event of a cybersecurity compromise. We have actively compared two similar projects to ensure due diligence.

Arctic Wolf helps organizations who are struggling with detecting and responding to modern cyber threats efficiently & maintaining compliance. While many IT departments have



deployed security tools in an attempt to address this, the lack of 24x7 coverage, extensive cybersecurity operations expertise, and a well-staffed security team means many threats go unnoticed.

Project is complete.

**Project Number:** CC-029  
**Project Approval Date:** 11/23/2021  
**Project Name:** Cybersecurity Infrastructure  
**Project Submitted by:** Juan Saldana, Cameron County IT Director  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 6.1 Revenue Replacement: Provision of General Services  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$441,000

**Project Description & Status:**

Provision of Government Services: Enhancing the County's network security by replacing older firewalls, requesting an enhanced anti-virus to protect our server environment. The AI appliance is used to track anomalies on the network. The Project would help County IT detect and prevent threats, and automate security capabilities.

Project is complete.

**Project Number:** CC-030  
**Project Approval Date:** 11/23/2021  
**Project Name:** Technology Infrastructure  
**Project Submitted by:** Juan Saldana, Cameron County IT Director  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 6.1 Revenue Replacement: Provision of General Services  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$1,260,000

**Project Description & Status:**

Provision of Government Services: The project is to install newer hardware which would allow for more reliable backups, that are ransomware safe and complete within a reasonable timeline. Having ransomware safe backups impacts our ability to get Cyber insurance and allows for a more realistic recovery from a cyber event. The SAN target is additional storage to allow for the growth of data at the County's departments and continue to shift towards maintaining electronic files instead of paper documents, with extra storage as needed. The existing infrastructure purchased in 2016 is now running at 70% capacity and resources are running low. This infrastructure hosts all County servers for all departments and runs applications including but not limited to Odyssey, New World (Sheriff), Financials, and other County operations-related applications and files. County IT has been slowly adding wi-fi

capability to county, buildings, this request would allow us to extend that coverage to all County buildings, annexes, and park offices.

Project is complete.

**Project Number:** CC-031  
**Project Approval Date:** 12/21/2021  
**Project Name:** COVID-19 Infusion Center  
**Project Submitted by:** Tom Hushen, Cameron County  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 1.6 Public Health Services: Medical Expenses including Alternative Care Facilities  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$250,000

**Project Description & Status:**

In order to curtail the spread of COVID-19 and recent variants like the Delta and Omicron mutation and to mitigate the loss of life from this virus we are requesting \$250,000.00 to facilitate an Infusion Center for Cameron County residents. The infusion center will provide antibody therapy. The center is equipped with Regeneron’s monoclonal antibodies and will treat COVID-19 patients who do not need hospitalization by using therapeutic drugs that can prevent their condition from worsening and requiring hospital care. This will also help in maintaining a lower utilization of bed capacity in hospitals so that resources are available for the most ill patients.

The Cameron County Regional Infusion Center was closed by the State of Texas on November 9th, 2021. The Hidalgo County Regional Infusion Center has remained open. The location of the Hidalgo County Regional Infusion Center is not a viable location for many of the residents who live in Cameron County. The reported number of daily infusions in our county has increased to double digits and this is an indication that an affordable and locally situated infusion center is still needed.

The Cameron County Office of Emergency Management along with the Cameron County Public Health Department works to ensure all residents have adequate and equitable access to the vaccine. Continuation of vaccination clinics along with the second dose and booster vaccination as defined by the CDC will remain in place to protect the residents. In addition to the vaccine clinics, residents of Cameron County would benefit from having affordable access to an infusion center.

On December 3, 2021, the Food and Drug Administration approved monoclonal antibodies for any and all who are at high risk of severe COVID-19, including children, new born babies, and all adults. This project will target those individuals including but not limited to all children over the age of 5 years, who are over 20 kg, and have one comorbidity aside from symptoms. For example, a patient with asthma, chronic conditions, and a bmi>95%. The goal is to infuse patients to help reduce the spread of covid-19 and its variants. This infusion of

monoclonal antibodies will help prevent hospitalization, lessen symptom severity for COVID-19 positive patients.

Due to high deductibles, COVID-19 positive patients are not seeking the proper treatment they need to help combat this virus, causing the spread of covid-19 and its variants and higher death rates in Cameron County. Therefore, and through this project Cameron County will help serve individuals and offset those with have high deductibles and lessen the financial burden. This will allow everyone an equal opportunity for treatment.

By having a local infusion center, all Cameron County residents have access to treatment via infusion to help reduce hospitalizations and lessen symptom severity. This too, will help lessen the financial burden to those who cannot afford a high deductible providing accessible and cost-free treatment.

Project is complete.

**Project Number:** CC-032  
**Project Approval Date:** 12/21/2021  
**Project Name:** COVID-19 Secure Communications  
**Project Submitted by:** Tom Hushen, Cameron County  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 1.7 Public Health Services: Other COVID-19 Public Health Expense  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$1,522,092.33

**Project Description & Status:**

The project is to add flash upgrade of AES encryption and upgrade from Motorola XTS and XTL radio equipment to Motorola APX radios for county law enforcement and for the County Jail system. This measure is to securely and privately communicate under Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) guidelines.

This project is complete.

**Project Number:** CC-033  
**Project Approval Date:** 01/25/2022  
**Project Name:** Sewer Treatment Plant Expansion  
**Project Submitted by:** Olmito Water Supply Corporation  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 5.5 Infrastructure: Clean Water Other Sewer Infrastructure  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$1,000,000

**Project Description & Status:**

Project just started on January 1, 2022 with construction bids due during April 2022. Project is to be completed by December 1, 2023.

Olmito WSC received loan funding from United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for construction of a new 1.25 million gallon per day Wastewater Treatment Plant. The total funding amount from USDA is \$8,791,585.00. In that amount, \$7,410,025 is dedicated to construction.

These budgets were done back in 2018 when Olmito WSC was in the process of obtaining funding from USDA. Due to the time required to receive USDA funding, coupled with recent inflationary issues and increase in cost of equipment, construction labor, and materials, the project construction cost is estimated to have increased to approximately \$8,400,000.00.

The additional funding request of \$1,000,000 would allow Olmito WSC to complete the project without having to borrow additional funds which could further burden the Olmito WSC water and wastewater rate payers.

Project is more than 50% complete.

**Project Number:** CC-034  
**Project Approval Date:** 01/25/2022  
**Project Name:** Colonia Arroyo Colorado Estates Wastewater Improvement  
**Project Submitted by:** East Rio Hondo Water Supply Corporation  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 5.2 Infrastructure Clean Water: Centralized Wastewater Collection  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$539,880  
**Project Description:** Sewer Infrastructure

**Project Description & Status:**

The project’s start date is March 1, 2022 completion date is May 9, 2023.

The project includes the removal and replacement of existing sanitary sewer manholes in Arroyo Colorado Estates which currently are experiencing significant Infiltration and Inflow (I/I). The leaking collection system overloads the sanitary sewer collection and treatment systems, contaminates the ground water, and during heavy rain events flows into the streets and discharges into the nearby Arroyo Colorado and Laguna Madre. The project addresses this I/I problem by replacing the 30+ year old sanitary sewer manholes, which no longer meet the TCEQ Chapter 217.57.a.2, with new fiberglass bottom.

Project is more than complete. 50%

**Project Number:** CC-035  
**Project Approval Date:** 01/25/2022  
**Project Name:** 1.0 MG Ground Water Storage Tank  
**Project Submitted by:** East Rio Hondo Water Supply Corporation  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 5.14 Infrastructure: Drinking Water: Storage  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$628,375

**Project Description & Status:**

The project's start date is March 1, 2022 and completion date is August 1, 2023.

The project includes the construction of a potable water ground storage tank at ERHWSC's Nelson Road Water Treatment Plant. The proposed storage tank will supplement the existing 500,000-gallon ground storage tank and provide ERHWSC additional storage capacity to improve water distribution during peak demands and accommodate the significant population growth currently occurring in the County.

Project is more than 50% complete.

**Project Number:** CC-036  
**Project Approval Date:** 02/02/2022  
**Project Name:** Hospital Morgue  
**Project Submitted by:** Tom Hushen, Cameron County  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 1.7 Public Health Services: Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$34,712.51

**Project Description & Status:**

Cameron County's Morgue is located at the Valley Baptist Hospital in Harlingen. It serves as the primary morgue for the County. Because of the increased deaths in Cameron County due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the current equipment is insufficient to handle the capacity of post-mortem autopsies. Funding would be used to install additional autopsy tables and corresponding equipment to alleviate the back-log of autopsies.

Project is Complete.

**Project Number:** CC-037  
**Project Approval Date:** 02/15/2022  
**Project Name:** CCDD6 Tio Cano Project  
**Project Submitted by:** Laura P. Haley, Board President  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 5.2 Infrastructure: Clean Water Centralized Wastewater Collection  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$1,381,757.88

**Project Description & Status:**

The project’s start date is June 1, 2022 and completion date is June 1, 2024.

Western Cameron County suffers from chronic flooding. On November 2, 2021, Cameron County voters in La Feria, Santa Rosa, and surrounding areas wholeheartedly supported the creation of CCDD6 with an 84.15% approval rate. The challenge currently facing CCDD6 is stagnating water in homes at the Tio Cano Lake area during large rainfall events and the subsequent loss of the water when it is pumped into the Arroyo Colorado and ultimately lost into the Gulf.

This proposed project will create a regional Pump Station at the southeast corner of Tio Cano Lake. As there is no outfall from this natural depression, the only way to help alleviate flooding is through pumping. CCDD6 intends to utilize this ARPA grant to be the first step in the CCDD6 water reclamation project. While this project is under development CCDD6 will also begin the study for the placement of an area to impound this water outside the Tio Cano area south of the I-2 Interstate for impoundment, reclamation/treatment and ultimately sold to provide a revenue source for CCDD6 in the future.

The project is more than 50% complete.

**Project Number:** CC-038  
**Project Approval Date:** 03/01/2022  
**Project Name:** Sunny Glen Children’s Home  
**Project Submitted by:** Joseph Albury  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.10 Negative Economic Impacts: Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$75,000.00

**Project Description & Status:**

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a challenging time for victims of child abuse throughout our community and at-large. Abuse did not stop when the pandemic began but as schools, sports, and activities closed and cancelled, these children had no escape nor a safe place to make cries for help. Additionally, state Child Protective Services paused many “in-home” checkups and visits due to virus concerns. Across the Valley, dozens of children who would

normally enter homes like Sunny Glen Children’s Home were stuck in situations where abuse was common. Additionally, organizations like Sunny Glen, which receive a large portion of our funds from the State on a per child basis, found our funding cut substantially while incurring new costs to address the pandemic.

Sunny Glen Children’s Home in San Benito has provided a safe place for victims of child abuse and child neglect to heal in a loving environment since 1936. In that time, we have provided a loving and safe home for thousands of Cameron County’s most vulnerable children. In 2019 our organization housed 47 children at an average daily reimbursement of \$117.02 per child. At the height of the pandemic the number of children in our care fell to four, reducing State funding to an average of \$468.08 daily to operate a campus that accommodates more than 40 children. Despite challenges, Sunny Glen is stepping up to assist the vulnerable of Cameron County in the following ways:

- a) Allotting unused housing, free of charge, to local Child Protective Services to house local victims of child abuse. Sunny Glen covers the cost of utilities, maintenance, and supplies additional resources for children in need.
- b) Investing heavily in COVID mitigation through ongoing purchases of PPE supplies for all staff and children, vaccination and health professional screenings, plus upgraded cleaning equipment and industrial sanitation equipment.
- c) Providing housing, transportation, utilities, career and educational preparation, and social care assistance to young adults who have exited foster care to prevent homelessness in the vulnerable population during COVID economic uncertainty.
- d) Keeping full staff employed despite increased costs and substantially reduced income due to economic uncertainty.

Project is complete.

**Project Number:** CC-039  
**Project Approval Date:** 03/29/2022  
**Project Name:** Public Health Laboratory for Cameron County  
**Project Submitted by:** UT Health Science Center (UT Health Brownsville)  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 1.2 Public Health: COVID-19 Testing  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$343,000

**Project Description & Status:**

Project will enhance COVID-19 testing for Cameron County residents through the establishment of the first dedicated public health Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) certified laboratory in Cameron County. Cameron County is one of the areas of the state where a disproportionate number of COVID-19 cases have been reported. The Cameron County population also has a well-documented, disproportionate burden of chronic diseases such as obesity and diabetes that place our population at extreme

risk for hospitalization and death from COVID-19, as well as various other infections such as influenza, hepatitis, and tuberculosis.

Project is complete.

**Project Number:** CC-040  
**Project Approval Date:** 03/29/2022  
**Project Name:** AMLkids Rio Grande Valley  
**Project Submitted by:** AMLkids Rio Grande Valley, Inc.  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.10 Negative Economic Impacts: Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$375,241

**Project Description & Status:**

Funding would be used to offset revenue lost by this non-profit. The non-profit is a private group home for juveniles involved in the Juvenile Justice system. It relies on revenue for each child referred to them by the Juvenile Justice Department. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the non-profit received no referrals during most of the pandemic and collected revenue only for the few children that remained in its care. The non-profit had a revenue loss of more than \$350,000 but still managed to remain open and not experience any staff layoffs. Additionally, the non-profit incurred significant overtime, cleaning and PPE costs.

Project is complete.

**Project Number:** CC-041  
**Project Approval Date:** 04/26/2022  
**Project Name:** SBA Loan Assistance  
**Project Submitted by:** Economic Development & Community Affairs Department  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.13 Negative Economic Impacts: Other Economic Support  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$304,920

**Project Description & Status:**

Covid-19 presented small businesses with widespread challenges which included declines in revenue, increase costs, and closure through various periods due to lockdown. The Brownsville Local Development Company's (BLDC), which operates as a Small Business Administration (SBA) Certified Development Company, has the ability to assist eligible small businesses gain access to the SBA's 504 loan program. Funds would help small businesses that were financially impacted by the COvid-19 pandemic.



Project is less than 50% complete.

**Project Number:** CC-042  
**Project Approval Date:** 03/29/2022  
**Project Name:** Special Election  
**Project Submitted by:** Remi Garza, County Elections Administrator  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 1.7 Public Health: Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$526,495.00

**Project Description & Status:**

Texas Governor Greg Abbott's Proclamation for an Emergency Special Election identifies a prolonged vacancy in Congressional District 34 will prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the issues that Congress continues to deliberate related to COVID-19;

Project is complete.

**Project Number:** CC-043  
**Project Approval Date:** 06/07/2022  
**Project Name:** Email Security  
**Project Submitted by:** Juan Saldana, Cameron County IT Director  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 6.1 Revenue Replacement: Provision of General Services  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$135,000

**Project Description & Status:**

Migration of E-mail services to Microsoft Cloud hosting, Office365. Allows for always on access to e-mail, purposeful during an emergency and Data Center is down. This is inclusive of new e-mail security tool to scan and reduce the impact of phishing and other malicious e-mail.

Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) is a new requirement for most cybersecurity insurance policies. This will however add an extra step in the login process for all county employees accessing their computers and remote VPN. This is an extra layer of security for compromised passwords.

Project is complete.

**Project Number:** CC-044  
**Project Description & Status:** 07/05/2022  
**Project Name:** Youth Offender Project  
**Project Submitted by:** Rene Garza  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 1.7 Public Health Services: Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$800,000.00

**Project Description & Status:**

Funding would be used to divert youthful, non-violent offenders from the jail population. It will provide access to vaccinations and boosters for the youth, family, and close contacts. Additionally, it will give access to drug monitoring, educational and self-improvement classes, and counseling. The goal is to steer youthful offenders from jail in the short and long term.

Project is less than 50% complete.

**Project Number:** CC-045  
**Project Approval Date:** 09/06/2022  
**Project Name:** Elections Premium Pay  
**Project Submitted by:** Cameron County  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 4.1 Premium Pay: Public Sector Employees  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$88,000

**Project Description & Status:**

Cameron County Judge and Commissioners' deemed election workers as essential with a high risk to in- person activities. The court approved an additional \$2.00 per hour to be paid as premium pay.

Project is complete.

**Project Number:** CC-046  
**Project Approval Date:** 05/24/2022  
**Project Name:** Parks Fiber Optics  
**Project Submitted by:** Joe Vega  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 6.1 Revenue Replacement: Provision of General Services  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$72,400.00

**Project Description & Status:**

The project would provide fiber optic services and point to point connectivity to County Beach Access No. 3, A.K. Atwood Park, and County Beach Access No. 6. The installation of fiber optic services is necessary for safety and security issues and for the County’s toll collection system, which is currently manual collection in some areas.

Project is complete.

**Project Number:** CC-047  
**Project Approval Date:** 07/5/2022  
**Project Name:** Election Digital File Management  
**Project Submitted by:** Remi Garza  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 1.4 Public Health: Prevention in Congregate Settings  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$231,570.00

**Project Description & Status:**

Funding will be used to transfer physical files to paperless files and archived documents. The data is available to the public and would mitigate contact between elections department staff and the public.

Project is complete.

**Project Number:** CC-048  
**Project Approval Date:** 07/19/2022  
**Project Name:** Broadband Study  
**Project Submitted by:** Cameron County  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 5.17 Infrastructure Broadband: Other Projects  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$178,164.00

**Project Description & Status:**

Cameron County seeks to develop an Internet Connectivity Broadband Feasibility Study of the underserved communities in Cameron County. The County will contract an analysis that will help us identify the connectivity needs in each community, and bring affordable and reliable internet to our homes. The study would ask resident to fill out the survey and conduct a speed test to assess the needs of homes and businesses in our community.

Project is complete.

**Project Number:** CC-049  
**Project Approval Date:** 07/19/2022  
**Project Name:** Bob Clark Roofing Project  
**Project Submitted by:** Joe Vega, Cameron County Parks Director  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 1.7 Public Health: Other COVID-19 Public Health Expense  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$300,000.00

**Project Description & Status:**

Funds will be used to repair the roof of Cameron County’s Bob Clark Social Service Center. The Center houses the NINOS Head Start Program, WIC Clinic, and the University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley Area Health Education Center (AHEC). The center offers a wide variety of social services and educational programs that enhance health in the community and assist with continuing education (GED & ESL), home economics, Zumba, sewing, family counselling, assistance with CHIP, Medicaid and Medicare, utility & rental assistance employment placement assistance and medical assistance.

Project is complete.

**Project Number:** CC-050  
**Project Approval Date:** 07/19/2022  
**Project Name:** RGV Reef  
**Project Submitted by:** Rio Grande Valley Friends of the Reef, Inc.  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.10 Negative Economic Impact: Aid to Nonprofit Organization  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$250,000.00

**Project Description & Status:**

Funding will be used toward mitigating the negative impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the non-profit, Friends of the Rio Grande Valley Reef. The non-profit was unable to hold fundraising events and lost up to \$350,000 in donations.

This non-profit continues its work of building a reef off the Cameron County coast. Additionally, it provides research and educational opportunities

Project is complete less than 50%.

**Project Number:** CC-051  
**Project Approval Date:** 08/02/2022  
**Project Name:** Reverse Osmosis Groundwater Treatment Facility  
**Project Submitted by:** East Rio Hondo Water Supply Corporation  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 5.10 Infrastructure: Drinking Water Treatment  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$1,000,000.00

**Project Description & Status:**

Purchase of Treatment Facility. Funding would be used to purchase and wholly acquire a reverse osmosis water treatment plant that serves rural areas of Cameron County. Funding would be used to augment funds from the utility that total \$3,177,514 with a project total of \$4,177,514.

Project is complete.

**Project Number:** CC-052  
**Project Approval Date:** 08/02/22  
**Project Name:** Bejarano – McFarland Park Improvements  
**Project Submitted by:** Cameron County Parks & Recreation  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.22 Negative Economic Impacts: Strong Healthy Communities  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$180,000

**Project Description & Status:**

Funding for improvements to the park which includes a covered basketball court, improving the pavilion, splash pad, upgrading the existing walking trail, etc. It will be utilized for health fairs, civic meetings, vaccination & COVID testing planning drives and other educational opportunities that help mitigate the spread of COVID.

Project is completed less than 50%.

**Project Number:** CC-053  
**Project Approval Date:** 08/24/2022  
**Project Name:** Benavidez Park Bike Trail  
**Project Submitted by:** Cameron County Parks & Recreation  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.22 Negative Economic Impacts: Strong Healthy Communities

**Project Funding Amount:** \$200,000

**Project Description & Status:**

Funding will be used for a multipurpose mountain bike trail, providing alternative outdoor recreational opportunities. The trail would help offset the adverse effects of sedentary lifestyles and provide opportunities for a more active lifestyle, thereby reducing obesity, adverse health conditions and chronic illness prevalent in the area.

Project is complete.

**Project Number:** CC-054

**Project Approval Date:** 09/27/2022

**Project Name:** Compensation & Compensation Plan (Supplemental)

**Project Submitted by:** Cameron County

**Project Expenditure Category:** 6.1 Revenue Replacement: Provision of General Services

**Project Funding Amount:** \$4,264,471.00

**Project Description & Status:**

Cameron County Commissioners Court elected to continue to fund the Compensation and Classification plan for another fiscal year due to financial constraints.

Project is complete.

**Project Number:** CC-055

**Project Approval Date:** 09/27/2022

**Project Name:** Increase Jail Costs

**Project Submitted by:** Cameron County

**Project Expenditure Category:** 6.1 Revenue Replacement: Provision of General Services

**Project Funding Amount:** \$1,900,000.00

**Project Description & Status:**

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, jail inmates cannot assist with meal distribution. Meals vendor has had to increase staff and costs associated with staffing.

Project is complete.

**Project Number:** CC-056  
**Project Approval Date:** 09/27/2022  
**Project Name:** Self-Funded Health Plan (Supplement)  
**Project Submitted by:** Cameron County  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 1.6 Public Health: Medical Expenses  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$955,020.63

**Project Description & Status:**

Cameron County has a self-funded insurance plan and incurred increased claim costs both for vaccinations and medical expenses. The County is reimbursing the Health fund for actual costs incurred

Project is complete.

**Project Number:** CC-057  
**Project Approval Date:** 12/20/2022  
**Project Name:** El Jardin Waterline Improvements Project  
**Project Submitted by:** El Jardin Water Supply Corporation  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 5.11 Infrastructure: Drinking Water Transmission  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$1,000,000.00

**Project Description & Status:**

Funds are to be used in replacing water distribution lines that will service approximately 70 existing connections. The replacement lines are 8-inch diameter and are replacing undersized 2-inch lines, giving the area increased water pressure and allowing for development of fire protection systems. Seventeen (17) new fire hydrants will provide fire protection to the area.

Project has not begun.

**Project Number:** CC-058  
**Project Approval Date:** 01/17/2023  
**Project Name:** Indian Lake Drainage Improvements Project  
**Project Submitted by:** Town of Indian Lake  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 5.6 Infrastructure: Clean Water: Stormwater  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$500,000

**Project Description & Status:**

Funding will be used to supplement funding received through the Texas CDBG grant to complete the first phase of a Drainage Improvement project. The Project will improve drainage in the Town of Indian Lakes' East Subdivision.

Project has not yet begun.

**Project Number:** CC-059  
**Project Approval Date:** 02/14/2023  
**Project Name:** Technical Infrastructure and Failover Improvements  
**Project Submitted by:** Cameron County  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 6.1 Revenue Replacement: Provision of General Services  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$650,000

**Project Description & Status:**

The proposed project would provide for redundancy and expansion of the County's current technology infrastructure. The project will move the existing technology system to San Benito as a failover site and upgrade the technical equipment in the Levee Street offices as the primary resource. Additionally, the upgrade of equipment will provide for continual monitoring and automation, reducing disruption of services if issues arise.

Project is less than 50% complete.

**Project Number:** CC-060  
**Project Approval Date:** 02/28/2023  
**Project Name:** Outer Parkway  
**Project Submitted by:** Cameron County  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 6.1 Revenue Replacement: Provision of General Services  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$3,000,000.00

**Project Description & Status:**

Funds would be used for the environmental study for an approximately 21.5 miles long roadway that will link the General Brant Road Project with I69E (U.S. 77). It will tie into the I69 Connector from Edinburg. This would allow for a roadway from Edinburg to South Padre Island. The total construction cost is approximately \$200 million.

Project has not yet begun.



**Project Number:** CC-061  
**Project Approval Date:** 02/28/2023  
**Project Name:** Flor De Mayo Bridge  
**Project Submitted by:** Cameron County  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 6.1 Revenue Replacement: Provision of General Services  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$1,000,000.00

**Project Description & Status:**

Funding will be used for Engineering services for a proposed passenger car and pedestrian international bridge. The proposed project is located within a 173- acre tract of County owned property. The proposed project is included in the Texas/Mexico Border transportation Plan. The County is coordinating the construction with the Cameron County Regional Mobility Authority and is expected to clear the environmental assessment with no environmental concerns.

Project has not yet begun.

**Project Number:** CC-062  
**Project Approval Date:** 02/28/2023  
**Project Name:** Santa Maria Community Park  
**Project Submitted by:** Cameron County  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.22 Negative Economic Impacts: Strong Healthy Communities  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$2,000,000.00

**Project Description & Status:**

Funding will be used to develop a park on 10-12 acres of property serving Santa Maria and the surrounding communities. The proposed project would develop outdoor recreation facilities and an indoor gathering space. Outdoor amenities will include a splash-pad, basketball court, and soccer and baseball fields as well as walking trails, playground equipment and picnic shelters.

Project has not yet begun.

**Project Number:** CC-063  
**Project Approval Date:** 01/17/2023  
**Project Name:** IT Network Switches

**Project Submitted by:** Cameron County  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 6.1 Revenue Replacement: Provision of General Services  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$ 41,231.00

**Project Description & Status:**

Cameron County Information Technology Department purchased 13 networking switches to improve the County's network and security in various County buildings.

Project is less than 50% complete.

**Project Number:** CC-064  
**Project Approval Date:** 03/14/23  
**Project Name:** Cameron County / El Jardin Waterline Replacement  
**Project Submitted by:** Cameron County  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 5.11 Infrastructure: Drinking Water Transmission  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$259,000.00

**Project Description & Status:**

The proposed project would replace under-sized 3-inch diameter water lines with 8-inch diameter water lines providing service to 96 houses, 384 persons. The current waterlines are deteriorating and under-sized causing low water pressure to the area. With replacement of lines, fire protection service and installation of 10 fire hydrants will also be developed. The funding would be used to supplement a \$500,000 Texas CDBG grant for the project.

Project has not begun.

**Project Number:** CC-065  
**Project Approval Date:** 01/01/2023  
**Project Name:** Bob Clark / HVAC Control  
**Project Submitted by:** Cameron County  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 1.4 Public Health: Prevention in Congregate Settings  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$88,000.00

**Project Description & Status:**

Funding would be used to replace an outdated fire control panel and inoperable HVAC controls at Bob Clark Social Service Center. The Center serves the community with a number of educational, health and wellness, and recreational opportunities and is located in one of the most under-served areas of our County. The facility is also utilized for health fairs, civic meetings and COVID testing and vaccination drives.

Project is complete.

**Project Number:** CC-066  
**Project Approval Date:** 03/28/2023  
**Project Name:** Bejarano Park  
**Project Submitted by:** Cameron County  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.22 Negative Economic Impacts: Strong Healthy Communities  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$1,237,540.00

**Project Description & Status:**

The project is an expansion of the current park. The scope would include adding a splash pad, playground equipment, a community building, lighting for the nature trail, extending the current birding overlook, installation of lighting, as well as upgrading or renovating the basketball court, pavilion, playground, bathrooms and drinking fountains. The park serves a community with prevalence of health and wellness concerns such as diabetes, hypertension and obesity. The park would provide an opportunity for exercise and recreation and could serve as a space for group exercise and recreational activity as well as educational opportunities, civic and social activities and health fairs and vaccination drives.

Project has not yet begun.

**Project Number:** CC-067  
**Project Approval Date:** 03/28/2023  
**Project Name:** Port Isabel Park  
**Project Submitted by:** City of Port Isabel  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.22 Negative Economic Impacts: Strong Healthy Communities  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$750,000.00

**Project Description & Status:**

The Projects seeks to renovate the Laguna Madre Park a 14.9-acre park in the City of Port Isabel. The funding will bolster funding from the City of Port Isabel and will be used to renovate it with new playground equipment and sports fields, new concession building and restrooms, and new picnic areas. Most importantly, the park design provides recreational opportunity for people of all ages and abilities through its universal design and accommodations for neurodiversity. The park is accessible to all economic levels, as it is on the Metro line and the Caracara Trails bicycle and pedestrian path. It is also adjacent to the Laguna Madre Youth Club making it easily accessible to youth and families.

Project has not yet begun.

**Project Number:** CC-068  
**Project Approval Date:** 03/28/2023  
**Project Name:** County Morgue  
**Project Submitted by:** Cameron County  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 1.14 Public Health: Other Public Health Service  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$2,000,000.00

**Project Description & Status:**

The project proposes to renovate and expand the capability of the County's Morgue. Project has not yet begun.

**Project Number:** CC-070  
**Project Approval Date:** 04/25/2023  
**Project Name:** Santa Rosa Community Park  
**Project Submitted by:** Cameron County  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.22 Negative Economic Impacts: Strong Healthy Communities  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$175,000.00

**Project Description & Status:**

This project is Phase II of the Santa Rosa Community Park Improvements. These funds will renovate and enhance the baseball fields, bleachers, landscaping, irrigation systems, sidewalks and parking. Project has not yet begun.

**Project Number:** CC-071  
**Project Approval Date:** 05/09/2023  
**Project Name:** Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Project  
**Project Submitted by:** Cameron County  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 1.7 Public Health: Other Public Health Expenses  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$104,985.00

**Project Description & Status:**

The Project seeks to purchase and deploy Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) for use in all County facilities. There is evidence of increased instances of sudden cardiac death throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Cameron County has over one thousand employees, and serves more than 450,000 residents in its numerous buildings. The project hopes to have at least one AED in each County building to quickly and effectively react to sudden cardiac events. With an average response time between 6-12 minutes for emergency service providers, having an AED in County buildings will dramatically reduce response time before life-saving efforts can be made, thereby improving the chance of surviving sudden cardiac events.

The AEDs and wall cabinets have been requisitioned but have not been received or deployed.

Project is less than 50% complete.

**Project Number:** CC-072  
**Project Approval Date:** 05/23/2023  
**Project Name:** Olmito Nature Park  
**Project Submitted by:** Cameron County  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.22 Negative Economic Impacts: Strong Healthy Communities  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$3,777,500.00

**Project Description & Status:**

Cameron County is developing a 39-acre nature park which will provide recreational and educational opportunities. Plans for the park include a kayak launching area, nature trails, birdwatch overlooks, fishing piers, RV sites, and comfort stations. Additionally, it will include an indoor facility that can be used to hold health fairs, vaccination drives and other educational opportunities. This funding is in addition to the previously funded design amounts.

Project has not yet begun.

**Project Number:** CC-073  
**Project Approval Date:** 05/23/2023  
**Project Name:** Laureles Regional Park  
**Project Submitted by:** Cameron County  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.22 Negative Economic Impacts: Strong Healthy Communities  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$3,000,000.00

**Project Description & Status:**

This project proposes improvements to the Laureles Regional Park. The park was completed in 2010 and features baseball and soccer fields, a splash pad and picnic pavilion. The park's initial design was scaled back due to financial constraints. The improvements would add a basketball court which can also serve as a multi-purpose facility to host exercise classes, health fairs, civic meetings and vaccination drives. A new playground is also proposed. All facilities will meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Additionally, lighting would be added to the current soccer and baseball fields and solar lighting along walking trails. The current playing fields would also be upgraded with field irrigation, dug-outs, shaded bleachers and a concession stand.

Project has not yet begun.

**Project Number:** CC-074  
**Project Approval Date:** 05/23/2023  
**Project Name:** Benavides / Bob Clark Center Improvements  
**Project Submitted by:** Cameron County  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 1.7 Public Health: Other Public Health Expenses  
**Project Funding Amount:** \$1,525,000.00

**Project Description & Status:**

Cameron County is making further improvements to the Benavides Regional Park and the Bob Clark Social Service Center. These two facilities are located in the hub of 36 underserved neighborhoods or colonias. This funding would go toward the installing of environmentally- friendly solar lighting throughout the walking and bike trails, improvement to the sidewalks, and the cement foundation of the entry plaza, and to install a new electronic sign. Additionally, funding will be used to add an additional 3,000 square foot to the Center and expand the septic system capacity to accommodate for the increased proportion.

Project has not yet begun.