

## AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Commissioners Court – June 16, 2020

AI Number: 75904

Project Number: 2020-187

**Information:** [Requesting authority to authorize a discretionary exemption for engineering services for Hidalgo County Health Department Remodel and Repair of county-owned Modular Building *in order to assist with County functions related to medical and public health measures.*]

**Description of AI:** (A) Exemption from Competitive Bidding; (B) Requesting Authority to negotiate contract with Chanin Engineering (C) Authority to approve Work Authorization #1

**Funding Source:** CARES Act Relief Fund (TBD) Acct. # 0-1287-441-42-115-096-0-334

**Requested by:** Eduardo “Eddie” Olivarez, Health Director **Department:** Health Department

**Prepared by:** Tanya De Lira, Contract Specialist II **Department:** Purchasing Department

### BACKGROUND

On March 17, 2020, pursuant to the authority under Texas Government Code Section 418.108, Hidalgo County Judge Richard Cortez issued a Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency due to the imminent threat arising from the Coronavirus (COVID-19). On March 22, 2020, in accordance with Texas Government Code Section 418.108(b), the Commissioners Court of Hidalgo County issued an Order of Continuance of Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency that affirmed the activation of the Hidalgo County Emergency Management Plan and extends the Declaration of Local Disaster.

Professional engineering services are required for the repair and remodel of a county owned modular building that was donated to Hidalgo County by Mission Regional Medical Center approved by Commissioners Court on 12/18/2018, through AI-68139.

Hidalgo County is projected to exceed 1M in population in the 2020 census, and it is estimated that the County will need to vaccinate several hundred thousand constituents as part of the County’s efforts to respond to the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency. In order to meet the needs of our community, Hidalgo County Health needs additional laboratory space to assist with COVID-19 identification, testing, and surveillance of the virus, intervention and treatment referral; mitigation and response to identify the residential impact in our community. This includes the housing of individuals hired and/or engaged to conduct contact tracing as well a additional

epidemiological staffing, as necessary. With these additional resources, Hidalgo County Health will be able to better our medical community in any medical intervention such as collection and storage of specimens, administration of vaccinations, vaccination distribution, and ongoing testing to immediately identify any current and subsequent COVID-19 type of viral outbreak. At this time, it is necessary to expand our current infrastructure to effectively and efficiently respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

## COMPLIANCE

Discretionary exemptions are authorized by the Texas Local Government Code 262.024 (a) states “a contract for the purchase of any of the following items is exempt from the requirement established by the section 262.023 if the commissioners court by order grants the exemption.” This request is being made under LGC 262.024 (a) (2), an item necessary to preserve or protect the public health or safety of the residents of the county, and LGC 262.024 (a) (4) a personal or professional service. The procurement of services complies with 2 CFR 200 requirements.

## ADMINISTRATION

Approval of the item is consistent with Hidalgo County’s intended purpose to mitigate the spread of COVID–19. The goal is to provide efficient and effective delivery of services in light of change in technology, the public’s expectations, and the area’s population and economy. Hidalgo County Health is taking the lead in responding to the COVID-19 health emergency for our community as a whole.

## AGENDA ITEM CAPTION

- A. Discussion, consideration, and action to approve a necessary CARES Act Relief Fund expenditure to cover cost not accounted for in the current budget and cannot be lawfully funded by line item, allotment or allocation, for the [**Hidalgo County Health Department Remodel and Repair of county-owned Modular Building**], in order to assist with County functions related to medical and public health measures addressing the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency; the Court having reviewed the Agenda Item Briefing, herein finds that such expenditure is reasonable and necessary for the intended use.
- B. Requesting exemption from competitive bidding requirements under the Texas Local Government Code Section 262.024 (a)(4) a professional service;
- C. Requesting approval of final negotiated professional services agreement with Chanin Engineering, LLC for “Remodel and Repair for Modular Building C-10-187-06-16 (approved for negotiations by HCCC – 05/05/2020-AI-75355);
- D. Pursuant to HCCC of professional services agreement with Chanin Engineering, LLC. requesting approval of Work Authorization No. 1 in the amount of \$7,500.00 as it relates to Professional Engineering Services for Precinct No. 4, “Remodel and Repair of Modular Building.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Approval of the items will allow the Hidalgo County Health Department to proceed with securing the laboratory design necessary to address the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency. Recommending that Commissioners Court authorize the exemption for said architecture services as stated as they are reasonable and necessary expenditures related to the County's COVID-19 Public Health Response. Expenditures will be charged to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Relief Grant Fund and/or other grant assistance available to address the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Attachments:

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