

DEVELOPMENT CRITERIA *Budget Process* 2023

The County of Hidalgo, Texas seeks to develop a budget that follows the criteria below:

- Adhere to the fund balance policy to ensure a strong financial position for optimal credit rating, enough cash flow and resources for natural disasters and other emergencies
- Address salary step increases in accordance with section 8.04 of the CCP plan
- Funding for new FTEs is limited to those needed to meet current workload requirements.
- Reduce, combine, suspend or eliminate services, programs, positions or other costs that are not needed to fulfill the County's mission.
- Identify significant current or new unfunded obligations not included in the budget
- Identify efficiencies to increase productivity rather than request additional resources. Funds will be prioritized to those that contribute to the achievement of the County's goals and objectives.
- Adhere to a 90 day hiring freeze for General Fund vacancies
- Terminate grant funded salary related expenses when grants expires including positions and/or allowances.