



How Does \$130 Million in Stimulus Money Get Spent?

Brownsville, Texas, Spends Most of its Funds on Infrastructure Projects

May 15, 2010 –Located on the southern tip of Texas on the border with Mexico, Brownsville, Texas - the largest community in the Rio South Texas region with a projected population of 200,000 is slated to receive \$130 million of the total \$787 billion dispersed through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

“We’re using this money to plan and build for the future,” said Jason Hilts, President and CEO of Brownsville Economic Development Council. “Our vision – both short and long term – is to attract and support major business expansion and job creation.”

Fund Recipients:

(Not all of the money has been received at this point, but the majority of the funds will go to infrastructure projects)

- \$15 million to two community health clinics
- \$46 million for wastewater improvement projects
- \$36 million for Port of Brownsville transportation projects
 - \$26 million in school construction bonds
 - \$2 million for border security
 - \$2 million for public housing

“We believe that infrastructure holds the key to our future,” said Gilberto Salinas, Vice President of the Brownsville Economic Development Council. “We are building the foundation for amazing economic growth.”

Brownsville, located in one of the fastest growing regions in the country, is a member of the Rio South Texas Economic Council, a group of economic development partners collaborating to attract private sector investment, economic diversification and business expansions in six core industry segments.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Rio South Texas is the 23rd largest market in the country. The region, which makes up the largest U.S./Mexico border, encompasses the four southernmost counties in Texas along with the cities of Reynosa, Matamoros and Rio Bravo in Tamaulipas, Mexico. The region is also the third largest market in Texas. Brownsville was ranked as one of America’s 25 next recovering job markets and there is no doubt that with its vibrant business culture, skilled labor, and the resources granted, it will surely rise and shine even brighter.