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news release

For Immediate Release
28 December 1994

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DE LA GARZA ANNOUNCES \$13 MILLION FOR HIDALGO COUNTY

Head Start and Housing Programs To Benefit

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Congressman Kika de la Garza of Texas announced today that Hidalgo County has been awarded over \$13 million in federal government grants to provide residents with more housing and children's services in 1995.

"We can all be mighty proud of Hidalgo County's history of compassionate service to the less fortunate. These grants will help us continue that legacy," said de la Garza.

In a 29 percent increase over 1994, the County's Head Start program will receive \$10,799,065 to serve at least 2,580 children. A comprehensive child development program for those with low incomes, Head Start serves children ages three to five and their families.

An innovative County program to prevent homelessness will get \$2.5 million. Known as Project Avenue, this Supportive Housing Program of the Housing Authority of the County of Hidalgo is an effort to strengthen family structure by promoting independent living. Often families are referred to the Housing Authority for help when child protective services are ready to remove children from their parents' homes due to dilapidated housing. Numerous support services will be offered including emergency shelter and transitional housing, financial assistance vouchers, budget counseling, and planning to obtain permanent housing and even future home ownership.

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