

FORM I-5: JUSTIFICATION FOR SUB-CONTRACT GREATER THAN \$100,000

The goal of this project is to increase physical activity in children living in the Buena Vida neighborhood by providing access to a safe, fun place for children to play. The proposed project, partnering with the City of Brownsville, will purchase and install a large playscape in a currently empty lot adjacent to the Parks and Recreation building. The City has existing contacts and ability to identify prices and bids relating to the playscape equipment. They also have experience ordering and installing these types of items. The subaward amount covers the purchase of the playscape equipment, shipping and handling, and installation of the equipment. The installation also carries a warranty that will allow for sustainability of the equipment. In addition, the land where the equipment will be installed is the property of the City and the equipment will be property of the City after installation.

In previous and current collaborations between the School of Public Health and the City of Brownsville, the School of Public Health has been responsible for the monitoring and evaluation components as well as grant submission. Therefore we feel it is appropriate to provide a sub-contract amount (\$192,571) that will allow for the purchase and installation of the playscape equipment by the City of Brownsville.

FORM I - 7 Indirect Costs

Legal Name of Respondent:

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

Total amount of indirect costs allocable to the project:

\$43,572

Indirect costs are based on (mark the statement that is applicable):

The respondent's most recent indirect cost rate approved by a federal cognizant agency or state single audit coordinating agency. Expired rate agreements are not acceptable. Attach a copy of the rate agreement to this form (Form I - 7 Indirect)

X

RATE: Indirect Cost Rate - Date of Agreement is June 11, 2009.
BASE: Base for proposed project=\$87,145. Modified total direct costs including subgrants and subcontracts up to the first \$25,000 of each subgrant or subcontract (regardless of the period covered by the subgrant or subcontract). Modified total direct costs shall exclude equipment, capital expenditures, charges for patient care, tuition remission, rental costs of off-site facilities, scholarships, and fellowships as well as the portion of each subgrant and subcontract in excess of \$25,000.

RATE: Applies only to governmental entities. The respondent's current central service cost rate or indirect cost rate based on a rate proposal prepared in accordance with OMB Circular A-87. Attach a copy of Certification of Cost Allocation Plan or Certification of Indirect Costs.

TYPE: _____
BASE: _____
Note: Governmental units with only a Central Service Cost Rate must also include the indirect cost of the governmental units department (i.e. Health Department). In this case indirect costs will be comprised of central service costs (determined by applying the rate) and the indirect costs of the governmental department. The allocation of indirect costs must be addressed in Part V - Indirect Cost Allocation of the Cost Allocation Plan that is submitted to DSHS.

_____ A cost allocation plan. A cost allocation plan as specified in the DSHS Contractor's Financial Procedures Manual (CFPM), Appendix A must be submitted to DSHS within 60 days of the contract start date. The CFPM is available on the following internet web link: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/contracts/>

GO TO PAGE 2 (below)

Page 2, FORM I - 7 Indirect Costs

If using an central service or indirect cost rate, identify the types of costs that are included (being allocated) in the rate:

Effective from 09/01/08 to 08/31/11 the IDC rate is 50% for On Campus Organized Research. Modified total direct costs, consisting of all salaries and wages, fringe benefits, materials, supplies, services, travel and subgrants and subcontracts up to the first \$25,000 of each subgrant or subcontract (regardless of the period covered by the subgrant or subcontract). Modified total direct costs shall exclude equipment, capital expenditures, charges for patient care, tuition remission, rental costs of off-site facilities, scholarships, and fellowships as well as the portion of each subgrant and subcontract in excess of \$25,000.

Organizations that do not use an indirect cost rate and governmental entities with only a central service rate must identify the types of costs that will be allocated as indirect costs and the methodology used to allocate these costs in the space provided below. The costs/methodology must also be disclosed in Part V-Indirect Cost Allocation of the Cost Allocation Plan that is submitted to DSHS. Identify the types of costs that are being allocated as indirect costs, the allocation methodology, and the allocation base:

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES RATE AGREEMENT

EIN #: 1741761309A3

DATE: June 11, 2009

INSTITUTION:
 University of Texas H.S.C. at Houston
 The University of Texas System
 7000 Fannin Street
 Houston TX 77030-

FILING REF.: The preceding Agreement was dated August 17, 2007

The rates approved in this agreement are for use on grants, contracts and other agreements with the Federal Government, subject to the conditions in Section III.

SECTION I: FACILITIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE COST RATES*

RATE TYPES: FIXED FINAL PROV. (PROVISIONAL) PRED. (PREDETERMINED)

TYPE	EFFECTIVE PERIOD		RATE (%)	LOCATIONS	APPLICABLE TO
	FROM	TO			
PRED.	09/01/05	08/31/08	48.5	On Campus	Organized Research
PRED.	09/01/04	08/31/08	40.0	On Campus	Instruction
PRED.	09/01/04	08/31/08	25.5	Off Campus	Organized Research
PRED.	09/01/08	08/31/11	50.0	On Campus	Organized Research
PRED.	09/01/08	08/31/11	40.0	On Campus	Instruction
PRED.	09/01/08	08/31/11	26.0	Off Campus	Organized Research
PROV.	09/01/11	UNTIL AMENDED	Use same rates and conditions as those cited for fiscal year ending August 31, 2011.		

***BASE:**

Modified total direct costs, consisting of all salaries and wages, fringe benefits, materials, supplies, services, travel and subgrants and subcontracts up to the first \$25,000 of each subgrant or subcontract (regardless of the period covered by the subgrant or subcontract). Modified total direct costs shall exclude equipment, capital expenditures, charges for patient care, tuition remission, rental costs of off-site facilities, scholarships, and fellowships as well as the portion of each subgrant and subcontract in excess of \$25,000.

INSTITUTION:
 University of Texas H.S.C. at Houston
 The University of Texas System

AGREEMENT DATE: June 11, 2009

<u>SECTION I: FRINGE BENEFITS RATES**</u>					
RATE TYPES: <u>FIXED</u>		<u>FINAL</u>	<u>PROV. (PROVISIONAL)</u>	<u>PRED. (PREDETERMINED)</u>	
<u>TYPE</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE PERIOD</u>		<u>RATE (%)</u>	<u>LOCATIONS</u>	<u>APPLICABLE TO</u>
	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>			
FIXED	09/01/06	08/31/07	21.0	All	All Employees;
FIXED	09/01/07	08/31/09	21.8	All	All Employees;

Effective 09/01/2009 this organization fringe benefits are specifically identified to each employee and are charged individually as direct costs. The directly claimed fringe benefits are listed in the Special Remarks section of the Agreement.

INSTITUTION:
University of Texas H.S.C. at Houston
The University of Texas System

AGREEMENT DATE: June 11, 2009

SECTION II: SPECIAL REMARKS

TREATMENT OF FRINGE BENEFITS:

Fringe benefits are specifically identified to each employee and are charged individually as direct costs. The directly claimed fringe benefits are listed below.

TREATMENT OF PAID ABSENCES:

Vacation, holiday, sick leave pay and other paid absences are included in salaries and wages and are claimed on grants, contracts and other agreements as part of the normal cost for salaries and wages. Separate claims for the costs of these paid absences are not made.

OFF-CAMPUS DEFINITION: For all activities performed in facilities not owned by the institution and to which rent is directly allocated to the project(s), the off-campus rate will apply. Actual costs will be apportioned between on-campus and off-campus components. Each portion will bear the appropriate rate.

Equipment Definition -

Equipment means an article of nonexpendable, tangible personal property having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more per unit.

FRINGE BENEFITS:

- FICA
- Retirement
- Worker's Compensation
- Life Insurance
- Unemployment Insurance
- Health Insurance
- Dental Insurance
- Termination Pay

INSTITUTION:
University of Texas H.S.C. at Houston
The University of Texas System

AGREEMENT DATE: June 11, 2009

A. ANTICIPATION:

The rates in this Agreement are subject to any statutory or administrative limitations and apply to a given grant, contract or other agreement only to the extent that funds are available. Acceptance of the rates is subject to the following conditions: (1) The costs incurred by the organization were included in its facilities and administrative cost plans as finally accepted, such that the legal obligations of the organization are allocable under the governing cost principles; (2) The same costs that have been claimed as facilities and administrative costs are not claimed as direct costs; (3) The organization's costs have been properly audited and are in accordance with the information provided by the organization; and (4) The information provided by the organization is not to be materially misused or disseminated by the Federal Government, in whole or in part, without the approval of the organization at the discretion of the Federal Government.

B. ACCOUNTING SYSTEMS:

This agreement is based on the accounting system reported by the organization to be in effect during the Agreement period. Changes in the method of accounting for costs which affect the amount of reimbursement resulting from the use of this Agreement require prior approval of the authorized representative of the cognate agency. Such changes include, but are not limited to, changes in the charging of a particular type of cost from facilities and administrative to direct. Changes of this nature require approval by the organization at the discretion of the Federal Government.

C. FIXED RATE:

If a fixed rate is in this Agreement, it is based on an estimate of the costs for the period covered by the rate. When the actual costs for this period are determined, an adjustment will be made to a rate of a future year(s) to compensate for the difference between the costs used to establish the fixed rate and actual costs.

D. USE BY OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES:

The rates in this Agreement were approved in accordance with the authority in Office of Management and Budget Circular A-21 Circular, and should be applied to grants, contracts and other agreements covered by this Circular, subject to any limitations in A above. The organization may provide copies of the Agreement to other Federal Agencies to give them early notification of the Agreement.

E. OTHER:

If any Federal contract, grant or other agreement is reimbursing facilities and administrative costs by a means other than the approved rate(s) in this Agreement, the organization should (1) credit such costs to the affected programs, and (2) apply the approved rate(s) to the appropriate base to identify the proper amount of facilities and administrative costs allocable to those programs.

BY THE INSTITUTION:

University of Texas H.S.C. at Houston

The University of Texas System

(INSTITUTION)

(SIGNATURE)

T. Kevin Dillon

(NAME)

(TITLE)

(DATE)

Executive V.P., Chief Operating & Financial Officer

June 11, 2009

ON BEHALF OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT:

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

(AGENCY)

(SIGNATURE)

Henry Williams

(NAME)

DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF COST ALLOCATION

(TITLE) CENTRAL STATES FIELD OFFICE

JUNE 11, 2009

(DATE) 0153

HHS REPRESENTATIVE: Henry Williams

Telephone: (214) 767-3602

FORM N: BASIC IMPLEMENTATION EVIDENCE OF READINESS

Component II – Attachment B

Legal Business Name

of Respondent: The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

NOTE: This form is only required for respondents who are seeking Basic Implementation funding. See Section II.A. for more information. Address each of the relevant components as outlined in the BASIC IMPLEMENTATION EVIDENCE OF READINESS GUIDELINES associated with the activities proposed in this attachment. A maximum of **three (3)** additional pages may be attached if needed.

- 1) Evidence that a plan has been developed for implementing the selected CDC Community Evidence-Based Strategy for Obesity Prevention as the focus of the attachment

As part of this application we have provided several pieces of evidence to show that a plan is in place for implementing the CDC strategies: Increase opportunities for extracurricular physical activity and enhance personal safety in areas where persons are or could be physically active. We have already obtained estimates for the playscape equipment from a local distributor (Figure 4). The Division of Parks and Recreation has worked with this vendor in the past to obtain equipment for Brownsville Parks. The proposed park will be built on land already owned by the City of Brownsville.

Quotation		PO #	Reference	Ship VIA			Page	Printed
SQ-18524				Default Carrier			2	12/16/2010 1:58:23PM
I	Item	Description	Qty	Price	UM	Discount	Amount	
1	BuyBoard	BUYBOARD	1	50.00	EA		50.00	
2		This is a BuyBoard Purchasing Cooperative Quote. Pricing Reflects BuyBoard Discounts As Listed On Web Site www.buyboard.com Under The Vendor Listing For The PlayWell Group, Inc. Contract # 269-07						
3								
4	PWS-35-1001.2A	Playworld Custom Rockblock System	1	\$16,490.00	EA	\$1,319.20	\$15,170.80	
5	PWS-ZZBD0013	Picnic Boulder	1	\$5,609.00	EA	\$449.72	\$5,160.28	
6	PWS-ZZBD0014	Tower Boulder	1	\$16,318.00	EA	\$1,305.44	\$15,012.56	
7	PWS-ZZBD0015	Ridge Boulder	2	\$25,499.00	EA	\$4,079.66	\$46,918.32	
8	PWS-ZZBD0016	Castle Boulder	1	\$16,869.00	EA	\$1,509.52	\$14,359.48	
9	PWS-ZZBD0018	MOD X 10FT	1	\$568.00	EA	\$77.44	\$690.56	
10	PWS-ZZBD0019	Tight Rope	1	\$560.00	EA	\$44.80	\$515.20	
11	PWS-ZZBD0020	Rope Bridge	1	\$2,957.00	EA	\$235.56	\$2,720.44	
12	PWS-ZZBD0021	Rope Climber	1	\$3,110.00	EA	\$249.80	\$2,860.20	
13	SH-Raynoide	Shipping & Handling	1	\$13,552.72	EA		\$13,552.72	
14	SSI-FIBER	Safesurf Engineered Wood Fiber	185	\$15.33	CY	\$227.55	\$2,608.50	
15	SSI-GEO-2700	Geo Fabric 2700 sf per roll	1	\$360.00	EA	\$29.80	\$330.20	
16	SSI-GEO-1800	Geo Fabric 1800 sf per Roll	1	\$288.00	EA	\$23.04	\$264.96	
17	SSI-TIMBER	Safesurf 4" Timbers W/Spikes	83	\$31.33	EA	\$209.33	\$2,392.06	
18	SSI-RAMP	Handicap Ramp	1	\$767.00	EA	\$61.36	\$705.64	
This Quotation is good for 30 Days from the date listed above. We appreciate the opportunity to quote and look forward to serving your needs. To order, please fax this signed form including color choices, if necessary, and confirm the shipping address. This ship date is approximate. We reserve the right to change and collect interest in the amount of 1.5% per month if payment is not received in full in accordance with the terms set forth. Play Safety and PlayWell.							Page	2
Customer PO No. _____							Sub Total	\$126,461.92
Approved By: _____ Date: _____								

Figure 4: Estimate for Playscape Equipment

As the location is within the same block as the Division of Parks and Recreation (see map on page 43), the setting is ideal for creating a safe playscape for children. The proposed project fits within the mission of Imagine Brownsville, a comprehensive city plan that includes creating healthy communities.

The aggregate of these pieces demonstrates that UTSPH-B and City of Brownsville have identified a need in an impoverished neighborhood for free play for children. The City of Brownsville has already begun other improvements that contribute to healthful food choices in Buena Vida neighborhood including the Brownsville Farmers Market and the planned community garden, both nearby the proposed park. The planned playscape is the next step in providing fun and safe recreation to children in this neighborhood.

- 2) Evidence that a dedicated staff person or dedicated duties are included in a job/position within the organization

Dr. Jennifer Gay, the project PI, will dedicate 15% FTE to this project. She will be responsible for overseeing all proposed activities, data collection, interpretation of analyses, and preparing reports for this project. In addition, UTSPH-B will also employ a Graduate Research Assistant who will be responsible for assisting with the implementation and data collection, as well as management, basic data analyses, and development of reports.

The subcontract PI, Chris Patterson, is the director of the Division of Parks and Recreation for the City of Brownsville. Consistent with his existing duties as director, he will be responsible for the purchasing and installation of the playscape equipment, ground covering, lighting, fencing, and all other materials related to this project. Mr. Patterson will also be responsible for managing the warranties and maintenance of the playscape park after the contract period ends.

- 3) Projects demonstrating an effective, realistic plan to integrate proposed activities into the existing network of the community

The proposed FREE Play project is one of a number of community assessments and improvement projects in Buena Vida and other areas of Cameron County. UTSPH-B, in conjunction with the Center for Civic Engagement, was able to survey 320 households in Buena Vida neighborhood each year for three years. The purpose of these surveys was to assess community health status and perceptions of the neighborhood. These surveys have been instrumental in identifying areas of need for social services and access to these services. UTSPH-B provided mini-grants to these services to implement programs in Buena Vida.

The project also fits within the existing Imagine Brownsville comprehensive plan to improve the community, including health and access to safe, fun places to be physically active. To promote the new playscape, we will integrate marketing materials into our mass media campaign Tu Salud ¡Si Cuenta!, now in its fifth year. We will access local radio, television and newspapers, primarily in Spanish which is most appropriate for residents living in Buena Vida. Tu Salud ¡Si Cuenta! also disseminates information via a website and newsletters delivered to households by promotoras (lay health outreach workers). Through the newsletters and promotora contacts we will be able to speak directly with residents in Buena Vida about the new playscape.

Finally, because the playscape will be installed on City of Brownsville property and purchased by the City of Brownsville Division of Parks and Recreation, the long-term care and maintenance of the park will become integrated into the Division of Parks and Recreation.

- 4) Projects demonstrating a clear focus on sustainability beyond the cycle of this contract

We have planned for two methods to increase sustainability beyond the contract period. First and foremost, the new playscape will be property of the City of Brownsville and fall under the Division of Parks and Recreation. The incorporation of the playscape into Parks and Recreation ensures that the park will be maintained and managed as are other parks within the Parks and Recreation system. The main purpose of this project is to purchase, install, and evaluate the usage of the new park as there were not funds for these activities within the Parks and Recreation budget. However, they do have the budget to maintain the new park space.

Secondly, we will have the new equipment installed by the manufacturer. This will confer a warranty on the equipment. There is a five-year warranty for the benches, tables and trash cans. For the playscape equipment the warranty is ten years.

- 5) Projects that utilize existing community partnerships or networks to synergize community efforts.

The FREE Play project compliments a number of other existing programs as well as planned projects within the City of Brownsville. The proposed area fits within the plans of Imagine Brownsville, a comprehensive plan to improve the economic, social and health capacity of the city, by providing a free, safe recreational space for children in one of the most impoverished areas in Brownsville. To accomplish this we have the support of the City of Brownsville, one of UTSPH-B's key partners in improving the health and wellbeing of our residents. We have collaborated on several projects including H1N1 outbreak tracking and prevention activities, planning an employee wellness program for city employees, and designing and implementing a farmers market.

APPENDIX B: LETTER OF PARTICIPATION - City of Brownsville

I. Identifying Information

Name of Respondent
The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
Location
Brownsville Regional Campus, Brownsville, Texas

II. Collaborator Information

Name of Collaborating Entity/Community Partner
City of Brownsville
Location
Brownsville, Texas
Printed Name and Title of Person Signing the Verification Section
Charlie Cabler, City Manager, City of Brownsville
Participating Activities
The City of Brownsville (COB; PI: Chris Patterson) will have oversight of the sub-contracting responsibilities, which largely involve the purchasing and installation of the playscape, lighting, and fencing. Chris Patterson is the Recreational Services Director for Brownsville Parks and Recreation. They will work directly with the research team to implement the proposed work plan. COB will be responsible for working with the Brownsville Public Utilities Board to oversee the installation of lighting for the playground area. Parks and Recreation will be responsible for installing the fencing and to oversee the installation and warranty of the playground equipment. All activities are taking place on land already owned by COB. The COB will also assist with evaluation activities including providing volunteers to undergo training and conduct direct observations of the area. These observations will provide data on area usage and ease of access to the new playscape.

III. Verification

By my signature, I am verifying that our agency/entity/corporation is participating in the collaboration activities listed above.



Name

1 6 10

Date of Signature

COMPONENT II

Attachment B:

**Community-Based Obesity Prevention
Strategies to Encourage Physical Activity or Limit Sedentary Activity
among Children and Youth and Strategies to Create Safe Communities that
Support Physical Activity**

FORM I: RESPONDENT BACKGROUND

Component II – Attachment B

Legal Business Name of Respondent:

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

Response Category:

Infrastructure-Focused with Some Implementation (IFSI) Basic Implementation (BI)

Respondent must provide a narrative description including: the legal name of the respondent; any affiliations; its overall purpose or mission statement; and a brief history of its accomplishments. Describe the organizational structure, such as board of directors, officers, advisory councils, or committees. **A maximum of one (1) additional page may be attached if needed.**

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

Mission & Vision Statements: As a comprehensive health science university, the mission of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHSCH) is to educate health science professionals, discover and translate advances in the biomedical and social sciences, and model the best practices in clinical care and public health. We pursue this mission in order to advance the quality of human life by enhancing the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease and injury, as well as promoting individual health and community well-being.

Vision: *Excellence above all* in the quest to be an acknowledged leader in the collaboration to treat, cure and prevent the most common diseases of our time through education, research and clinical practice.

Community Service: UTHSCH offers patient care in clinics, mobile units and within schools across Houston and surrounding areas as well as communities along the Texas-Mexico border. Health education is provided to children and adults in the Houston area and continuing education is provided across the state to health professionals. Recent accomplishments include (from FY 2007):

- The Dental Branch provided over \$1.3 million in charity dental care.
- The Harris County Psychiatric Center providing mental health information to more than 50,000 people.
- The Medical School provided \$100 million in unsponsored care.
- The Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences has an 18-year relationship with HISD's Brookline Elementary School.
- The School of Health Information Sciences conducted a research program jointly to research the problem and define a roadmap for implementation for the Greater Houston Community to be prepared for an emergency.
- The School of Nursing provided service in several affiliated clinics in HISD schools.
- The School of Public Health has MPH, Masters of Science, PhD, and Dr. Public Health programs in Houston, Brownsville, Dallas, El Paso and San Antonio.

Executive Leadership: The UT Health Science Center at Houston is part of The University of Texas System, which is led by The UT System Board of Regents, the governing body for The University of Texas System, and Chancellor Francisco G. Cigarroa, M.D. The deans, the executive vice presidents, the vice president for

institutional advancement, the vice president for development and designated senior administrators compose the Executive Leadership. The team advises the president on policy development, management, and administration of the institution.

President: Larry R. Kaiser, M.D.

Executive Vice President for Research and Interim Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs: Peter Davies, M.D., Ph.D.

Executive Vice President, Chief Operating and Financial Officer: Kevin Dillon, M.B.A., C.P.A.

One of the professional health schools in the UT Health Science Center is the University of Texas School of Public Health. This proposal is being submitted by Jennifer L. Gay, Assistant Professor at the School of Public Health, Brownsville Regional Campus. The mission of the School of Public Health is to improve and sustain the health of people by providing the highest quality graduate education, research and community service for Texas, the nation and internationally. The Dean is Roberta Ness, MD, MPH and is celebrating its 40th year. In fiscal year 2008 the School of Public Health received \$41.6 million in research awards. The School of Public Health has five regional campuses, each with a regional dean. The School of Public Health is:

- Disseminating the Coordinated Approach to Child Health (CATCH) to all 97 Travis County elementary schools as part of the effort to reduce the prevalence of overweight 4th grade students to 15% in four years (Austin)
- Conducting a media campaign to provide information on the epidemic of obesity and diabetes in conjunction with a local popular television station (Brownsville)
- Working with the American Cancer Society (local and Texas) to develop and evaluate health promotion messages (El Paso)
- Participating on the Dallas Health Start Interconceptual Care Committee (Dallas)
- Providing technical Assistance for the "Mano a Mano" project to reduce child abuse in the Westside of San Antonio by working in partnership with community residents to strength families (San Antonio)

The Brownsville Regional Campus launched in 2000 and is situated on the University of Texas at Brownsville/Texas Southmost College campus. The mission for this campus is to improve health and prevent disease in the population of the Lower Rio Grande Valley by developing local research and professional capacity, and by the integration of teaching and research within the community. The Regional Dean is Joseph B. McCormick, MD and the campus currently has nine faculty and will grow to eleven faculty by the end of spring 2010. Among the grant money received by the Brownsville Regional Campus (The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, School of Public Health) is a 2003 award of a five-year NIH Export Grant from the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities-MD000170. This grant was renewed for an additional five years to 2013 to conduct research into strata of disease prevalent in Hispanic populations including obesity and diabetes. Much of the proposed work in this current proposal builds on this NIH award.

FORM J: ASSESSMENT NARRATIVE

Component II – Attachment B

Legal Business Name of Respondent:

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

Response Category:

Infrastructure-Focused with
 Some Implementation (IFSI) Basic Implementation (BI)

Complete the Table under Part A and address each of the assessment activities under Part B (see ASSESSMENT NARRATIVE Guidelines for instructions on Part B) associated with the services proposed in this attachment. A maximum of **three (3)** additional pages may be attached if needed.

FREE Play: Fun Recreational Educational Entertainment Play for Children on the Border

Part A

Source of Assessment Data

Date of Each Assessment Source

Gregg, P., Harkness, S., & Machin, S. Child development and family income. York, England: YPS in association with the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.	1999
Texas Department of health. Selected facts for Texas counties—2000. Austin: Texas Department of Health.	2003
Texas Department of health. <i>Texas Diabetes Counsel 2004-2005 State Plan.</i>	2003
The Buena Vida Barrio: A Brownsville Transitional Neighborhood. A Cross Border Institute for Regional Development and University of Texas Brownsville and Texas Southmost College Report	May 2003
Mier, N, Flores, I, Robinson., JR., & Millard, AV. Cultural, Demographic, Educational, and Economic Characteristics. Nourishing the Future of the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Lower Rio Grande Valley Nutrition Intervention Research Initiative. The University of Texas School of Public Health at Houston.	2004
Hoelscher, D.M. Day, R.S., Lee, E.L., Frankowski, R., Kelder, S.H., Ward, J., and Scheurer, M.E. Measuring the prevalence of overweight in Texas school children. <i>American Journal of Public health, 94, 1002-1009.</i>	2004
Perez, Reininger, Flores, Sanderson, & Roberts. Physical activity and overweight among adolescents on the Texas-Mexico border. <i>Pan American Journal of Public Health, 19(4), 244-252.</i>	2006
Census QuickFacts Cameron County, Texas	2007
Reininger, B., and Sanchez, P (2008) Evaluation Findings of the Compassion Capital Fund Grant in the Buena Vida Community, Year 3. Submitted to the Center for Civic Engagement The University of Texas Brownsville / Texas Southmost College.	2008
Reininger, B., and Damani, R (2006) Evaluation Findings of the Compassion Capital Fund Grant in the Buena Vida Community, Year 2. Submitted to Health and Human Services and the Center for Civic Engagement The University of Texas Brownsville/Texas Southmost College.	2006

Reininger, B., and Ireland, P. (2005) Evaluation Findings of the Compassion Capital Fund Grant in the Buena Vida Community, Year 1. Submitted to the Center for Civic Engagement The University of Texas Brownsville / Texas Southmost College.	2005
Texas Workforce Commission Employment Reports	2009
Fisher-Hoch SP, Rentfro A, Salinas J, Perez A, Brown HS, Reininger B, Restrepo BI, Wilson JG, Hossain MM, Rahbar MH, Hanis C, McCormick JB. Unexpectedly high prevalence of obesity and diabetes and the impact of socioeconomic status in a minority community: The Cameron County Hispanic Cohort. <i>Preventing Chronic Disease</i>	In Press

Part B

The proposed project revitalizes a vacant lot next to the Brownsville Division of Parks and Recreation in the Buena Vida neighborhood, one of the oldest, most populated, and poorest in Cameron County into a vibrant playscape area for children. While Buena Vida is near other parks, there are no safe play spaces for children within easy walking distance. The University of Texas School of Public Health Brownsville Regional Campus (UTSPH-B) and the City of Brownsville intend to develop this vacant lot into a safe, fun, free play area for the children of Buena Vida neighborhood.

Cameron County and the City of Brownsville

Geographic Boundaries

Cameron County is located at the southernmost part of Texas. It has an urbanized modern economy that in the last century changed from cattle ranches to a service-based industry. Cameron County’s population is growing fast with a population growth rate at 17.2% in the last 9 years (Census).

General Demographic Data including Child and Adolescent Data

Half of the population of the LRGV is under the age of 24 (Mier, et al.) Eighty-six percent of the population in Cameron County is Hispanic and over three quarters of the population speak Spanish at home (Census). More than one-quarter of children in the LRGV are overweight or obese (28.7% girls; 39.3% boys), nearly double the national prevalence. Participation in sports or other physical activities was associated with lower odds of being overweight in children in the LRGV (Perez). Lack of physical activity contributes to the obesity epidemic that disproportionately affects Hispanic children (Hoelscher, et al.) and may lead to increases in diabetes.

General Socioeconomic Data

Cameron County is among the poorest areas in the United States as the median household income is \$29,589 (Census). In this young population educational attainment continues to be out of reach. The U.S. Census Bureau estimated that 29.4% of adults in Cameron County have less than a ninth grade education level, only 13.4% have a Bachelors degree.

Thirty-four percent of the all persons in Cameron County live below the poverty line (U.S. Census 2007) and 10.5% are unemployed (Texas Workforce Commission). Of those under 18 years of age, 27.8% live below the poverty line (Texas Department of Health 2003.) Young adults who are raised in poverty are more likely to experience delinquency, lower wages and be unemployed (Gregg, Harkness, & Machin, 1999). In addition, it was

estimated that 40% of households living in the LRGV have experienced food insecurity (Mier et al).

General Description of Community-Wide Health Status

Among children in the area, a UTSPH Research Team (Hoelscher et al.) found that in DSHS Region 11, where the Cameron County is located, students did not meet the recommended levels of physical activity for health and developmental benefits and that Region 11 also had the highest prevalence of overweight boys of all ages. Knowing that health issues typically track from childhood into adulthood, we also find among adults in Brownsville extensive health issues. Our UTSPH-B research shows the LRGV is among the most medically underserved regions of the United States. Fisher-Hoch et al. found in a longitudinal cohort study of Brownsville residents that 19% were diabetic (nearly double the national prevalence) and 28.2% had impaired fasting blood glucose. More than half (51.2%) of participants are obese. One contributing factor may be the lack of physical activity as two-thirds of participants self-reported no moderate-to-vigorous physical activity, and only 22.2% met physical activity recommendations for achieving health benefits.

Description of Community-Wide Health Environment

As a city Brownsville is just beginning its quest to create safe places and policies to support physical activity for youth and adults. Essentially right now there are 27 parks in our city, but most lack programming to draw in youth. Many parks, including one in the Buena Vida community has a long history of being an unsafe place to go for physical activity because of crime, drugs and prostitution. New plans and policies are being discussed. In a comprehensive community planning effort entitled Imagine Brownsville, strategies and plans have been identified and were recently adopted by our city officials. Currently small levels of funding to accomplish the outlined plans are being leveraged. Therefore this application compliments the Imagine Brownsville plans by proposing a safe, accessible location for children to be physically active.

Target Population – Buena Vida Neighborhood

Geographic Service Area

A map of the Buena Vida neighborhood and surrounding area is included in Form L (page 43). Within the neighborhood are three elementary schools and one middle school. The University of Texas at Brownsville, where the UTSPH-B buildings are located, is within walking distance. The Brownsville Zoo, visited by 375,000 people annually, is also located within walking distance of the Buena Vida neighborhood.

Characteristics of Target Population

The Buena Vida neighborhood is 99% Hispanic and had a median monthly gross household income of \$816 in 2007, and is ranked first among US cities with the highest child poverty rates. One-third of households have children under the age of 6 years and only 16% of children are enrolled in educational after-school programs. The two elementary schools and one middle school serving the Buena Vida neighborhood enrolled more than 1,600 students this year (grades K-8).

Target Population's Health Status

Of Buena Vida residents 74.6% said they currently receive Medicare, Medicaid or CHIP. In a 2007 report (Reininger) less than 40% were satisfied with free time activities in Buena Vida and only 29.9% were satisfied with Parks and Recreation activities.

Current Population Served

The dissatisfaction with current free time activities in Buena Vida may be related to the lack of services specific to healthy lifestyles. The current services provided focus on socioeconomic aid and healthcare.

Gaps in Resources and Potential Barriers to Improving Health of the Community

A 2005 neighborhood survey conducted by UTSPH-B and the UTB Center for Civic Engagement (Reininger and Ireland) asked Buena Vida residents if they had opportunities to exercise in their neighborhood. Over 51% indicated that they did not have such opportunities. Additionally only 13% indicated that they completely agreed that their neighborhood was a good place for children to grow and play. In 2007 (Reininger and Sanchez) questions about the health environment were added to the neighborhood survey. Participants indicated that they felt traffic in the streets made it difficult to walk (46%) and that high crime (18%) and loose dogs (51%) also were present in the neighborhood. Additionally 40% indicated that the loose dogs impeded their use of recreation facilities in the neighborhood.

With the City of Brownsville being categorically defined by the United States Census as the most impoverished city in the nation, it is not difficult to understand that inadequate funding resources in general are already spread thin. Currently the City of Brownsville is participating in Imagine Brownsville, a multi-agency collaborative work project that details the community's proposal for future growth and development. Among its twelve goals, the report focuses on creating "a healthy community with low disease rates and affordable access to healthcare with a focus on prevention." However, the report highlights the current lack of financial resources to maintain much less improve the City's current quality of life.

Community Partners

Our main community partner in this project is the City of Brownsville, specifically the Division of Parks and Recreation (DPR). DPR will have primary responsibility for selecting and purchasing the playscape equipment, overseeing the installation of the playscape, and install lighting and fencing. After the new park opens DPR will maintain the new facilities. The location of the park is adjacent to the DPR building and will be next to newly refurbished basketball courts and an indoor gym. The area is also two blocks from the weekly Brownsville Farmers Market held at Linear Park and the trailhead of the Historic Battlefield Hike and Bike Trail, also at Linear Park. Space has also been allocated for a community garden in the Buena Vida neighborhood that would be across the street from the DPR building. This project is part of a larger initiative to provide opportunities for physical activity.

Importantly the proposed project fits with the mission of the Imagine Brownsville initiative, which is a large scale community-based visioning effort to direct the planning and growth of Brownsville recently adopted by the City of Brownsville. The vision is to define and implement strategies for creating a better living, working, learning, and playing environment for Brownsville. One section of Imagine Brownsville focuses on Health and in particular opportunities to create a more physically active Brownsville.

The Center for Civic Engagement and Mitte Cultural District are also supporters of the proposed project. These community partners will provide additional services, and educational and cultural opportunities within the Buena Vida neighborhood including Gladys Porter Zoo, the Children's Museum and the Museum of Fine Arts.

FORM K: PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Component II – Attachment B

**Legal Business Name
of Respondent:**

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

Response Category:

Infrastructure-Focused with
Some Implementation (IFSI) Basic Implementation (BI)

In the event a contract is awarded, respondent agrees that performance measures will be used to assess, in part, the respondent's effectiveness in providing the services described. Address all of the requirements (see PERFORMANCE MEASURES Guidelines) associated with the services proposed in this attachment. The proposed target levels of performance will be negotiated and agreed upon by respondent and DSHS if respondent is selected to negotiate a contract. A maximum of **one (1)** additional page may be attached if needed.

Part A

- 1) By end of the third month of the contract period, UTSPH-B will finalize all data collection instruments and submit application for The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston Committee of Human Subjects approval.
- 2) By end of the sixth month of the contract period, UTSPH-B and City of Brownsville will recruit all personnel (paid and volunteer) and train them to conduct door-to-door surveys and direct observations.
- 3) By end of the sixth month of the contract period, City of Brownsville Parks and Recreation will have ordered and purchased the playscape equipment (including costs for installation) for children in the Buena Vida neighborhood.
- 4) By end of the eighth month of the contract period, UTSPH-B personnel and City of Brownsville volunteers will complete data collection of 100 household door-to-door surveys for the pre-test.
- 5) By end of the eighth month of the contract period, City of Brownsville will install the exterior building lighting (in coordination with Brownsville Public Utilities Board), fencing, and complete site work to prepare for the installation of the playscape.
- 6) By end of the ninth month of the contract period, City of Brownsville Parks and Recreation will have installed the playscape equipment at the designated lot adjacent to the Parks and Recreation building to increase physical activity opportunities for children in Buena Vida neighborhood.
- 7) By end of the ninth month of the contract period, UTSPH-B and City of Brownsville will open the new FREE Play area to children of Buena Vida neighborhood and Brownsville, Texas.

- 8) By end of the twelfth month of the contract period, City of Brownsville volunteers will conduct 100 door-to-door household surveys to determine which parks Buena Vida residents utilize, frequency of use, and awareness of the new playscape.
- 9) During the remaining nine months of the contract period, following the opening of the new playscape area, UTSPH-B personnel and City of Brownsville trained volunteers will conduct direct observations of park usage and level of activity by children and adults.
- 10) By end of the contract period, UTSPH-B will analyze the pre-test and post-test door-to-door surveys on awareness of the new park and frequency of use of the new park and other parks in Brownsville.
- 11) By end of the contract period, UTSPH-B will begin analysis on the direct observation data examining park usage and level of activity by children and adults.

Part B

Include completed Selected CDC Community Evidence-Based Strategies for Obesity Prevention & Response Category behind performance measures.

Selected CDC Community Evidence-Based Strategies for Obesity Prevention & Response Category

Component II – Attachment B

Legal Business Name of Respondent:

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

Response Category:

Infrastructure-Focused with Some Implementation (IFSI) Basic Implementation (BI)

Part B

SELECTED COMMUNITY STRATEGIES – Part B of Form K: Performance Measures: Respondents must select one (1) or more of the listed twelve (12) CDC Community Evidence-Based Strategies for Obesity Prevention as a focus and priority for the community. Respondents who wish to submit attachments that address both nutrition- and physical activity-related strategies must submit both Component II – Attachment A (nutrition-related) and Component II – Attachment B (physical activity-related). Submitting attachments for both Component II – Attachment A and Component II – Attachment B does not increase the merit of the proposal, and these components will be scored independently. Check selected strategy/strategies.

CDC Community Evidence-Based Strategy/Strategies for Obesity Prevention

Strategies to Encourage Physical Activity or Limit Sedentary Activity Among Children and Youth

- 11 Require physical education in schools
- 12 Increase the amount of physical activity in physical education programs in schools
- 13 Increase opportunities for extracurricular physical activity
- 14 Reduce screen time in public service venues

Strategies to Create Safe Communities That Support Physical Activity

- 15 Improve access to outdoor recreational facilities
- 16 Enhance infrastructure supporting bicycling
- 17 Enhance infrastructure supporting walking
- 18 Support locating schools within easy walking distance of residential areas
- 19 Improve access to public transportation
- 20 Zone for mixed-use development
- 21 Enhance personal safety in areas where persons are or could be physically active
- 22 Enhance traffic safety in areas where persons are or could be physically active.

RESPONSE CATEGORY – Part B of Form K: Performance Measures. Respondents must select only one response category per attachment. Check selected response category and include this form behind Form K: Performance Measures.

Response Category	Description	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Infrastructure-Focused with Some Implementation (IFSI)	Bring together community stakeholders, develop a plan to implement the selected CDC Community Evidence-Based Strategy for Obesity Prevention, and begin some implementation projects. IFSI projects will be funded for up to \$150,000 and are not required to complete FORM N: Basic Implementation Evidence of Readiness.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Basic Implementation (BI)	Implement the selected CDC Community Evidence-Based Strategy for Obesity Prevention. Basic Implementation funding requires demonstration of existing community capacity, e.g., community stakeholders have already been convened and a plan for implementation has already been developed. BI projects will be funded for up to \$300,000 and are required to complete FORM N: Basic Implementation Evidence of Readiness.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

FORM L: WORK PLAN

Component II – Attachment B

Legal Business Name of Respondent:

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

Response Category:

Infrastructure-Focused with
 Some Implementation (IFSI) Basic Implementation (BI)

Respondent must describe its plan for delivering the proposed activities to the population in the proposed service area(s) and include timelines for accomplishments. Address the required elements (see WORK PLAN Guidelines) associated with the services proposed in this attachment. A maximum of **seven (7)** additional pages may be attached if needed.

FREE Play: Fun Recreational Educational Entertainment Play for Children on the Border

The overall goal for this project is to create a safe, fun place for children from an impoverished, underserved neighborhood to be active. The main objective for this project is to increase physical activity in children who live in a neighborhood with reduced access to safe places to play. We propose purchasing and installing a playscape system adjacent to the Parks and Recreation building. The new park and equipment meets guidelines for accessibility under ADA and is designed for children ages two through 12. This project will develop a currently vacant lot into a safe, free play area for children in Buena Vida. According to the National Association for Sport and Physical Education, children should accrue 60 minutes of physical activity per day which includes free play time. In a study by McKenzie et al. (2006), children in parks are active at a moderate or vigorous intensity level, high enough to count towards the 60 minutes per day of recommended activity. Additionally, children living within approximately six blocks of a park were nearly five times more likely to be at a healthy weight compared to children living further away from parks (Potwarka, Kaczynski, & Flack, 2008). Therefore, providing a free play area for children in Buena Vida may increase physical activity and may contribute to decreases in overweight and diabetes.

Because of our partnership with the City of Brownsville, they will provide (in the form of a match) the exterior building lighting and ground surface material for this new space. As the playscape will be near a street, the City of Brownsville will also provide fencing to ensure child safety. The target population for this project is the residents of Buena Vida neighborhood (Figure 1) in Brownsville, Texas. Buena Vida is one of the oldest neighborhood in Brownsville and has one of the highest population densities per square mile (5,811 residents per square mile compared to 1,738 throughout the rest of Brownsville). Though this population appears close in proximity to other parks, residents must cross two main, busy streets to do so. This is a barrier to accessing those parks. Additionally, the majority of residents in this neighborhood do not have a vehicle, or if they do, they use it to get to and from employment.

Therefore, children do not have the opportunity to access the existing parks and playgrounds. The placement of this playscape is within the neighborhood boundaries which means the children do not have to cross major streets to access the playscape.

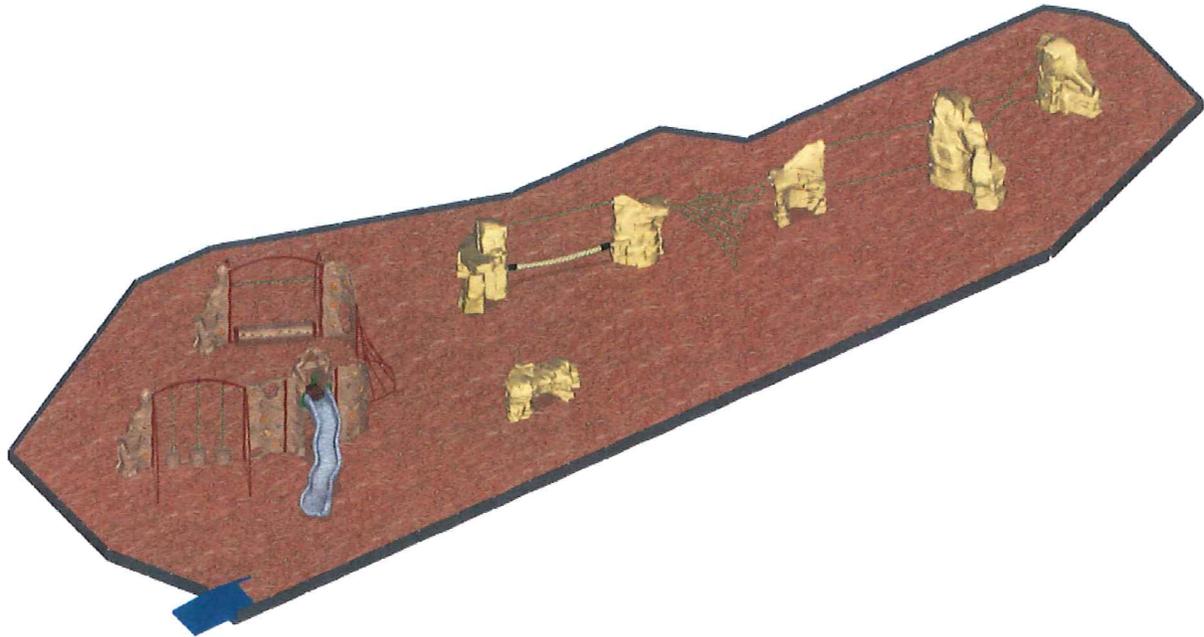


Figure 1: Rendering of Playscape Equipment

The placement of the playscape adjacent to the Parks and Recreation building will provide another layer of safety as park personnel will constantly pass by. The location of the Buena Vida neighborhood is in the heart of downtown Brownsville in Cameron County, Texas (see map on page 43). While the playscape is designed for use by the Buena Vida residents, it will be open to all children and families in the area.

This project fits within the mission of Imagine Brownsville. Imagine Brownsville, or The Brownsville Comprehensive Plan, is the result of hundreds of community members including local government officials, business owners/managers, public, private and higher education officials, finance and industry leaders, students, religious leaders and general community members getting together to work on a master plan that would assist the City with providing a foundation for guiding the future growth and development of the City that is consistent with the vision and goals of the community. Among the four core elements is effective land use, focusing on public facilities and parks. Through preservation of open space parks and recreation, the quality of life for community members would be positively influenced. Additionally, the City is actively seeking to maximize current land use by converting current areas that may be categorized as urban blight areas into vibrant and walkable neighborhoods.

The surfacing under and around playground structure is one of the most important factors in reducing the likelihood of life-threatening head injuries. The City of Brownsville is choosing to install Fibar safety surfacing. Fibar consists of engineered wood fibers that knit together to form a surface soft and springy enough to cushion falls, yet firm enough for wheelchairs. It has a playground patented drainage system that protects the investment from bad weather damage and avoids mud and puddles after a rain. It is easy to install and maintain, and has a 25-year guarantee. In September we will install the exterior building lighting and fencing around the park. The lighting will be installed with the assistance of the Brownsville Public Utilities Board, the electricity

provider for the City of Brownsville. The playscape equipment, gazebo, benches, shade structures, and other materials will be installed in October. Installation of the playscape equipment is scheduled to take one to two weeks. The playscape equipment is designed for children ages 2-12 years and is made to look and feel like real boulders. Each piece has activities for at least four children each. Several pieces also allow for wheelchair access and are appropriate for children with special needs. The surface of the equipment is durable and non-slip. The system is built to help children develop strength, coordination and problem solving. The boulders have angles, crevices, and routes that promote safe risk-taking and include handhold and footholds that guide children. The rope climbers are attached to the boulders creating additional activities.



Figure 2: Rock Climbing Wall Example

The rock climbing wall we will install will be eight feet tall and is designed for children ages 5-12. The rock wall consists of multiple panels which can be rotated to create four different climbing scenarios. The rock wall panels come with PVC-free landing mats. The rock climbing wall will be an exciting way for children to build strength and self-esteem.

The playscape is set up to allow for sight lines from all angles for both parents and Parks and Recreation staff. Because of the extremely hot summers and lack of natural shading in the proposed park space, we will provide shade structures as well as plant Caliper Live Oak trees to provide shade and cool the equipment. This will allow children to use the playscape equipment during summer. We have also allowed for adequate open space for children to run around. The proposed playscape promotes social, motor and cognitive skills and will be unique to this park as no other parks in the county have this type of equipment.

Marketing Plan

We will market the new park primarily to the Buena Vida residents building on the infrastructure existing in our current interventions research for reaching the community. We will use promotora outreach, information on the local news media, and at the Brownsville Farmer's Market which is only two blocks from the park. The UTSPH-B runs a mass media campaign (Tu Salud ¡Si Cuenta!) to encourage physical activity and healthful food choices. Part of this campaign involves promotoras (lay health outreach workers) distributing monthly newsletters throughout Brownsville neighborhoods, including Buena Vida. The new playscape will be featured in a monthly newsletter around the time of the opening and will also be featured on the Tu Salud ¡Si Cuenta! website. The City of Brownsville will also work with the public access channel (Channel 12), local news stations and the Brownsville Herald newspaper to televise a park ribbon cutting that will be shown throughout Cameron County. The City of Brownsville will also promote the playscape through their website. The new playscape will also be marketed through Brownsville Independent School District schools and parent groups, particularly the schools that service Buena Vida neighborhood.

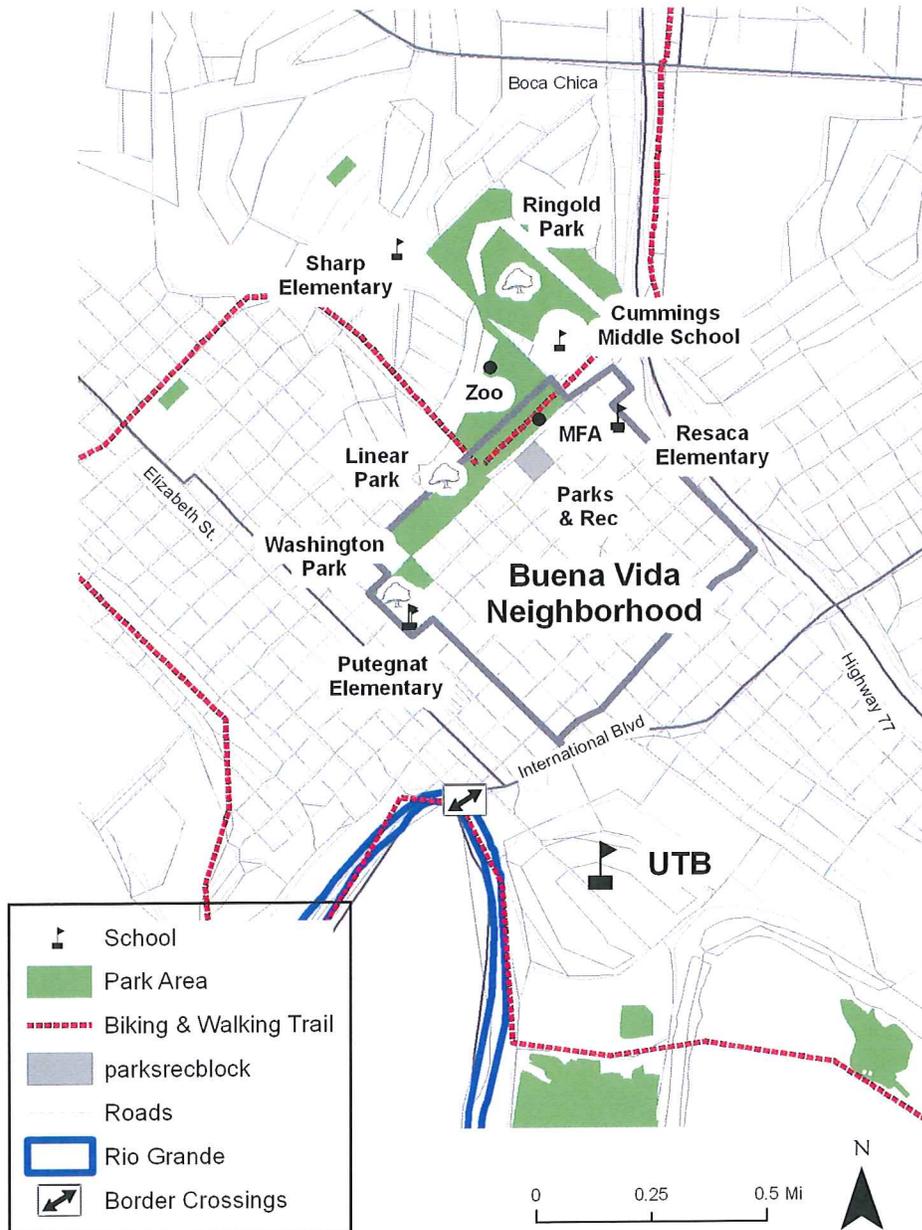


Figure 3: Map of Buena Vida and surrounding area

Resources to Perform the Proposed Project

This project is building on years of collaborative work between UTSPH-B and the City of Brownsville and other community partners to create a healthier Brownsville. In fact, one of our adjunct faculty members and medical director of our Clinical Research Unit (Dr. Gowen) is now a City Commissioner. Belinda Reininger, a senior faculty member at the Brownsville Regional Campus, has been asked to serve as a tri-chair of the

Health Care Committee on the

Comprehensive Plan Coordinating Board for Imagine Brownsville. In addition we have partnered with the City of Brownsville on other funding opportunities and UTSPH-B has provided mini-grants to assist providers in Buena Vida and other parts of Brownsville begin or increase their services. Dr. Reininger will mentor Dr. Gay (Project PI) for this project by providing guidance and assistance as needed. Dr. Reininger has 20 years experience with community based participatory research including 8 years with the City of Brownsville and Cameron County.

UTSPH-B will collaborate with the City of Brownsville to select, purchase, install, promote, and evaluate the proposed park. UTSPH-B will train City of Brownsville

volunteers to assist with the implementation and evaluation of the project. Dr. Jennifer Gay, the PI for the project, has more than four years of evaluation and monitoring experience including survey data collection and direct observation. She is currently part of a team evaluating a four-county diabetes prevention and management program. Dr. Gay's area of expertise is in physical activity and she has published several articles on physical activity and sport participation in children and adolescents. Additionally, UTSPH-B was a key collaborator in the data collection and reporting process for the Buena Vida neighborhood reports conducted from 2005-2007. UTSPH-B has also partnered with the City of Brownsville on other projects, including an infrastructure and capacity building grant currently under review.

The City's Purchasing department fully satisfies any state law requiring local government to seek competitive funds for item purchases. Roberto Luna, the Purchasing Director, has ten years of extensive experience with the City Purchasing department, working as Director for approximately five of those years. The City's Parks and Recreation department is headed by Chris Patterson, an employee of the department for over eight years. As director, he oversees approximately ninety employees, 28 City parks covering 700 acres and an annual budget of \$7.1 million. The City's Public Works department is headed by Santana Torres, who has worked with the City for approximately three years and manages an annual budget of \$10.7 million. Through effective collaborative efforts and decades of combined experience, these gentlemen leaders, along with their staff members' combined expertise, will greatly assist the City with the purchase, and decades of continuous use by community members, of the playscape.

Monitoring and Evaluation

All project activities will be monitored and evaluated by Dr. Jennifer Gay of the University of Texas School of Public Health Brownsville Regional Campus in partnership with the City of Brownsville. Purchasing and installation activities will be judged against the timeline benchmarks. We anticipate purchasing and installation to be completed by November 2010. While we are waiting for the equipment to be produced and delivered, UTSPH-B will train two or three volunteers from the City of Brownsville to collect door-to-door surveys within the Buena Vida neighborhood. We plan to survey 100 randomly selected households within Buena Vida. UTSPH-B and City of Brownsville have successfully trained community members to collect data from Buena Vida in three previous years since 2003.

This data collection will serve as a pre-test of neighborhood awareness and park or other playground utilization (e.g., at schools) and will be completed prior to the installation of the playscape equipment and the opening of the park. Surveys will ask residents about access to parks including transportation mode, typical length of stay and activities within a park, perceptions of safety. If the resident has children under the age of 18 living in the house, we will ask how often the child goes to a park, what his/her typical activities are, how the child gets to the park, and whether the parent feels the child is safe within the park. For pre-test these items we will ask the resident to identify the park they go to the most. At post-test we will assess both the park discussed at baseline as well as the new playscape.

After the playscape park opens we will conduct two primary measures of evaluation. First, we will collect post-test surveys from the same 100 Buena Vida households assessing their awareness and utilization of the new playscape and other existing parks and playgrounds.

The second evaluation measure will be direct observations of the play area to determine total number of users as well as breakdowns by age group and gender. To gather these data we will use the System for Observing Play and Recreation in Communities (SOPARC) instrument (McKenzie & Cohen, 2006). SOPARC is a reliable and valid measure for assessing physical activity levels of park users, types of activities, user characteristics, and whether the park is accessible and safe. SOPARC uses momentary time sampling to carry out periodic scans of both the people in the park and contextual factors (e.g., weather, safety, maintenance of equipment). All UTSPH-B personnel and City of Brownsville volunteer data collectors will be trained in SOPARC. We will test inter-rater reliability of all observers to ensure that all observations are being done in the same way and will yield equivalent results. Inter-rater reliability will be tested prior to data collection as well as throughout the data collection period. We will conduct multiple observations on each day of the week during various times of day to determine peak usage, age groups and genders who most utilize the facilities.

Data will be collected in the park during four 1-hour observation periods of clement weather (beginning at 7:30am, 12:30pm, 3:30pm and 6:30pm). Data collectors will be both UTSPH-B personnel as well as volunteers from the City of Brownsville.

Observations will be made on each day of the week (Monday through Sunday), once per month. Based on the project timeline we will conduct observations on 70 days during the ten months that the park is open during the contract period. Because we are building the park from the ground up and have no observations from before the park will be opened, we plan to follow this evaluation plan for an additional year after the contract period ends. Observations canceled due to inclement weather will be rescheduled for the same day and time later in the month. We realize that the park opening is planned for cooler months and includes holiday breaks as well as months that school is in session. Because of the moderate climate in Brownsville, we do not anticipate that the weather will be a barrier to children playing in the park.

Dr. Jennifer Gay at UTSPH-B will be responsible for reporting activities. She will generate monthly reports identifying the project performance measures, whether the measures have been met, and details regarding the status of each measure. Every three months Dr. Gay will have a consultation call with DSHS on a quarterly basis. As possible, DSHS personnel will conduct site visits to Brownsville to discuss progress toward the performance measures and provide additional assistance with strategies, evaluation and monitoring, and technical assistance as needed. There will also be three total reports of summative evaluation data to take place at six months and year-end of each fiscal year of the contract period. In addition to internal tracking and evaluation documentation, Dr. Gay and project personnel will maintain procedures and tracking tools as required by DSHS.

Coordination with Other Projects

This project is complimentary to other Parks and Recreation planned and ongoing projects. Currently the outdoor basketball courts are being resurfaced as is the indoor

gymnasium. These facilities will be open to children of all ages and will be located within the same block as the proposed playscape. In the Mexican American culture, families will oftentimes bring younger children along if older siblings are engaged in extracurricular sports. This playscape will be a fun and conveniently located place for the younger children to play and interact with their parents while their older siblings are playing basketball. Younger children will thus be exposed to the programming offered by Parks and Recreation and may be recruited into the other activities taking place at Parks and Recreation. The proposed project fits within the broader initiative, Imagine Brownsville, to provide access to places to be active and to healthful food choices.

Timeline

Activity	2010												2011							
	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	P	J	J	A		
DSHS consulting calls			X			X				X		X		X			X			
Recruit and train volunteers	X	X	X	X	X	X														
Finalize survey and direct observation forms; obtain Human Subjects approval	X	X	X																	
Order playscape equipment					X	X														
Conduct pre-test door-to-door surveys						X	X	X												
Prepare surface area for installation						X	X	X												
Install exterior building lighting and fencing							X	X												
Install gazebo and benches								X	X											
Install playscape equipment								X	X											
Park opens									X											
Marketing								X	X	X			X							
Conduct post-test door-to-door surveys									X	X	X									
Conduct direct observations									X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Data analysis										X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Disseminate results																X	X			

During 2005 a community meeting occurred in Brownsville with approximately 40 members from the community, representing diverse religious faiths, multiple generations and varying levels of community involvement discussed and prioritized environmental health concerns. The clear priority was creating infrastructure to support youth and adults living a physically active life and making healthy food choices. The research team noted that while built environment approaches had not been discussed with the community as potential strategies for addressing concerns, the community members clearly saw built environment strategies and complimentary education and promotion activities as the best approaches for their community. Particularly the community mentioned walking trails, soccer fields, better animal control policies, and more street lighting. This project is one step in addressing the needs of the community. The location of the proposed playscape is situated across the street from the Mitte Cultural District. This area houses a variety of activities and educational opportunities for children including the Gladys Porter Zoo, the Children's Museum and the Camille Playhouse. Linear Park is also nearby on the edge of the Buena Vida Neighborhood. This park is the beginning of the 9.1 mile Historic Battlefield Hike and Bike Trail that runs through Brownsville. Linear Park is also the site for the Brownsville Farmer's Market which runs from October to June, every Saturday. The Brownsville Farmer's Market provides weekly access to fresh fruits and vegetables to the residents in Brownsville, and the location was selected specifically for its proximity to low-income neighborhoods, including Buena Vida. However, Linear Park does not have any play facilities specifically for children. Although there are a number of parks, including the brand new Brownsville Sports Park, located throughout the City of Brownsville, Buena Vida neighborhood residents are not able to fully utilize these parks due to lack of sidewalks, personal transportation to get to those parks in outlying areas or the lack of money to utilize public transportation to access those hard to reach locations.

In addition to all of these activities, the City of Brownsville has purchased land across the street from the proposed park to create a community garden. The purpose of this garden is to allow neighborhood residents to plant and sow fresh produce. This effort is in concert with the Brownsville Farmer's Market and part of the Imagine Brownsville mission to foster healthy lifestyles within Brownsville.

Inclusion of Culturally Diverse Populations

The population in Brownsville is 93% Hispanic and within the Buena Vida neighborhood, 99.1% Hispanic. Of that, approximately 31.5% is foreign born. The Buena Vida neighborhood is seen as a transitional neighborhood that is used as an incubator for newly arrived immigrants. The historic area in downtown Brownsville that includes Buena Vida is located nearby 3 border crossings into Matamoros, Mexico. Being on the border allows a unique intermingling of US and Mexico cultures that is borne in the food and leisure activities of our residents. However, the transitional nature of Buena Vida combined with the increased poverty rate signifies that this community does not have the means with which to access safe recreational spaces, particularly for children. Cameron County is one of the poorest counties in the United States and Buena Vida has one of the lowest household incomes within Cameron County. As one of the oldest and most historic areas in Cameron County, and with a population that is 99% Hispanic, Buena Vida is the perfect location to create a free play area of children to be more physically active.

FORM N: BASIC IMPLEMENTATION EVIDENCE OF READINESS

Component II – Attachment B

Legal Business Name

of Respondent: The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

NOTE: This form is only required for respondents who are seeking Basic Implementation funding. See Section II.A. for more information. Address each of the relevant components as outlined in the BASIC IMPLEMENTATION EVIDENCE OF READINESS GUIDELINES associated with the activities proposed in this attachment. A maximum of **three (3)** additional pages may be attached if needed.

- 1) Evidence that a plan has been developed for implementing the selected CDC Community Evidence-Based Strategy for Obesity Prevention as the focus of the attachment

As part of this application we have provided several pieces of evidence to show that a plan is in place for implementing the CDC strategies: Increase opportunities for extracurricular physical activity and enhance personal safety in areas where persons are or could be physically active. We have already obtained estimates for the playscape equipment from a local distributor (Figure 4). The Division of Parks and Recreation has worked with this vendor in the past to obtain equipment for Brownsville Parks. The proposed park will be built on land already owned by the City of Brownsville.

Quotation	PO #	Reference	Ship VIA			Page	Printed
SQ-10524			Default Carrier			2	12/16/2010 1:55:23PM
L Item	Description	Qty	Price	UM	Discount	Amount	
1	BuyBoard	1	\$0.00	EA		\$0.00	
2	This is a BuyBoard Purchasing Cooperative Quote. Pricing Reflects BuyBoard Discounts As Listed On Web Site www.buyboard.com Under The Vendor Listing For The PlayWell Group, Inc.Contract # 269-07						
3							
4	PWS-35-1001.2A	1	\$16,490.00	EA	\$1,319.20	\$15,170.80	
5	PWS-ZZBD0013	1	\$5,609.00	EA	\$449.72	\$5,159.28	
6	PWS-ZZBD0014	1	\$16,318.00	EA	\$1,305.44	\$15,012.56	
7	PWS-ZZBD0015	2	\$25,499.00	EA	\$4,079.68	\$46,918.32	
8	PWS-ZZBD0016	1	\$16,869.00	EA	\$1,509.52	\$17,359.48	
9	PWS-ZZBD0018	1	\$968.00	EA	\$77.44	\$890.56	
10	PWS-ZZBD0019	1	\$560.00	EA	\$44.80	\$515.20	
11	PWS-ZZBD0020	1	\$2,957.00	EA	\$236.56	\$2,720.44	
12	PWS-ZZBD0021	1	\$3,110.00	EA	\$249.80	\$2,860.20	
13	SH-Reynolds	1	\$13,552.72	EA		\$13,552.72	
14	SSI-FIBER	185	\$15.33	CY	\$227.55	\$2,608.50	
15	SSI-GEO-2700	1	\$350.00	EA	\$28.80	\$321.20	
16	SSI-GEO-1800	1	\$288.00	EA	\$23.04	\$264.96	
17	SSI-TIMBER	83	\$31.33	EA	\$208.33	\$2,392.06	
18	SSI-RAMP	1	\$767.00	EA	\$61.36	\$705.64	
This Quotation Is good for 30 Days from the date listed above. We appreciate the opportunity to quote and look forward to serving your needs. To order, please fax this signed form including color choices, if necessary, and confirm the shipping address. This ship date is approximate. We reserve the right to change and collect interest in the amount of 1.5% per month if payment is not received in full in accordance with the terms set forth. Play Safely and PlayWell.						Page	2
Customer PO No. _____ Approved By: _____ Date: _____						Sub Total	\$126,461.92

Figure 4: Estimate for Playscape Equipment

As the location is within the same block as the Division of Parks and Recreation (see map on page 43), the setting is ideal for creating a safe playscape for children. The proposed project fits within the mission of Imagine Brownsville, a comprehensive city plan that includes creating healthy communities.

The aggregate of these pieces demonstrates that UTSPH-B and City of Brownsville have identified a need in an impoverished neighborhood for free play for children. The City of Brownsville has already begun other improvements that contribute to healthful food choices in Buena Vida neighborhood including the Brownsville Farmers Market and the planned community garden, both nearby the proposed park. The planned playscape is the next step in providing fun and safe recreation to children in this neighborhood.

- 2) Evidence that a dedicated staff person or dedicated duties are included in a job/position within the organization

Dr. Jennifer Gay, the project PI, will dedicate 15% FTE to this project. She will be responsible for overseeing all proposed activities, data collection, interpretation of analyses, and preparing reports for this project. In addition, UTSPH-B will also employ a Graduate Research Assistant who will be responsible for assisting with the implementation and data collection, as well as management, basic data analyses, and development of reports.

The subcontract PI, Chris Patterson, is the director of the Division of Parks and Recreation for the City of Brownsville. Consistent with his existing duties as director, he will be responsible for the purchasing and installation of the playscape equipment, ground covering, lighting, fencing, and all other materials related to this project. Mr. Patterson will also be responsible for managing the warranties and maintenance of the playscape park after the contract period ends.

- 3) Projects demonstrating an effective, realistic plan to integrate proposed activities into the existing network of the community

The proposed FREE Play project is one of a number of community assessments and improvement projects in Buena Vida and other areas of Cameron County. UTSPH-B, in conjunction with the Center for Civic Engagement, was able to survey 320 households in Buena Vida neighborhood each year for three years. The purpose of these surveys was to assess community health status and perceptions of the neighborhood. These surveys have been instrumental in identifying areas of need for social services and access to these services. UTSPH-B provided mini-grants to these services to implement programs in Buena Vida.

The project also fits within the existing Imagine Brownsville comprehensive plan to improve the community, including health and access to safe, fun places to be physically active. To promote the new playscape, we will integrate marketing materials into our mass media campaign Tu Salud ¡Si Cuenta!, now in its fifth year. We will access local radio, television and newspapers, primarily in Spanish which is most appropriate for residents living in Buena Vida. Tu Salud ¡Si Cuenta! also disseminates information via a website and newsletters delivered to households by promotoras (lay health outreach workers). Through the newsletters and promotora contacts we will be able to speak directly with residents in Buena Vida about the new playscape.

Finally, because the playscape will be installed on City of Brownsville property and purchased by the City of Brownsville Division of Parks and Recreation, the long-term care and maintenance of the park will become integrated into the Division of Parks and Recreation.

- 4) Projects demonstrating a clear focus on sustainability beyond the cycle of this contract

We have planned for two methods to increase sustainability beyond the contract period. First and foremost, the new playscape will be property of the City of Brownsville and fall under the Division of Parks and Recreation. The incorporation of the playscape into Parks and Recreation ensures that the park will be maintained and managed as are other parks within the Parks and Recreation system. The main purpose of this project is to purchase, install, and evaluate the usage of the new park as there were not funds for these activities within the Parks and Recreation budget. However, they do have the budget to maintain the new park space.

Secondly, we will have the new equipment installed by the manufacturer. This will confer a warranty on the equipment. There is a five-year warranty for the benches, tables and trash cans. For the playscape equipment the warranty is ten years.

- 5) Projects that utilize existing community partnerships or networks to synergize community efforts.

The FREE Play project compliments a number of other existing programs as well as planned projects within the City of Brownsville. The proposed area fits within the plans of Imagine Brownsville, a comprehensive plan to improve the economic, social and health capacity of the city, by providing a free, safe recreational space for children in one of the most impoverished areas in Brownsville. To accomplish this we have the support of the City of Brownsville, one of UTSPH-B's key partners in improving the health and wellbeing of our residents. We have collaborated on several projects including H1N1 outbreak tracking and prevention activities, planning an employee wellness program for city employees, and designing and implementing a farmers market.