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**NEWS
RELEASE**

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City of El Paso Hosts National Economic Recovery Corps Fellowship Program

El Paso, Texas— The City of El Paso's Economic Development Department is proud to unveil the first fellow cohort of the Economic Recovery Corps (ERC) program, marking a significant step in fostering economic resilience and growth within the community.

The City of El Paso was one of 65 applicants selected from a pool of over 500 national applicants for the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) Economic Recovery Corps competitive fellowship program.

The fellowship is a \$275,000 technical assistance grant that includes the salary, equipment, and training of a senior economic development professional who will work with the International Program of Economic and International Development on a project to bridge gaps between the entrepreneurial communities in Ciudad Juárez and El Paso.

"Empowering our community is not just a goal; it's a commitment. Our commitment to revitalizing the El Paso economy is unwavering. Through strategic initiatives and community collaboration, we are fostering growth, creating opportunities, and ensuring a prosperous future for our city," said Mayor Oscar Leeser. "This new program will not only advance us to a better economic revitalization but will strengthen the relationship between our sister city, Ciudad Juárez with which we are united in creating better job opportunities for our region."

"We are thrilled to welcome our first Fellow Leonie Zapata who will help our community embark on this transformative journey together," said Karina Bragalla, Interim Director for the Economic and International Development Department. "Leonie is a wonderful example of the dedicated and passionate fellows who will help foster a positive transformation in our border community and play a pivotal role in shaping the economic future of El Paso."

For the next two and half years, the fellowship will bring together a diverse group of talented individuals committed to driving economic recovery initiatives. This pioneering program is designed to empower participants with the skills, knowledge, and resources needed to contribute in the revitalization of our local economy.

"ERC is more than a fellowship; it is a testament to the power of collaboration and strategic partnerships deeply needed to produce a lasting social and economic impact. By joining forces with national partners, host organizations, funders, and practitioners eager for new models and practices, ERC will build capacity in places of need while supporting the next generation of economic development leaders all while driving more equitable economic outcomes," said Nathan Ohle, President & CEO of IEDC.

For more information about the ERC program visit www.EconomicRecoveryCorps.org.

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