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## LOW-INCOME OPPORTUNITY: BORDER DEMO DESIGN

Purposes

- o Identify who is subject to the jurisdiction of U.S. and Mexico and eligible for public assistance benefits in either country
- o Show how public assistance funds can be better distributed from the bottom up with no increase in cost (e.g., how activities can be put together and managed locally to meet needs and decrease dependency)
- o Provide improved economic opportunity, incentives, and choices for U.S. and Mexican citizens and businesses in the U.S. and Mexico
- o Show how cross-border economic development can increase low-income opportunity on both sides of border
- o Show how economic development can reduce illegal activity (e.g., drug abuse, crime, immigration violations, labor violations, tax violations)
- o Establish a process for low-income opportunity improvement along the border that could be used regardless of who is in office
- o Establish improved criteria and process for dealing with immigration and contraband at the border

Time Period

- o 5 years, beginning on 10/1/87

Location Criteria

- o Medium size cities on both sides of border
- o Zone of activity extends to 25 miles on either side of border from border entry point
- o Mixture of poor and non-poor population
- o Good local business/industry potential (e.g., transportation, utilities, banking, law enforcement, tax/regulatory advantages, customers)
- o Willingness of public/private sector to participate (including a minimum of political resistance to concept)
- o Minimum of extraneous variables

Location Candidates

- o McAllen, Texas/Reynoso, Mexico; Laredo, Texas/Neuvo Laredo, Mexico; Calexico, California/Mexicali, Mexico

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