Currently, Cameron County’s lowest-income homeowners are footing a larger percentage of the tax bill because most of them are not claiming Homestead Exemptions for which they are eligible. This results in a wealth transfer effect in which community infrastructure for the whole is subsidized by the few.

As of 2023, the homestead tax exemption amount is $100,000 of the home value. The new exemption rate, on average, translates to over $1,500 in savings, annually, per low-income household.

41% of homeowners are not claiming their exemption

13,743 eligible families did not claim homestead exemption
Low-income households that did not claim their Homestead Exemption in Brownsville, TX

(income determined by geographic proxy)
Unclaimed Homestead Tax Exemptions in Southmost