



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Sept. 10, 2020

Small businesses in Greene County encouraged to apply for CARES funds

The Greene County Commission and the 30-member citizen CARES Advisory Council urge area small businesses that have been negatively impacted financially due to COVID-19 to apply for relief grants by Wednesday, Sept. 30.

The timeframe for small business applications was initially set for July 29 - August 3 and \$6.5 million was allocated for this category from the total \$34.4 million given to Greene County for coronavirus relief and mitigation efforts. To help maximize the amount of small businesses assisted, the application process is being opened to a second phase for small businesses up to 80 employees.

Since this process was started, more than 170 small business applications have been received and over 70 percent were in the 1-10 employee range. Applications continue to be reviewed on a rolling basis and funds remain available in this category.

“Small business is the backbone of Greene County and we don’t want anyone to miss out on getting assistance if they qualify,” said CARES Grant Administrator Lyle Foster. “We are here to help businesses if they have questions or concerns about the application processes or if they are not sure if they are eligible for funds.”

Foster added that some businesses may not have applied because they believe if they have received other assistance, such as PPP funding, they cannot apply for CARES Relief Funds. That is not the case. He also stressed this is for small businesses throughout Greene County, not just businesses located in the Springfield metro area.

Information related to the CARES Act funds, including the online application, is available on the “CARES Act Relief Fund” tab of greenecountymo.gov. This portion of the website

also includes a transparency dashboard that shows the total dollar allotments by category and how much has been approved in those areas. These graphs are updated as awards are made.

To date, the Commission has approved more than \$22 million in CARES Act funds.

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Greene County is the State of Missouri's fourth most populous county, serving more than 275,000 people (2010 census). Its mission is to provide all citizens of Greene County, including those in its cities, a safe and thriving community through excellent customer service, unparalleled dedication, and the efficient use of taxpayer dollars. The Greene County Commission is the executive body of Greene County operating under guidelines established in the Revised Statutes of the State of Missouri. Within that authority the Commission enacts ordinances, resolutions and policies, supervises the activities of county departments, fixes salaries, adopts the annual budget, provides for construction and other services, and conducts hearings on planning and zoning matters.

For additional information, contact Donna Barton, Public Information Officer, at 417-844-4311 or dlbarton@greenecountymo.gov.