



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**March 19, 2021**

## **Emergency Rental Assistance Program update**

Greene County and the partner agencies working to administer the Emergency Rental Assistance Program are pleased to report the program's first week activity and offer additional guidance to those looking to apply for funds.

The six agencies, which include Ozarks Area Community Action Corporation (OACAC), Consumer Credit Counseling Services, Community Partnership of the Ozarks, Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri, Council of Churches of the Ozarks and The Salvation Army, collectively reported more than 1,500 calls were received inquiring about ERA.

The following is an additional breakdown of those calls:

- 558 (direct calls and agency call-backs) were screened for eligibility.
- 335 appointments were booked according to each partner agency procedure.
- Of 43 completed appointments, 20 have finalized information from landlords and utility companies.
- Five of the 20 completed applications have award amounts determined and the remaining 15 are being evaluated.

Due to the high volume of interest in this program and requests for appointments, potential applicants are asked to choose one organization to work with and to be patient if you need to leave your contact information as call-backs are being made as quickly as possible. Citizens are also asked to note that the processes for receiving calls and booking appointments vary slightly among participating organizations. To help citizens in determining an agency to work with, those processes are outlined by organization at [greenecountymo.gov/era](http://greenecountymo.gov/era).

“We know there is great need in our community for these funds, and the interest we saw in the first week of the program reinforces that,” said Consumer Credit Counseling Services Director Holly Wilson. “We want to make this as easy as possible for all concerned and having citizens work with one of the six agencies will reduce potential backlogs and help applications to be reviewed in a timelier manner.”

In January of this year, Greene County applied for funds as part of the U.S. Treasury Department’s Emergency Rental Assistance Program and received \$8,765,982.70 to distribute to the community per federal guidelines. These funds are part of the second federal \$900 billion COVID-19 relief package that was approved by Congress in December of last year. A key provision of that package is the Rental Assistance Program that set aside \$25 billion to help families and individuals nationwide whose ability to pay rent and utilities has been impacted by COVID-19. The distribution of the funding received is required to be awarded by the end of September and paid by the end of December.

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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.*

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