



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Greene County Commission to hold press conference to provide new CARES Act details

The Greene County Commission is holding a press conference to announce the newly appointed members of the CARES Act Relief Fund Advisory Council, the funding category allotments, general application details and to provide additional updates on the ongoing CARES grant processes.

The press conference is scheduled for 10 a.m. Friday, July 24 in the training room of the Public Safety Center located at 330 W. Scott Street.

This year the U.S. Congress passed the Coronavirus Relief Fund to provide direct funding to states, territories and tribal governments. The goal is to promote recovery by funding programs and services that support the needs of those impacted by COVID-19. As part of this fund, Greene County has received \$34.4 million to be distributed back into our community to help support local coronavirus response efforts. To help ensure a fair and equitable allocation of these funds locally, the Greene County Commission has appointed a citizen advisory council from a diverse number of sectors to bring their expertise to the County's CARES Act Relief Fund application review and approval process.

The 30-member advisory council will be divided into subcommittees to review applications according to five categories: not-for-profit/community organizations, health care, small businesses, education and taxpayer supported entities. Members will review and score applications which will then be forwarded to the Commission for final approval. They will utilize the guidance established by the U.S. Treasury Department for

eligible spending categories and the priorities set by the Greene County Commission in their funding decisions. To further help ensure fairness and transparency in the application review process, CARES Act Relief Fund Advisory Council members are required to disclose all conflicts of interest. If a council member is connected to an applying organization, they will not participate in the scoring of that application or be able to advocate on behalf of that organization.

All information related to the CARES Act funds is being made available on the “CARES Act Relief Fund” tab of greenecountymo.gov. This resource, as well as the online application, was created by the Greene County Information Systems staff. Developing this information internally versus using an outside vendor is estimated to have saved approximately \$30,000 in CARES funding. In addition, the application tracking and documentation made possible through the site is helping the County fulfill its auditing and management responsibilities to the U.S. Treasury Department.

“We are immensely aware of the needs in our community that have resulted from COVID-19 and we continue to work diligently behind the scenes to make sure processes are in place for the just and equitable allocation of these much needed dollars as well as to help us comply with the audit accountability that the County will ultimately be responsible for related to these funds,” said Presiding Commissioner Bob Dixon. “Part of this work includes bringing on a grants administrator, the in-house development of a dedicated CARES Act tab and online application on our website, and now the appointment of the Advisory Council. All of this work is designed to streamline the processes as we go into the coming weeks.”

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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.

