



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 27, 2021

Greene County to participate in federal Emergency Rental Assistance Program

Greene County is the recipient of \$8,765,982.70 as part of the U.S. Treasury Department's Emergency Rental Assistance Program.

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.

Greene County's application to participate in the program, which was spearheaded by the Greene County Budget Office, was submitted to the Treasury Department on Jan. 12 after a vote by the Commission. Greene County recently received confirmation that the application was reviewed and approved. The amount awarded to the County was based on per capita population figures for the state of Missouri.

"Seeing firsthand how the CARES funds that were allocated in 2020 benefited our community, the County didn't want to miss an opportunity that further helps our citizens who have been financially impacted by COVID," said Greene County Budget Officer Jeff Scott. "To best reach those in need, Greene County has begun coordinating fund distribution efforts with area organizations and community partners that have existing experience with utility and housing assistance programs."

Work is currently underway at the County to establish the specifics for fund distribution and those details will be provided as soon as they are available. Per the Treasury's guidelines, to qualify for assistance: at least one member in a household has to be eligible for unemployment benefits or attest in writing that they've lost income or incurred significant expenses due to the pandemic. Individuals will need to demonstrate a risk of homelessness, which may include a past due rent or utility notice. In addition, income levels for 2020 can't exceed 80% of the County's area's median income.

"We know this is a trying time for many in the County and this program is a prime example of government and non-profits working together to accomplish a shared goal and that is to bring about positive outcomes for citizens," said Presiding Commissioner Bob Dixon.

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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@greencountymo.gov.