

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Callaway County, Missouri**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Background**

On March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Congress passed, and President Trump signed into law the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act”). The CARES Act established the Coronavirus Relief Fund and appropriated \$150 billion to the Coronavirus Relief Fund. Under the CARES Act, the funds are to be used to make payments for specified uses based on the requirements of the CARES Act requirements and United States Department of Treasury guidance. Generally, the CARES Act provides that payments may only be used to cover costs that: (1) are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19; (2) were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020 for the government; and (3) were incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020 and ends on December 30, 2020.

Expenditures must be used for actions taken to respond to the public health emergency. Funds may not be used to fill shortfalls in government revenue to cover expenditures that would not otherwise qualify under the CARES Act. Expenditures using CARES Act fund payments must be reasonably necessary. For further information, please refer to the guidance issued by the U.S. Treasury on April 22, 2020 and May 4, 2020.

On April 28, 2020, Callaway County received information and guidance from the office of the Missouri State Treasurer regarding the distribution of CARES Act funds from the State of Missouri to Callaway County. After approving and returning a certification for payment to the State of Missouri, on May 6, 2020, Callaway County received \$5,249,247.00

### **Process**

Over the course of the past three weeks, Callaway County has reviewed the requirements of the CARES Act and the guidance issued by the Department of Treasury and has been working to identify community priorities and develop an application process to allow applicants to request CARES Act funds and make award decisions for the use of funds.

### **Application**

The County is making an application available to request CARES Act funds. Initially, for the first round of funding, local governments, non-profit organizations, and small businesses will be eligible to submit an application. Applications for the first round of funding must be based on requests for reimbursement of eligible expenses or costs already incurred during the period March 1 through May 31, 2020 and must satisfy the requirements of the CARES Act and Treasury guidance. Requests for reimbursement of standard rent expenses, utilities, or revenue loss will not be awarded. Payroll expenses will only be considered for reimbursement if the employees’ work duties were substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency; this would include first responders, public health employees, etc.

Applicants will be required to submit sufficient supporting documentation such as invoices, receipts, and proof of payment.

The County is allocating 37.14% of the CARES Act funds for the first round of award decisions.

Applications for the first round of funding will be accepted beginning on June 3, 2020. The deadline to submit an application for the first round of funding is 12:00pm on June 15, 2020. The County will then review and evaluate the applications for completeness, including supporting documentation, and compliance with the CARES Act requirements and Treasury guidance. The County anticipates making award decisions by the first week of July, 2020. Award recipients will be required to enter into a written agreement with the County prior to disbursement of awarded funds.

The application is available at the Callaway County Commission's office, Fulton City Hall, Auxvasse City Hall, Holts Summit City Hall, Kingdom City City Hall, and New Bloomfield City Hall. The application should also be available on the websites or social media accounts of these organizations and also on the Callaway County Chamber of Commerce's website. Questions regarding the application process may be directed to the Callaway County Commission.

All applications should be returned in a sealed envelope to the Callaway County Commission's office, Fulton City Hall, Auxvasse City Hall, Holts Summit City Hall, Kingdom City City Hall, or New Bloomfield City Hall. The outside of the envelope should include the name and contact information of the organization that is applying for funds.

Depending upon the number of applications received and amount of funds awarded in the first round of funding, the County anticipates potential additional rounds of funding.