



# NORTHWEST MISSOURI REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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## NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Holt County Application for CARES Act Funds Now Available

OREGON, MO – July 9, 2020 – The Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Governments (Regional Council) is administering the CARES Act funds received by Holt County and is now accepting applications for CARES Act fund reimbursement requests.

**Small businesses and non-profits located within Holt County are eligible to apply. Application requests for reimbursement must be based on eligible expenses or costs already incurred during the period starting March 1, 2020 and must satisfy the requirements of the CARES Act and Treasury guidance.** Applicants will be required to submit sufficient supporting documentation such as invoices, receipts, and proof of payment. The maximum amount per request is \$5,000.

The program funds will be allocated to eligible and qualified small businesses and non-profits based on availability. Applications and supporting documentation are required for review and approval. All grants will be processed on a first-come, first-review basis to qualified applicants. Please note that applications for funds are considered public information.

To be eligible, businesses must meet the following requirements:

- Must be a for-profit, independently owned business or independently operated franchise, or non-profit organization geographically located within the borders of Holt County, MO.
- Must possess a current city, county, and state license or permit to operate, as applicable.
- Must provide proof of a business hardship created by COVID-19 (i.e. employee layoffs, purchase of added safety items, added expenses due to COVID-19, etc.).
- Must use funds for operational needs, such as employee expenses, lease/mortgage payments, utilities, materials, supplies and services.
- Must be in compliance with local, state, and federal non-discrimination policy, and overall good standing with city and county service providers as of February 1, 2020 (e.g., current on utility bills, no liens or judgments, and prior year(s) property taxes, state and federal taxes).
- Must be a business with 30 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) or fewer employees

**Local governments and political subdivisions located within Holt County are eligible to apply for both reimbursement requests and future COVID-19 response needs.** Application requests for reimbursements must be based on eligible expenses or costs already incurred during the period starting March 1, 2020. Applications for future COVID-19 response needs can be based on expenses or costs not yet incurred but needed to respond to the pandemic. Both application requests must satisfy the requirements of the CARES Act and Treasury guidance. Applicants will be required to submit sufficient supporting documentation such as invoices, receipts, and proof of payment.

**Applications will be accepted until December 11, 2020 or until Holt County CARES funds have been exhausted.** The Regional Council will review the applications for completeness (including supporting documentation), compliance with the CARES Act requirements and Treasury guidance,

with final award decisions made by the Holt County Commission. Award recipients will be required to enter into a written agreement with the County prior to disbursement of awarded funds.

The application is available from the Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Governments and can be downloaded from their website, [www.nwmorcog.org](http://www.nwmorcog.org). Questions regarding the application process may be directed to Amy Dowis, Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Governments, 660-582-5121, ext. 3 or [amy@nwmorcog.org](mailto:amy@nwmorcog.org). Paper applications will be available at the Holt County Courthouse.

Over the course of the past few weeks, Holt County has reviewed the requirements of the CARES Act and the guidance issued by the Department of Treasury and has been working with the Regional Council 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.

## **Background**

On March 27th, 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 Treasury on April 22, 2020, and May 4, 2020.

On April 28, 2020, Holt 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 Holt County. After approving and returning a certification for payment to the State of Missouri, on April 29th, Holt County received \$516,560.

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