



## NORTHWEST NEWSFLASH

Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Governments

May 2023

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### CONNECTING ALL MISSOURIANS REGIONAL MEETING – MARYVILLE ON MAY 24

It is not too late to sign up for the Connecting All Missourian Listening Session scheduled for Wednesday, May 24, from 8-10 a.m. at the Mazingo Event Center located at 1 Fall Drive on the outskirts of Maryville, Missouri. Over the past year, the Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Governments in collaboration with the Office of Broadband Development, the University of Missouri Extension, and local broadband providers have made huge strides in increasing broadband access throughout northwest Missouri with fiber deployment, digital literacy, and equity projects.

This listening session is our opportunity to receive updates on the planning that has happened over the past year and provide feedback on the State of Missouri's plans that will be used to distribute funding through the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) and Digital Equity Act (DEA) program later this year. Your feedback is vital to assist us in capturing the needs of rural communities and ensuring that we can Connect All Missourians! If you are unable to attend, please feel free to join us virtually or pass this invitation along to another member of your organization, family member, or friend. Please confirm your attendance, by registering at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/connecting-all-missourians-regional-meeting-maryville-tickets-616016069647>

### FINAL SHERIDAN RECYCLING EVENT SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 3

David Chesnut of Nodaway Co Recycling will hold the final Sheridan Recycling event on Saturday, June 3, 2023, from 8-10 a.m. on the west side of the park. Education will be provided on site as to which materials will be collected, the processing of materials, removing contaminated items and labels, and how to sort materials. There is no fee to drop-off. For further information, contact Savannah Willmore at 660-582-5121, ext. 4 or email: [solid@nwmorcog.org](mailto:solid@nwmorcog.org). All metals will be accepted with the following guidelines:

- Aluminum cans – rinsed
- Metal containers – emptied, labels removed, rinsed
- Tin food cans – rinsed and labels removed, no food or liquid
- Lids placed inside the can
- Contact in advance for large metals, white goods, electronics, etc.



### RCOG WELCOMES "NEW" STAFF MEMBER

A familiar face has jumped ranks from being an intern to a regular staff member... Sarah Prickett joined the Regional Council in March of 2022 as an intern. She has since graduated from Northwest Missouri State University earlier this month, with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and a minor in Geography. After graduating, Sarah joined the NWMORCOG staff in a new part-time position: Assistant Regional Planner. As Assistant Regional Planner Sarah is responsible for working on transportation-related project development and grant opportunities, updating transportation plans, public engagement, and more. This position will function almost completely remote as Sarah starts working on her Master's in Public Administration at Kansas State University in August of 2023. To contact Sarah, please email [sarah@nwmorcog.org](mailto:sarah@nwmorcog.org).

### TAP CALL FOR PROJECTS EXPECTED IN JULY

The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) is expected to release a call for projects for their Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) in July 2023. The federally funded Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) provides opportunities to expand transportation choices and enhance the transportation experience through categories of activities related to the surface transportation system. The TAP focuses on non-traditional transportation projects. In 2022, the City of Maryville, Holt County and Nodaway County were all awarded TAP funds. **If your town or county has a project in mind for TAP Funds but you need assistance with project development and completing your TAP application, please contact Amy at the Regional Council via email to [amy@nwmorcog.org](mailto:amy@nwmorcog.org).** Non-grant scoring staff members are available to assist with project development and grant applications for a small fee.

## **ELIGIBLE TAP PROJECT ACTIVITIES**

1. Construction of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized forms of transportation, including sidewalks, bicycle infrastructure, pedestrian and bicycle signals, traffic calming techniques, lighting, and other safety-related infrastructure, and transportation projects to achieve compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990;
2. Construction of infrastructure-related projects and systems that will provide safe routes for non-drivers, including children, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to access daily needs;
3. Conversion and use of abandoned railroad corridors for trails for pedestrians, bicyclists, or other non-motorized transportation users; and
4. Construction of infrastructure-related projects to improve the ability of students to walk and bicycle to school, including sidewalk improvements, traffic calming and speed reduction improvements, pedestrian and bicycle crossing improvements, on-street bicycle facilities, off-street bicycle and pedestrian facilities, secure bicycle parking facilities, and traffic diversion improvements in the vicinity of schools.

## **USDA GRANT OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE**

***Two new programs made possible by the Inflation Reduction Act will support clean and affordable energy, new jobs and healthier communities***

The availability of nearly \$11 billion in grants and loan opportunities that will help rural energy and utility providers bring affordable, reliable clean energy to their communities across the country. Funding is available through two programs under the Inflation Reduction Act, which makes the nation's largest-ever investment in combatting the climate crisis. Specifically, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will be opening a Letter of Interest process for the Empowering Rural America ("New ERA") program, which makes \$9.7 billion available to eligible rural electric cooperatives to deploy renewable energy systems, zero-emission and carbon capture systems. In addition to New ERA, USDA will also be opening a Letter of Interest process for the Powering Affordable Clean Energy (PACE) program, which makes \$1 billion available in partially forgivable loans to renewable-energy developers and electric service providers, including municipals, cooperatives, and investor-owned and Tribal utilities to help finance large-scale solar, wind, geothermal, biomass, hydropower projects and energy storage in support of renewable energy systems.

More information on the **New ERA program** is available at [www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/electric-programs/empowering-rural-america-new-era-program](http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/electric-programs/empowering-rural-america-new-era-program). Rural electric cooperatives, including current and previous USDA borrowers, are eligible for funding. To apply, eligible entities must submit a Letter of Interest between July 31 and Aug. 31, 2023.

More information on the **PACE program** is available at [www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/electric-programs/powering-affordable-clean-energy-pace-program](http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/electric-programs/powering-affordable-clean-energy-pace-program). Loans through this program may be forgiven by 40% of the loan amount, and the maximum loan amount is \$100 million. Applicants in Puerto Rico, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, and Tribal communities are eligible for up to 60% loan forgiveness. For this program, USDA will begin accepting Letters of Interest starting on June 30, 2023, on a rolling basis until Sept. 29, 2023.

***USDA Seeks Applications to Strengthen Community and Economic Development in Rural Communities Across the U.S.***

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Under Secretary Xochitl Torres Small announced that USDA is accepting applications for grants that will improve housing, community facilities, and community and economic development projects in rural areas around the country.

USDA is making the grants available under the [Rural Community Development Initiative](#) program. The program provides grants to organizations that will provide financial and technical assistance for housing, community facilities, or community and economic development projects.

Grants may be used to train sub-grantees to conduct educational training on homeownership or minority-owned business entrepreneurship. To learn more, read full [Stakeholder Announcement](#). They also may be used to provide technical assistance to sub-grantees on:

- strategic plan development
- accessing alternative funding sources
- training and resources for board operations, management, financial systems and information technology

***USDA Seeks Applications for Technical Assistance Grants to Expand Access to Safe, Affordable and Equitable Housing for People in Rural America***

USDA announced that the Department is accepting applications for technical assistance grants to preserve rental housing and expand access to safe, affordable and equitable housing for people in rural America.

USDA is making available \$7.9 million in funding through its [Rural Housing Service](#) (RHS) and through two Multifamily Housing (MFH) Technical Assistance grant programs: the [Nonprofit Transfer Technical Assistance \(NP TA\) Grant Program](#) and the [Off-Farm Labor Housing Technical Assistance \(Off-FLH TA\) Grant Program](#). This funding is available for eligible technical assistance providers seeking grants to provide technical assistance services to qualified applicants. There is \$6.9 million in grants available through the NP TA Grant Program. The program awards grants to eligible nonprofit organizations and public housing authorities (PHAs) to provide technical assistance and other services to enable affordable housing preservation through the transfer of MFH Direct Loan properties from current owners to nonprofits or PHAs. Eligible grantees include public and private nonprofit organizations, PHAs, Tribal housing nonprofits and Tribally designated housing entities. To learn more, read full [Stakeholder Announcement](#).

**THE REGIONAL COUNCIL is Hiring!**

## **Join our Team**

**The Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Governments has multiple openings for full-time employment. If you are passionate about Northwest Missouri and working with local governments, this may be a good fit for you.**

**Please submit a resume with cover letter and two writing samples to [jerri@nwmorcog.org](mailto:jerri@nwmorcog.org) by June 16, 2023, for consideration.**

**Benefits include: 4-day work week, flexible work schedule with remote days, employer matched retirement savings, 86% employer paid health insurance, and the opportunity to work in a fulfilling job helping make Northwest Missouri a better place to live, work and play!**



*The Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Governments  
Is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

## **DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES ANNOUNCES LEAD SERVICE LINE INVENTORY FUNDING OPPORTUNITY**

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Financial Assistance Center invites communities to apply for Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) funding made available through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). The program is offering **\$49.98 million** to assist communities with their Lead Service Line Inventory, Planning, and Replacement projects. The application for funding will remain open through **May 31, 2023**. To apply for this opportunity you can find the application here: <https://dnr.mo.gov/document-search/lead-service-line-funding-application-mo-780-3017>. To learn more about lead service lines, visit the Departments website here: <https://dnr.mo.gov/water/business-industry-other-entities/technical-assistance-guidance/lead-service-lines>. For more information, please contact the department's Financial Assistance Center at 573-751-1192 or [fac@dnr.mo.gov](mailto:fac@dnr.mo.gov).

## MO ARPA GRANT UPDATE

### *Nonprofit Grant Program Final Guidelines Now Available*

The Department of Economic Development (DED) has posted [final guidelines](#) for its Nonprofit Grant Program. The program is funded via the State of Missouri's share of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). This program will invest \$7.5 million to support 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(19) nonprofits serving disadvantaged, vulnerable, or at-risk populations that have experienced negative economic impact due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Applications are expected to open May 31 at 10 a.m. CST. Complete information is also available on DED's ARPA [Business and Community Development webpage](#).

### *Entertainment Industry Grant Program Now Open for Applications*

DED's ARPA Entertainment Industry Grant Program opened for applications on May 11, 2023, at 10 a.m. CST. You can apply now using the [MO DED ARPA Federal Initiatives Submission Manager](#). Please note that you will need to sign up for a Submittable account to apply. For eligibility information, required documentation, and other details, please review the Entertainment Industry Grant Program's [Final Guidelines](#). If you have any questions during the application process, please contact Gloria Noble by email at [gloria.noble@ded.mo.gov](mailto:gloria.noble@ded.mo.gov) or by phone at 573-301-1379. For Submittable troubleshooting, please visit Submittable's [help center](#).

### *Cell Towers Grant Program Final Guidelines Now Available*

The Department of Economic Development (DED) has posted [final guidelines](#) for its Cell Towers Grant Program. The program is funded via the State of Missouri's share of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). This \$20 million program is intended to help improve accessibility for those without access to quality cellular service. Funds are available for projects that will serve areas lacking quality service, with priority given to projects located on public lands. Applications will open Friday, May 26, at 10 a.m. CST. Complete information is also available on DED's [ARPA Broadband webpage](#).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

May 24: Connecting All Missourians Regional Meeting, 8-10 a.m., Mozingo Event Center, 1 Fall Drive, Maryville

May 25: Regional Council Closed

May 29: Regional Council Closed

June 3: Final Sheridan Recycling Event/Collection, 8-10 a.m., west side of the Park in Sheridan

June 14 Solid Waste Executive Board meeting, 5:30 p.m., RCOG Office

June 14: Solid Waste Full Council meeting, 6 p.m., RCOG Office

June 19: Regional Council Closed

June 22: Regional Council/Development Corporation Committees/Boards meetings, 5 p.m., Nodaway County Administration Building, Maryville

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**NORTHWEST MISSOURI REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

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Website: [www.nwrmorog.org](http://www.nwrmorog.org) | [www.facebook.com/NWMOORCOG](https://www.facebook.com/NWMOORCOG)

Serving the counties of Atchison, Gentry, Holt, Nodaway & Worth