

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## JOHNSON COUNTY ANNOUNCES WATER RESOURCE MATCH (WRM) PROGRAM

(Johnson County, MO) The Johnson County Commission has announced a portion of the county American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money will soon be made available for local cost share purposes through the Johnson County Water Resource Match (WRM) application program.

Using state ARPA funding, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Financial Assistance Center is administering four separate ARPA grant programs to complete drinking water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure projects as well as lead service line inventories. Local cost share is required in order to apply for State ARPA funding. Applicants receive priority during the scoring process based on the percent of local cost share contributed. The local Johnson County WRM program will enhance an applicant's competitiveness by assisting with a portion of the local cost share requirement.

"We know that reliable, safe infrastructure investment furthers economic development. My fellow commissioners and I feel strongly that assisting local entities by leveraging the county ARPA Funds as a portion of local cost share will further invest in the future and success in Johnson County. By having up-to-date water resources, Johnson County can really make an impact by ensuring that citizens and businesses have access to safe water resources as well as encourage economic development well into the future," said Presiding Commissioner Densil Allen.

In line with the state eligibility, businesses, individuals, or households are not eligible to apply for the water infrastructure grant programs. Eligible applicants for the Johnson County WRM program include:

- **Lead Service Line Inventories, Drinking Water ARPA Grants and Wastewater ARPA Grants:** Incorporated Municipalities, Public Water or Sewer Districts (if they operate a drinking water utility), Quasi-Governmental Agencies (e.g., irrigation, telephone, oil, gas, water, and electric companies), and Joint Municipal Utility Commissions. Privately Owned Utilities or Nonprofit Organizations whose sole purpose is to provide drinking water or wastewater service are also eligible to apply for Drinking Water ARPA Grants and Wastewater ARPA Grants.
- **Stormwater ARPA Grants:** Incorporated Municipalities, Counties, and Public Sewer Districts.

The maximum amount an entity could receive through the Johnson County WRM Program will not exceed fifty percent of the local match applied and approved for with the Missouri DNR grant. Example: ABC Entity applies and is approved for a \$200,000 grant with Missouri DNR, and will provide a \$20,000 local cost share. ABC Entity would be eligible to receive up to \$10,000 through the WRM program, 50% of their local cost share.

WRM program applications will be sent directly to qualified entities and will be accepted no later than 4:00 PM on June 22, 2022. Following application, the county will review and evaluate the applications, ensuring proposed projects are allowable under federal guidelines. Entities will be notified of contingent WRM program award decisions no later than June 28, 2022. The Missouri DNR application scoring is expected to conclude by October 12, 2022. Recipients will only be eligible for the WRM program if their application(s) to the Missouri DNR is approved, or if placed on the waiting list. All applicants be required to enter into a written agreement with the County prior to disbursement of awarded funds.

For more information, please contact Johnson County Treasurer Heather Reynolds at 660-747-7411.

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