



This newsletter is a publication of the Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Governments

Issue 20, No 1

Governor Nixon announces \$1.2M to help communities

Governor Jay Nixon recently announced that the Missouri Association of Councils of Government (MACOG) was awarded \$1.2 million to fund three projects that will help Missouri communities respond to disasters. The funding through the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program will strengthen regional coordination and response asset sharing, identify key infrastructure and resources to mitigate disasters before they strike, and bolster long-term recovery planning.

The funding includes:

- Element I: \$935,000 to assist Missouri's 19 regional planning commissions in assessing critical infrastructure and key resources, and design mitigation plans to strengthen vital infrastructure;
- Element II: \$191,000 to strengthen disaster response coordination and efficiency by creating a comprehensive statewide asset inventory of deployable resources; and
- Element III: \$50,000 to develop long-term disaster recovery systems in local communities, including enabling local leaders to plan for rebuilding, business retention and public works projects following a disaster.

IMPACT FOR NW MISSOURI COMMUNITIES

The Northwest Regional Council will receive a portion of the \$935,000 available under Element I to assess critical infrastructure and key resources on behalf of a minimum of four communities in the five

-county region. Appropriate technical assistance will be provided to these communities as a means of strengthening their ability to limit threats posed by natural disasters. The Regional Council's Board of Directors are currently working on an inclusive process for selecting the impacted communities for this program. Any eligible communities/projects will be considered, prioritized and approved by the Regional Council's Board of Directors. The top selected communities/projects will be submitted to the State's Community Development Block Grant office for final approval. If your community would like to be considered, please contact Jackie Spainhower immediately to discuss potential projects.

The Northwest Regional Council will also receive a portion of funding under Element II to complete the asset inventory of deployable resources in the five-county region. To ensure continuity in format across the state, MACOG is developing a standard process for the collection of data. More information will be provided to communities as it becomes available.

No direct funding will come to the region under Element III, however, community leaders from the five-county region may be asked to participate in the statewide planning effort.

For questions regarding this program or to discuss a potential project, please contact Jackie Spainhower at 660-582-5121 or email jackie@nwmorcog.org.



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Solid Waste District looking for permanent HHW site

Currently, it costs the Solid Waste Management District more each year to hold two one-day HHW collections than it would cost to set up a permanent collection site. A permanent site would provide residents of the region a consistent opportunity to properly dispose of HHW, decreasing the chances of

contaminating soil and waterways through the careless disposal of waste in the trash or ditches. Single day events incur high minimum charges for small amounts of waste collected. With a

(Continued on page 5)

Five counties designated Work Ready Communities in Progress

Educators, elected officials, economic and workforce developers, business owners, chamber representatives and others met in December to work on a region wide application to the state of Missouri's Certified Work Ready Communities initiative. This program facilitated by ACT and endorsed by the State of Missouri, is a collaborative means of building partnerships between the available workforce and businesses looking for new hires. ACT through the WorkKeys testing program, certifies individuals' skill levels and translates those skills into potential job matches for area employers.

The Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Governments submitted a regional application in December on behalf of Atchison, Gentry, Holt, Nodaway and Worth counties, and was notified January 14, 2016, that the state Workforce Development Board accepted the application. The five counties are now considered Work Ready

Communities in Progress; meaning that each county has a period of two years to meet individual goals related to WorkKeys testing and employer engagement to meet full certification.

Testing goals are met by completing a required number of WorkKeys tests in the county for the following groups: Emerging Workers (youth under 18 years of age), Current Workers (those currently employed or underemployed), and Transitioning Workers (those actively looking for work). To date, county goals related to WorkKeys testing are as follows: Atchison-26%, Gentry-44%, Holt-50%, Nodaway-79% and Worth-48%.

The second goal that must be met to obtain full certification includes engaging a specified number of employers in each county, ensuring that they acknowledge the Certified Work Ready Community initiative, and will

consider hiring an individual who presents a National Career Readiness Credential indicating they have the skills necessary to complete job requirements. To date, county goals related to employer engagement are as follows: Atchison-69%, Gentry-69%, Holt-100%, Nodaway-69% and Worth-100%.

The Regional Council will be applying for state funding in the immediate future to assist with administration of the WorkKeys test to youth at high schools within the region. Adults may take the free test once they have completed the membership process at a Missouri Job Center.

For more information about the Certified Work Ready Communities initiative, visit the ACT Work Ready Communities website at workreadycommunities.org/index/about or contact the Regional Council at 660-582-5121.



The Missouri Job Center in Maryville continues to host a series of workshops for job seekers.

Weekly workshops are scheduled each week on Tuesdays and include topics such as resume and cover letter writing, and how to complete on-line job applications. The Job Center also offers basic computer classes upon request as a service to customers.

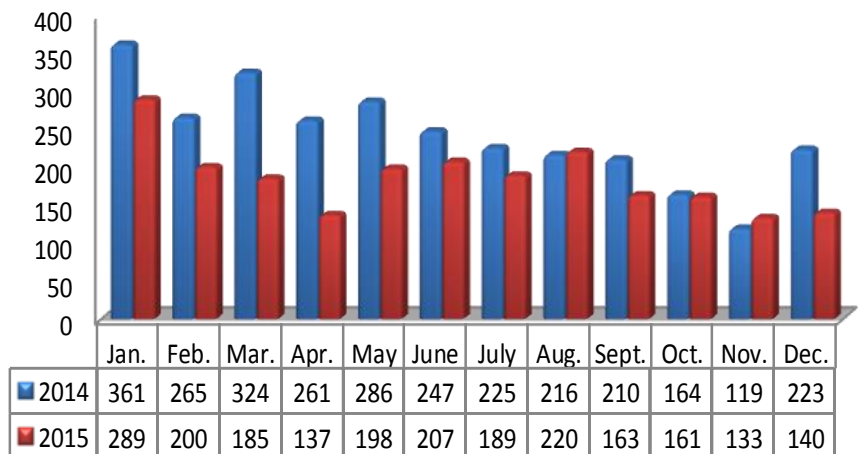
For a complete schedule of workshops, please visit our Facebook page at Missouri Job Center-Maryville or the Regional Council website at <http://www.nwmcog.org/>



Find us on Facebook at Missouri Job Center—Maryville



Resource Room Attendance By Month



Solid Waste Management District FY '16 grant project updates

Northwest Missouri State University - Reduce Your Paw Print: Weigh It – \$2,502.50

Northwest Missouri State is purchasing a weighing system for the new drop-off collection container at the University Pellet Plant. They are in the process of improving the recycling center and will purchase the weigh bars when the work to relocate the drop-off box is completed.

Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Governments - Nodaway and Holt Co. Household Hazardous Waste Collections - \$15,000

Funds will be used to plan, schedule and collect household hazardous waste. The Holt County collection is scheduled for April 2, 2016 in Oregon and the Nodaway County collection is scheduled for April 9, 2016, in Maryville.

Worth County R-III School District - Worth County School Composting – \$9,975 FUNDS DECLINED

Worth County R-III was seeking grant funds to purchase an Earth Tub in-vessel

composting bin to transform cafeteria food waste into nutrient-filled soil. The grant funds are being declined because of substantial unforeseen costs of installation of the Earth Tub system. The original bid did not include equipment required for the cold Missouri winters. The Worth County School Board voted 5/0 at the meeting on November 18, 2015, not to accept the funds for the project.

Rolling Hills Creative Living - Albany Curbside Recycling – \$11,797.50

Rolling Hills Creative Living is providing curbside recycling collection on a regular, bi-weekly basis for the residents within the city limits of Albany. At the end of the 2nd quarter 793 residences are participating plus 3 businesses have been added. They are collecting and sorting an average of 240 bags of mixed recycling per week. One collection day per week is just cardboard from the three businesses.

Community Foundation of Northwest Missouri Inc. FBO Stanberry Community Betterment Club - Stanberry Park Expansion Project –\$3,200 - CLOSED

The Stanberry Community Betterment is currently raising funds for an expansion of the city park playground. This grant project is complete and closed in October. We did not hold the 15% retainage because there will be no further diversion. The materials were delivered and installed to make a safe fall zone for the new playground equipment.

King City School R-I District - WildKat Track Project –\$5,000

The goal of the WildKat Track Project is to provide the community and school with an all-weather track. The SW grant will pay for part of the rubber surface for the track. The project will be done sometime in the spring or early summer. We may have to extend the project past the June 30th date. At the end of the third quarter we will see how the project is going and make the decision to extend the project if necessary

Recycling education program planned for elementary students

Once again, the NW MO Solid Waste Management District (SWMD) will be inviting 3rd and 4th graders for a field trip on **Thursday, April 28, 2016**, to the campus of Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville. The SWMD has booked Stan Slaughter, Eco-troubadour, to present his

program "Recycling is in the Bag." The program features five songs spread throughout the program: Habitat, Dirt Made my Lunch, The Garbage Blues, Feed it to the Worms and Little Blue Ball. The songs will be provided in advance to the teachers so students can learn the songs. Students will

be involved through coming on stage to lead some of the dance moves, to be "decomposed" in a compost skit, and through other active participation. This delightful and educational event will also include a walking tour across campus to see the Pellet Plant and Recycling Center!

Call for 2017 Solid Waste grant funds to open February 1, 2016

The Northwest Missouri Regional Solid Waste Management District will have \$47,500 in grant funds from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources Solid Waste Management Program. Carryover from recent projects of \$18,888.39 totals **\$66,388.39** to fund FY '17 recycling and waste reduction projects in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors throughout Atchison, Gentry, Holt, Nodaway, and Worth Counties.

The grant funds are intended to reduce the amount of solid waste entering the local waste stream and/or to facilitate recycling.

Any individual or organization with a project to reduce, reuse or recycle such items as: paper, aluminum, organic waste, plastics, electronics or other recyclable materials can submit an application and may be awarded funds to support their project.

Applications are due April 4, 2016, by 3 p.m.

The competitive review process and acceptance by the State continues through April, May and June. Successful applicants usually begin new projects at the beginning of the 2016 fiscal year, July 1, 2016. For

more information or an application, contact Linda Laderoute at linda@nwmorcog.org or call 660-582-5121.



New Community Development Block Grant application date & rule

Starting this year, CDBG applications must be received by April 1, 2016, and postmarks are no longer accepted for meeting the submission deadline.

All communities in the northwest region meet the population criteria for Community Development Block Grant funds. To be eligible, community projects must also meet one of the national objectives for eligibility, which includes an impact to low-to-moderate income (LMI) households (defined by the State as household income of 80% of the county median), elimination of slum and blight, or address an immediate threat to health and/or safety. Most often used is LMI, and this may be qualified by census data or a survey. Communities must have match for the project. Other grants, loans and cash available from the community must be committed to the project prior to CDBG funding; CDBG is gap funding available only as the last piece of the funding package.

Water and Wastewater: Open—\$500,000 max. The process for these large water and sewer projects includes review by the Missouri Water and Wastewater Review Committee prior to CDBG application. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources, the US Department of Agriculture Rural Development and the Missouri Department of Economic Development (CDBG Committee) review the merits of the project and establish a financing package of grants and loans according to the qualifications of the applicant. Upon MWWRC approval, an

invitation to apply for CDBG funding will be sent to the applicant.

General Infrastructure Proposals: Due April 1, 2016 – \$500,000 max. Grants are available to assist communities with recognized needs that may not fit under the other categories of CDBG funding. Projects that address general infrastructure include, but are not limited to streets, bridges and drainage.

Demolition: Due April 1, 2016 – \$125,000 residential & \$250,000 commercial or a combination. This category allows communities to fund demolition projects that eliminate abandoned blighted structures, primarily residential. Commercial structures may be included but require a commitment of 20% of the cost by the building’s owner.

Community Facility: Due April 1, 2016 – \$10,000 to \$250,000 or \$5,000 per household. Funds for senior centers, technical education facilities, community centers, day care centers, youth centers, 911, rural health clinics, training facilities and telecommunications. Owner must be a local government or non-profit agency. Operating costs for the facility are not eligible and the entity must show the ability to operate and maintain the facility for the purpose intended.

There are other programs such as Emergency, Economic Development, and Early Childhood Education grants under the CDBG umbrella, as well as Revolving Loan/

Microenterprise programs for small business development. This is a complex grant fund that can support community sustainability and growth in many different ways. There are 68 eligible activities!

Communities that meet Low-to-Moderate Income (LMI) requirements for 2015 are: Allendale, Arkoe, Burlington Junction, Clearmont, Conception Junction, Corning, Elmo, Forest City, Fortescue, Gentry, Maryville, McFall, Parnell, Sheridan and Watson. Also, Colfax and Templeton townships in Atchison County, Miller and Wilson townships in Gentry County, Lincoln Township in Holt County, Green and Jackson townships in Nodaway County and Smith Township in Worth County. All other entities will need to conduct a survey if the national objective of LMI is utilized.

If you have a project idea you would like to discuss with staff or general questions, please contact Jackie Spainhower at the Regional Council at 660-582-5121 or email jackie@nwmorcog.org.



Maitland Fire building, 2012 CDBG project

Coalition for Roadway Safety awards Blueprint grant funds

The Northwest Regional Coalition for Roadway Safety recently released a grant call for traffic safety projects in the 20 counties of northwest Missouri. Eligible applications were first rated by the Northwest Transportation Advisory Committee and then by a regional committee for the MoDOT’s Northwest District.

The following safety projects were awarded:

- Safe Ride Home – NWMSU Police Department
- Share The Road – Mo-Kan Regional Council, Green Hills RPC, City of St. Joseph
- Prom Patrol – Midland Empire Regional Task Force

- Downtown Trick-or-Treat – NW Regional Council
- Safety Acres Busing – St. Joseph Safety and Health Council
- NW Missouri Docudrama
- Transportation Fair – NWMSU
- High School Traffic Safety Fair – NW Missouri Safe Kids Coalition
- Docudrama/Prescription Drug Program – Community Drug Council

For more information about the Coalition for Roadway Safety or Blueprint grant funding, please contact Chance Long at chance@nwmorcog.org



Downtown Trick-or-Treat, 2015, funded by a Blueprint for Roadway Safety grant

Status of active grants

CDBG GRANTS	STATUS
Nodaway County Bridge-#1027	Closeout
Nodaway County Emergency Water	Easement
Guilford New Sanitary Sewer	Closed December 2015
Stanberry Wastewater Treatment Facility	Design Phase/Acquisition
Sheridan—Water Distribution Improvements	Design Phase
Big Lake Dredging & Drainage Improvements	Design Phase/Acquisition
FLOOD PROJECTS—HOLT COUNTY	STATUS
Levee District #15	Under Construction
NAP TAX CREDIT	STATUS
Lettuce Dream	100% of Credits Sold-Construction of Green Houses in Spring '16

Solid Waste District permanent HHW site

(Continued from page 1)

permanent collection site and one HAZWOPER trained staff, HHW could be collected and safely stored until substantial quantities of waste could be picked up by a licensed HHW vendor. There would be savings on disposal costs, mobilization and staff charges that we now pay to conduct each single-day collection. Residents would have the opportunity to drop off HHW by appointment throughout the year.

The Regional Council supports this effort and will assist in finding a site for this project in the near future. If you have a site in mind that could accommodate a 40' intermodal cargo container, or if you have a small building available please contact Linda Laderoute at 660-582-5121 for more information.

Providing HHW collections is one of the region's most important recycling goals.



Sample of permanent HHW site container

Northwest communities invited to participate in a Brownfields workshop

Does your community have an abandoned building, gas station, or other potentially contaminated property that is impeding your community's future growth? Do you wonder where funding could come from to help turn them into new businesses or community amenities?

in a [brownfields resources workshop](#) on Tuesday, March 1, co-sponsored by the Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) Program at Kansas State University. This workshop is 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at the Remington Nature Center, 1502 McArthur Drive in St. Joseph. Lunch will be provided.

ment of brownfields sites to bring them back to beneficial use. (All communities are welcome, but details will focus on communities in Mo-Kan's service area.)

For more information call Kathy O'Donnell at 816-233-3144 or email kathy@mo-kan.org.

Mo-Kan Regional Council has invited communities in the northwest to participate

This free workshop will focus on the various resources available to assist with redevelop-

To register, please visit <https://www.ksutab.org/education/workshops>

Gentry County Hazard Mitigation Plan completed ahead of schedule

The Gentry County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan update was completed in December and submitted to the State Emergency Management Agency. Over the course of six months the Regional Council worked closely with the Emergency Management Director to make all the necessary updates to the plan. The Gentry County plan was originally written in 2005 with an update in 2010. This

is the second update to the plan and is expected to pass without hesitation. The update was successful with a good community participation.

The counties of Worth and Holt are next to be updated, pending issuance of contracts.





NORTHWEST MISSOURI REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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Important dates

- Feb 10 Solid Waste Executive Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m., RCOG
- Feb 11 Great NW Wholesale Water Commission Meeting, 2 p.m., Cameron
- Feb 15 RCOG and Missouri Career Center Closed, President's Day
- Feb 25 RCOG Board of Directors Board Meeting, 7 p.m., RCOG
- Mar 1 Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting. 6:00 p.m., RCOG
- Mar 9 Solid Waste Executive Board , 5:30 p.m., RCOG
- Mar 10 Great NW Wholesale Water Commission Meeting, 2 p.m., Cameron
- Mar 24 RCOG Board of Directors Board Meeting, 7 p.m., RCOG
- Mar 25 RCOG Closed, Good Friday
- Apr 13 Solid Waste Executive Board , 5:30 p.m., RCOG
- Apr 14 Great NW Wholesale Water Commission Meeting, 2 p.m., Cameron

2016 FREE HHW collections

Get ready to bring the household hazardous waste that you have been storing to one of two collections scheduled this spring. The Regional Council and the Solid Waste Management District work together with the County Commissioners to offer the collections.

The Holt County Commission will host a Household Hazardous Waste Collection on **April 2, 2016**, at the Oregon Road & Bridge Barn, 800 E Nodaway St., Oregon.

Nodaway County will host a collection on **April 9, 2016**, in Maryville at the Nodaway County Maintenance Barn, 1516 E. Halsey St., Maryville.

The collections will be open from 8:00 a.m. until Noon at both sites. The collections will be **free** this year to all residents of Atchison, Gentry, Holt, Nodaway and Worth County residents only; ID required.

No business or commercial waste accepted. Latex paint and household alkaline batteries will not be accepted.

For more information call Linda at 660-582-5121.

In December, RCOG staff adopted five foster kids through the Cornerstones of Care program and provided them with gifts for the holidays.

