



**Mid-Missouri Regional
Planning Commission**

The Current

Connecting the Cities and Counties of the Mid-Missouri Region

April 2007 Announcements

MMRPC Assists Centertown with LMI Survey

The Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission is assisting the Village of Centertown in undertaking a resident income survey to determine if the community is eligible to apply for grant funds to construct necessary wastewater collection and treatment facilities in the community.

The Village of Centertown has, for several years, been grappling with their sewer system limitations. Centertown - like many Missouri communities- is confronting a situation where due to the age and condition of the older septic tanks in the community- improperly treated sewage will surface and flow into drainage ditches and the drainage system of the area watershed.

To address this concern, the Village of Centertown Trustees hired a local engineering firm to provide them with a study of their current system, and provide guidance as to what can be done to upgrade the system and also how much such an upgrade would cost. Once the study was completed the next step was to look at possible funding sources that would assist Centertown with the upgrades. Possible funding sources for this type of project would be through USDA- Rural Development Water and Waste Disposal program and/or the State of Missouri Community Development Block Grant program. Both agencies require that the city or town applying for assistance meet the Low to Moderate Income (LMI) requirements.

In some cases a city or town will qualify based on the previous decennial census data, but in most cases a survey of the residents is required. The purpose of the survey is to determine how many of the communities residents fall into the low to moderate income bracket. The funding agencies calculate the LMI qualification differently (USDA calculates LMI percentages based on the median household income), but a 51% LMI threshold or higher of the residents must

be met to be eligible to apply for grant funding.

The survey process can be overwhelming, it takes time, and in some instances sending the survey form to residents several times in an effort to get 80% of the residents to respond. MMRPC staff has the ability to coordinate the process from beginning to end, including writing the letters, preparing the survey form, mailing the survey and compiling the data to determine the percentage of LMI residents in a community. Once it has been determined that the community is eligible to receive funding based on their resident income levels the grant can be written and submitted for consideration.

The MMRPC staff can help member communities with all of the grant requirements necessary for submission to state and federal agencies for more information regarding grant assistance contact the Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission at (573) 657-9779 or email us at www.mmrpc.org.

MMRPC WEBSITE GETS FACELIFT

The Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission staff has been working to create a dynamic website that will provide the MMRPC membership with "one stop shopping" capacity for up-to-date and useful information. Staff's goal is to provide a site that is professional and dynamic that will inform users when the numerous RPC and committee meetings and other related events are scheduled, as well as, links to demographic and economic development data for the region. We have provided information and links to elected officials in the region, state and federal government. Recent reports and meeting minutes will also be available on the website.

Our website mission is to create a user-friendly site that continues to be the go-to source when information is needed. On the front page all of the meetings for the coming month will be posted along with any other information determined pertinent to the membership. Staff values any comments or suggestions received from the membership regarding the website. Please forward your comments to mmrpc@mmrpc.org

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Announcements

Homeland Security-Interoperability Training Opportunity. The National Association of Counties, in cooperation with the National League of Cities, is hosting a two-day Policy Academy on Communications Interoperability in Ramsey County (St. Paul), Minnesota, May 17 - 18, 2007. Previous announcements indicated an application deadline of March 22, but that has been extended to April 6 (or until spaces are filled). County and City officials - both in elected and management positions - are invited to attend the Interoperability Academy as a team of up to four people. At least one elected official, plus representatives from agencies or departments may compose the team. Multi-county, city/county, or regional teams are also welcome. NACo covers all expenses for travel, housing, meals, and incidentals for Academy participants and speakers. See NaCO's website: www.naco.org/techassistance
Questions? Contact Rocky Lopes, Project Manager, NACo, 202-661-8841 or email: ropes@naco.org

Governor's Economic Development Awards. The Missouri Department of Economic Development is announcing that awards will be given at the Governor's Economic Development Conference for the 2007 Community Project of the Year and the 2007 Redevelopment Award. Nominations are due no later than 5:00 p.m. Friday April 23, 2007. These awards will be presented at the Governor's Economic Development Conference in Springfield August 27-30. The Redevelopment Award will be given to a project that shows a significant impact on a neighborhood or community. The Community Project Award will be given to recognize the best example of a community development project. Project nominations may include planning and execution of a successful development of specific properties. The nomination form for the Community Project Award can be downloaded at <http://www.ded.mo.gov/upload/CommDevAward2.pdf>. Eligible applicants for both awards may include community development organizations, local governments, developers, individuals, not-for-profits, or community development corporations. For additional information contact the Missouri Department of Economic Development- Business and Community Services, (573) 522-9462.

May 9 - 11: 58th Annual Traffic & Safety Conference in Columbia, Mo. - The Missouri Department of Transportation invites you to attend the 58th Annual Traffic & Safety Conference in Columbia, Mo. The conference is open to the public. The conference will provide you a opportunity to network with other traffic and safety professionals and learn about new traffic engineering technologies and safety strategies. An expanded exhibit hall will display products and services from local and regional vendors, showcase transportation-related organizations, and share traffic programs to improve safety and mobility. Go to <http://www.modot.org/tsc> for additional information and online conference registration.

Calendar

April 10. MMRPC Economic Development Advisory Committee. 10:00 a.m. MMRPC Office. Ashland. For more information contact Colleen Vollman at 573.657.9779 or colleenvollman@mmrpc.org.

April 25. Region F Homeland Security Oversight Committee. Jefferson City. 1:30 p.m. Jefferson City Police Training Classroom. For additional info-contact Lee Ann Jestis at 573.657.9779 or leeannjestis@mmrpc.org.

April 25. Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission Board of Directors. MMRPC Office. Ashland. 5:00 p.m. For additional information contact lisanichols@mmrpc.org or 573.657.9779.

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