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Past issues of the SW Missouri Local Government Briefings can be found at: [smcog.missouristate.edu](http://smcog.missouristate.edu)

To subscribe or submit an item for the Briefings, please contact: [JasonRay@missouristate.edu](mailto:JasonRay@missouristate.edu).  
For information, call Jason Ray at 417-836-6977.

## Announcements...

### Amazon to Begin Collecting Missouri Use Tax

In early January, Amazon announced that starting Feb. 1, 2017, it will begin reporting and remitting taxes on sales delivered to Missouri. At the present time, any tax they collect will be use tax, which is taxable based on the location of the delivery within Missouri. Given the volume of sales through Amazon, this will likely represent a significant revenue increase for the more than 120 Missouri municipalities that have already imposed a use tax. Missouri municipal leaders are encouraged to research and consider imposing a use tax in their community. More info: [Missouri Municipal League](#).

### March is National Pothole Month

Did you know that failure to spend \$1 in road repair typically results in \$7 of cost five years later? To celebrate National Pothole Month, citizens are engaging their representatives over social media using the hashtag #NationalPotholeMonth to draw attention to transportation infrastructure needs in their community. Visit [pothole.info/the-facts](#) for more information.

### MSU Accounting Students Offer Free Tax Preparation Services

Missouri State University is preparing their accounting students for the real world by offering hands on experience during tax busy season. These services are available through their volunteer income tax assistance (VITA) and MyFreeTaxes programs. The VITA program is eligible to individuals with an income under \$54,000 a year along with senior citizens, disabled individuals and individuals with limited English proficiency. Taxpayers should call 417-720-2000 to make an appointment. The last day to file is April 15.

### First Annual Missouri Rural Survey

The Missouri Rural Development Partners, the University of Missouri Extension, and the Missouri Department of Economic Development's Office of Rural Development, have launched the first annual Missouri Rural Survey. They want to hear from rural citizens, business owners, and leaders about the challenges and opportunities facing rural Missouri communities. Survey responses are anonymous, and rural partners are asked to be honest and candid in their answers, to better help the state grasp and serve rural communities. Please complete by March 31. [Access the survey here.](#)

## Conferences and Events...

### SMCOG Meetings

**Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)**, March 15, 9:00 AM, Library Station, 2325 N. Kansas, Springfield, MO  
*For more information, contact [MeganClark@missouristate.edu](mailto:MeganClark@missouristate.edu)*

**SMCOG Board Meeting**, March 22, 9:00 AM, Library Station, 2325 N. Kansas, Springfield, MO  
*Please RSVP to [JaneHood@missouristate.edu](mailto:JaneHood@missouristate.edu).*

### How to Start a Business in Missouri Seminar, March 2

The Small Business & Technology Development Center hosts regular training seminars to support business innovation. A FREE seminar about starting a business in the State of Missouri will be held on March 2, from 4-6p. This session is titled "How To Start a Business in Missouri." To register, click [here](#). View the complete list of trainings and seminars [here](#).

### Missouri Community Forestry Council State Conference, March 7-9

The Missouri Community Forestry Council annual State Conference will be held in Springfield, MO at the Oasis Convention Center near I-44 and Glenstone Avenue in Springfield. Join the Southwest MCFC group as they present 'Living on the Edge of the Community Forest'. Early bird [registration](#) ends January 31: early bird registrants receive an

MCFC messenger bag.

### **Transportation and Rural Livability Webinar, March 14**

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is holding a webinar regarding the improved quality of life that comes to rural communities with access to transportation. The webinar will highlight strategies to improve livability and connectivity in rural communities and small towns through collaborative efforts. [Register here.](#)

### **Third Annual Partners in Governance Conference, April 12**

The 3rd Annual Partners in Governance Conference is a one day conference that will address the real world practice of transparency in a variety of local government contexts through a discussion of laws, rules, cases, best practices, and actual experiences. The Partners in Governance Conference is sponsored by the Harry S Truman School of Public Affairs' Institute of Public Policy, the Missouri Municipal League, and the Center for Ethics in Public Life.

Tickets are \$75, discounted student tickets are available. [Register and learn more here.](#)

### **Basics of Transportation Planning, Anytime Webinar**

This free webinar can be taken any time until the end of August. This course provides an introduction to the Statewide, metropolitan, and non-metropolitan (rural) transportation planning requirements and highlights techniques that may be applied. It highlights the transportation requirements and planning processes, and why they are important; identifies the key stakeholders and describes their roles, responsibilities, and relationship in informed decision-making. [Register here.](#)

## **News...**

### **Medical Memberships: An Alternative Model to Serve the Uninsured**

KBIA Reporter Rebecca Smith goes to Neosho, MO to explore the way medical memberships work and the appeal of this alternative model. Medical memberships charge patients a monthly fee for unlimited care, in this case primary care, and offer some labs and medications at wholesale prices. Patients do not pay co-pays, but also do not have coverage for specialty or emergency care. [Hear this story here.](#)

### **Who's Running Missouri Now? A Brief Look at Greitens' Cabinet Picks to Date**

St. Louis Public Radio offers a rundown of who's in charge at state agencies as Governor Eric Greitens' administration gets up and running. Nearly half of his cabinet positions have been approved by the Missouri Senate so far. [Read here.](#)

## **Online Resources...**

### **CDC Series Examines Rural Health**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will focus on rural health issues in a special series of its Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR). Though the MMWR is published weekly, the rural-specific health issues will be published less frequently. The rural series focus features data and topics, and webinars will come soon. [Read here.](#)

### **Watch: Local Innovation and Rural Economies Event**

In mid-February, the Aspen Institute hosted the panel discussion, "Local Innovation Strengthening Rural Economies." This event featured business owners, partners, and investors who are active in varying rural economies across the US.

This event is part of a six-part series of panel conversations that invites policymakers, economic and community developers, and business and philanthropic leaders to address advancing a rural opportunity agenda. [Watch here.](#)

## Jobs...

[Director of Finance](#), City of Republic, \$62,500 - \$80,000/yr.  
[Planning Administrator](#), Taney County, Salary DOQ  
[Regional Planner](#), Lake of the Ozarks Council of Local Governments, Salary DOQ  
[Assistant Professor](#), Planning/Human Geography at Missouri State University  
[Police Officer](#), City of Springfield, \$16.57 - \$28.35/hr.  
[Patrol Officer](#), City of Republic, \$15.57/hr.  
[Police Officer](#), City of Ozark  
[Corrections Officer](#), Taney County, \$11.50/hr.  
[911 Communications Officer](#), City of Monett, \$27,348 - \$30,904/yr.  
[Police Dispatcher](#), City of Aurora  
[Deputy Clerk](#), Taney County, \$10/hr.  
[MO Dept. of Conservation](#): Various positions available  
[Planning Intern](#), MoDOT (Springfield office), \$10.04 - \$15.42/hr.

## Grants...

### USDA – Rural Utilities Service Broadband Loan and Grant

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Utilities Service (RUS) has opened applications to the Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee Program and Community Connect Grant Program. The Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee Program provides funding for construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment to expand services of broadband speeds in eligible rural areas. Application submission windows will be March 1 to March 31 and September 1 to September 30. For information on the Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee Program, [click here](#).

The Community Connect Grant Program funds broadband expansion in areas that are not currently being considered by private providers. For information on the Community Connect Grant Program, [click here](#). **Applications due March 13.**

### Frueauff Grants for Education, Human Services, and Health

The Charles A. Frueauff Foundation Grants award funding to nonprofit organizations who work in the areas of education, human services, and health. Examples of funding priorities and more information at [ruralhealthinfo.org/funding/964](http://ruralhealthinfo.org/funding/964)  
First time applicants must fill out an eligibility assessment early in the process. **All proposals due March 15.**

### Drug Free Communities (DFC) Support Program

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) created this program to establish and strengthen collaboration efforts at the community level to prevent and reduce substance use among youth. Coalitions receiving DFC funds are expected to work with leaders within their communities to identify and address local youth substance and create sustainable community-level change. Proposals should detail how projects will use environmental prevention strategies aimed at changing or influencing community conditions, standards, institutions, structures, systems, and policies to shift attitudes and change behavior. [ruralhealthinfo.org/funding/738](http://ruralhealthinfo.org/funding/738) **Deadline to apply is March 15.**

## Telehealth Resource Center Grant Program

Supports the establishment and development of Telehealth Resource Centers (TRCs) which provide technical assistance to healthcare organizations, healthcare networks, and healthcare providers in the implementation of telehealth programs to serve rural and medically underserved areas and populations. <https://goo.gl/n6kMYU> **Deadline is March 16.**

## Community WINS Grant

The [U.S. Conference of Mayors](#) (USCM) and [Wells Fargo](#) have opened applications to the Community WINS Grant Program. The program funds initiatives in three categories: neighborhood stabilization, economic development, and job creation. USCM member cities may submit up to three eligible nonprofit programs for consideration in the review process. For more information, click [here](#). **Applications are due March 17.**

## Innovations in Care, Grant Program

The Rita and Alex Hillman Foundation provide funds for nurse-driven models of care focused on patient- and family-centered approaches that challenge conventional strategies, improve health outcomes, lower costs, and enhance patient and family caregiver experience. The Hillman Foundation is specifically seeking proposals that address healthcare needs of vulnerable populations in the following groups; maternal and child health, care of older adults, and chronic illness management. Information can be found at [ruralhealthinfo.org/funding/3871](http://ruralhealthinfo.org/funding/3871) **Deadline to apply is March 20.**

## USDA – Strengthen Local/Regional Food Businesses

U.S. Department of Agriculture's Ag. Marketing Service (AMS) announced the availability of \$27 million in grants to fund innovative projects designed to strengthen market opportunities for local and regional food producers and businesses. There are three different applications within this grant announcement. The [Farmers Market Promotion Program](#) (FMPP), the [Local Food Promotion Program](#) (LFPP), and the [Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program](#) (FSMIP). **Deadline to apply is March 27.**

## Minority Youth Violence Prevention Grants

This program identifies innovative approaches to significantly reduce the prevalence and impact of youth violence among racial and ethnic minority and/or disadvantaged at-risk youth. MYVP II will support interventions tailored to at-risk racial and ethnic minority and/or disadvantaged youth (ages 12-18 years) and requires coordinated, multi-discipline approaches that should address public health, education, and public safety concerns; disparities in access to public health services; social determinants of health; and risk and protective factors. [ruralhealthinfo.org/funding/4081](http://ruralhealthinfo.org/funding/4081) **Deadline is April 4.**

## Preservation Assistance Grants

The National Endowment for the Humanities is soliciting applications for the [Preservation Assistance Grants](#) program for up to \$7,000 to help small and mid-sized institutions—such as libraries, museums, historical societies, archival repositories, cultural organizations, town and county records offices, and colleges and universities—improve their ability to preserve and care for their significant humanities collections. These may include special collections of books and journals, archives and manuscripts, prints and photographs, moving images, sound recordings, architectural and cartographic records, decorative and fine art objects, textiles, archaeological and ethnographic artifacts, furniture, historical objects, and digital materials. Applicants must draw on the knowledge of consultants whose preservation skills and experience are related to the types of collections and the nature of the activities on which their projects focus. **Deadline is May 2.**

## USDA Strategic Economic and Community Development Program

**Strategic Economic and Community Development (SECD)** prioritizes projects that support the implementation of multi-jurisdictional plans under the [Community Facilities Program](#), [Water and Waste Disposal Program](#), [Business and Industry Loan Guarantee Program](#), and [Rural Business Development Grant Program](#). Under this provision, up to 10 percent of each programs annual appropriations can be set aside and made available to eligible SECD applicants. Many communities already working together to develop multi-jurisdictional plans with the help of strategic partners including non-profit organizations, institutions of higher education, university extensions, regional authorities, coalitions of counties/towns and federal agencies. The goal of SECD is to promote collaboration in rural communities and across Rural

Development agencies and programs. Communities are incentivized to align resources, develop long-term community and economic growth strategies and engage federal, state and local partners. By promoting this regional focus USDA resources can be more effectively utilized and have a larger impact on rural capacity building and wealth creation.

### **On-Site Wastewater Grant/Loan Program**

SMCOG, in partnership with the Missouri Association of Councils of Governments (MACOG), and MoDNR is pleased to offer a grant/loan program for failing on-site wastewater systems (septic systems). The purpose of the Missouri On-site Wastewater Improvement Grant-Loan program is to provide financing for homeowners seeking to make improvements to, or replace their on-site wastewater treatment system, which will improve Missouri's water quality.

Program eligibility requirements can be found online: <https://goo.gl/62qtHG>

Contact [JaneHood@missouristate.edu](mailto:JaneHood@missouristate.edu) for more information.

### **Quote...**

*“To save one life is to save the whole of humanity.”* – Raed al-Saleh, founder of The White Helmets (Syrian volunteer rescue-workers organization) quoting the Qu’ran, speaking at the 2017 Oscars.

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