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**ECONOMIC
SECURITY
CORPORATION**



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**From Old Rubber Tires to Head Start Playgrounds
Missouri Department of Natural Resources Awards Economic Security Corporation
A Playground Scrap Tire Surface Material Grant
Keep America Working!**

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Solid Waste Management notified Economic Security Corporation (ESC) of a \$30,000 grant award. This is a partnership with Missouri DNR, Region M District and ESC. This award will make big changes to 2 Head Start and Early Head Start playgrounds. The grant will allow ESC to use a recycled pour-in-place compound to replace the current playground equipment fall zones which are currently grass and wood chips. This will alleviate the costs for replacement and upkeep of the playgrounds' resilient materials.

One of the playground locations selected is South Joplin Early Head Start where they are currently using grass and portable mats on their playground for infants and toddlers. Having this alternative resilient material will allow for different types of climbing, pushing, and riding toys that we currently are unable to use due to safety considerations. These types of toys are helpful for the children's gross motor development.

The other playground will be at North Joplin Head Start. This is a large area that includes a climber and swings. Currently we use wood chips as the resilient material. Pour-in-place material will allow us to save funds we use on the upkeep of this large space and allow the children a more enjoyable play space to use every day.

We will be having several special events during the coming year as part of the new grant. Our Head Start and Early Head Start children and parents will receive recycling and reuse education that will be provided by the Region M District Coordinator, Jennifer Shotwell. In addition, we will be holding ribbon cutting ceremonies for both playgrounds once they are completed. We are excited to enter into this partnership with MO DNR and the Region M District and are thankful for this opportunity to improve the quality of services for children and families.

About Economic Security Corporation: Since 1965, Economic Security Corporation has been a leader in developing solutions and bringing resources to Barton, Jasper, Newton and McDonald County. It offers a diversity of services meeting basic human needs for food and shelter, while enriching people's lives by providing access to increased education, skills, and building relationships for the future. ESC is a private nonprofit organization that receives federal, state and local funding, foundation grants and donations from individuals and businesses in our community. To learn more about Economic Security Corporation please visit www.escswa.org.

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