



P.O. Box 207 | 302 SOUTH JOPLIN | JOPLIN, MO 64802
417.781.0352 | FAX 417.781.1234 | ESCSWA.ORG

**ECONOMIC
SECURITY
CORPORATION**



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact:
Debbie Markman, CCAP, NCRT, Resource Development Director
Economic Security Corporation of SW Area, Joplin
417-627-2013
dmarkman@escswa.org

**Reuse, Reduce and Recycle!
Great Partnership at Two Head Start Playgrounds
Missouri Department of Natural Resources Awards Economic Security Corporation
A Playground Scrap Tire Surface Material Grant
America Strong!**

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Solid Waste Management notified Economic Security Corporation (ESC) of a \$30,000 2020 grant award. This is a partnership with Missouri DNR, Region M District and ESC. This award will make big changes to two Head Start playgrounds. The grant will allow ESC to use a recycled pour-in-place compound to replace the current playground equipment fall zones that are currently rubber mulch. This will alleviate the costs for replacement and upkeep of the playgrounds' resilient materials.

One of the playground locations selected is South Joplin Head Start where the fall zone is filled with rubber mulch. Having this alternative resilient material will allow for a much safer fall zone, as we can ensure all areas around the climbing equipment on a daily basis are the correct depth. The stability of getting onto climbing equipment will be much better, versus the looseness of rubber mulch.

The other playground will be at Anderson Head Start. We currently use rubber mulch around the climbers and have grass for riding equipment and toys. Having a sturdy solid surface for riding and climbing will greatly benefit the children's gross motor skills. At both locations, we will save money, as we will not have to replace the mulch throughout the year.

We will be having several special events during the coming year as part of the new grant. Our Head Start children and parents will receive recycling and reuse education that will be provided by the Region M District Coordinator, Patty Overman. In addition, we will be holding ribbon-cutting ceremonies for both playgrounds once they are completed. This is an exciting partnership with MO DNR and the Region M District and we 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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