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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MO Governor Parson Extends Energy Assistance Application Deadline and Increases Income Eligibility

Joplin, MO Starting Thursday, April 29, 2021 There are some changes to ESC's Energy Assistance Program, first an extended deadline (May 31) and an expansion of income eligibility. Here is a link to our <u>utility</u> <u>assistance</u> to low-moderate income families in Barton, Jasper, Newton and McDonald Counties. The application process has not changed. Reminder, the application no longer has to be printed, but can be completed in the comfort of your home, or while waiting for curbside grocery pick, so use this easy on-line application. We still will have the availability of paper applications that can be obtained through the mail and will be processed at ESC's Central Office located at 302 S. Joplin, Joplin, MO 64801. The income guidelines have INCREASED to 60% State Median Income (SMI) guidelines.

Eligibility includes:

- Be responsible for paying home heating costs
- Have \$3,000 or less in bank accounts, retirement accounts, or investments
- All household members must be a U.S. citizen or legally admitted for permanent residence
- Meet 60% SMI guidelines

You may submit your application on-line, email, drop off a paper copy (Central office has a drop box), or mail your utility assistance applications this year:

USPS: Economic Security Corporation

Attn: Utility Assistance

P.O. Box 207 (or ESC's secure drop box: 302 S. Joplin St.)

Joplin, MO 64802

ESC will be taking applications for households who need assistance with their primary or secondary heat sources. Households must meet eligibility criteria. People who believe they qualify can visit the agency's website for more information. Copies of documentation can be mailed in with the on-line application (printed out) or if you receive an application through the mail or fax: 417-781-2011. New this year, on-line application, you may take a picture with your camera phone of your documentation and then upload it to the on-line application. For paper applications: email (mailto:liheap@escswa.org), fax or USPS mail. To follow-up on application, we have a LIHEAP Status Hotline: 1-866-923-2483 to check on the processing of your utility assistance application.

Helping people. Changing lives.

Funding for the Energy Assistance (EA) program and the Energy Crisis Intervention Program (ECIP) is provided through the Missouri Department of Social Services, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

MO's 60% of SMI guidelines

# of	Monthly			
Persons	Income		Yearly Income	
1	\$	2,211	\$	26,531
2	\$	2,891	\$	34,694
3	\$	3,571	\$	42,858
4	\$	4,252	\$	51,021
5	\$	4,932	\$	59,184
6	\$	5,612	\$	67,348

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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