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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ESC's Community Services Announces Water Assistance Available for Low-Moderate Income Southwest Missourians

Joplin, MO Starting Monday, March 21, 2022, Economic Security Corporation of Southwest Area (ESC) will be making available <u>water assistance</u> to low-moderate income families in Barton, Jasper, Newton and McDonald Counties and eligible water companies. All applications no longer have to be printed, but can be completed using any iPad or computer device in the comfort of your home, so use this easy <u>on-line application</u>. 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.

This new service will be able to assist families and our vulnerable citizens obtain or retain their water and sewer services. Because water is important to daily living, we must drink 32 oz. a day, use water to wash our vegetables, boil water to cook, water is used to keep our bodies clean and water is used in sanitation that connects to sewer or septic line. As the costs for these services climb, we have not been able to offer any of these services, with the exception of the Missouri American Water Company's program. Now we can offer this safe and healthy measure to any of our eligible citizens.

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

USPS: Economic Security Corporation

Attn: Water 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 water assistance. Households must meet <u>income</u> <u>eligibility</u> criteria. People who believe they qualify can visit the agency's website for more information. Copies of documentation can be mailed in with the <u>on-line application</u> (printed out) or if you receive an application through the mail or fax: 417-781-2011. Using the 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 (<u>mailto:liheap@escswa.org</u>), fax or USPS mail. To follow-up on application, we have a Water Assistance Status Hotline: 1-866-923-2483 to check on the processing of your utility assistance application.

This project/program is funded 100% at \$1,000,000 by federal funds The federal funds are received from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) provided by the Missouri Department of Social Services, Family Support Division.

Helping people. Changing lives.

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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