

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



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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

Feeding our most Vulnerable Seniors through a Partnership with, Area Agency on Aging, Region Ten

Joplin, MO, Economic Security Corporation (ESC) of Southwest Area's Community Development has partnered with Area Agency on Aging, Region Ten to provide more meals to homebound seniors. During the COVID-19, many more seniors are finding the need to access meals through drop off, curbside or in this case "Home Delivered Meals." The Area Agency on Aging unfortunately has had a waiting list for their home delivered meals. Our local Area Agency on Aging does not receive funding from the Meals on Wheels national program, so it is even more important at a time like this to support our local programs. This is where ESC's partnership comes into play. We will be providing 26 more seniors, 65 years or older and homebound, the opportunity to receive home delivered meals five days a week for the next year. We are fortunate that we were able to secure funding for this project through the Missouri Department of Social Services' Community Services Block Grant Cares Act.

• Check Presentation: Monday, 21 December 2020 at 11 am, AAA, 531 E. 15th St., Joplin, MO 64801

ESC received their CARES Act funding on December 2, 2020, which allowed us to be able to collaborate with the Area Agency on Aging. So why home delivered meals? Here are the facts:

- This is more than a meal, meeting nutritional and social needs of seniors.
- Average cost to deliver a meal \$8.
- 20,225 home delivered meals, monthly.
- 24 cents average donation received per meal by the most vulnerable citizens.
- 228,657 number of home delivered meals last year.

This is consistent with ESC's Community Action response to short-term crises that can topple a senior's ability to live independently maintaining their self-reliance. Interested in applying for Home Delivered, please contact your <u>local senior nutrition center</u> in Southwest Missouri.

About Economic Security Corporation of Southwest Area: 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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