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MEDIA ADVISORY

County Awarded \$7.9 Million in Emergency Rental Assistance

Direct Federal Dollars Helps Residents in Need to Cover Housing, Utility Costs

(Brown County, Wis.) – Brown County has been awarded more than \$7.9 million in federal emergency rental assistance dollars to help residents adversely impacted by COVID-19 pay for housing.

“These are dollars that will have a major effect in helping Brown County families dig out of a financial hole caused by the pandemic,” says Brown County Executive Troy Streckenbach. “We know the stress of the pandemic, and meeting basic needs like housing, has taken a tremendous toll on people in our community, especially those with lower incomes.”

Brown County Health and Human Services applied for the money as part of the U.S. Treasury Department’s \$25 billion emergency rental assistance (ERA) program established in the 2020 COVID-19 relief and omnibus spending package. Counties with populations above 200,000 residents were eligible to receive direct payments if they applied for program funding by the January 12, 2021 deadline. Rental payments will be covered starting after March 13, 2020, which was the date of the national emergency declaration.

“A program like this can help alleviate some of that stress the pandemic has brought to people’s doorsteps and help families in need recover. Supporting people in maintaining housing who would rely on already overburdened community supports without the program makes sense,” says Erik Pritzl, Executive Director of Brown County Health and Human Services.

“The impact this funding has on renters, landlords, their families and the economy of Brown County in general cannot be underestimated,” says Cheryl Detrick, President/CEO of Newcap, Inc. “Newcap is proud to stand with Brown County to get this relief out as quickly as possible to meet our community members’ needs.”

ERA assistance will be provided only to eligible households, which are defined as households that are obligated to pay rent on a resident dwelling. Mortgage assistance is ineligible under the program. Utilities that are covered under the program include electricity, gas, water and sewer, trash removal and energy costs, such as fuel oil.

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