



THE STOUFFER REPORT

Senator Bill Stouffer
Senate District 21

Capitol Building, Room 332
Jefferson City, MO 65101

For the Week of:
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Bringing Tax Dollars Closer to Home

Even if you don't like to pay taxes, it is nice to see tax dollars at work close to home. In the past several months I have received word that several grant applications that have passed through my office were approved by various state departments and agencies. This is a testament to the hard work and commitment of the bright and committed community leaders we have in Rural Missouri. These projects will have a positive impact on the lives and future of the communities they support.

The Macon Area Vocational Technical School has obtained dozens of computers to better prepare dislocated workers for our changing economy. In addition, I am hopeful Macon will receive another grant to build a new non-profit child-care facility.

If you drive through La Plata, you'll notice "CDBG" written across several dilapidated structures. Grant monies will be used, with the help of landowners, to tear these buildings down to improve the looks and opportunities of these vacant lots. Similar projects have been approved for Lexington, Norborne and Sweet Springs.

Arrow Rock, in Saline County, has received assistance through several resources for a wide range of projects, including a 25-acre archeological survey to construct a housing facility for actors performing at the Lyceum Theater.

Much-needed water-, street- and sewer-improvement grants have gone to cities such as Waverly, Armstrong, Camden, Slater and Otterville. The city of Odessa received \$500,000 for sewer improvements. Unfortunately, many cities throughout Rural Missouri still have similar needs.

Two Youth Opportunities grants to Lafayette County, in the amount of \$147,740 and \$171,903 in tax credits, will be used for creating youth centers at the Higginsville Senior Center and St. Luke's Community Christian Church, respectively. Other tax credit awards have gone to the Glasgow Community Center, Marshall's Butterfield Youth Services and the Orrick Community Center in 2005.

Two grants issued through a Federal Highway Administration program will go to Excelsior Springs and Salisbury for parks and trails projects. A Conservation Department project called Show-Me Conservation Outdoor Classrooms has helped Kearney and Glasgow schools improve instruction opportunities for students. And two businesses in Excelsior Springs and one in Carrollton will use economic development grants to train employees.

Finally, the city of Richmond has received more than \$1.4 million in assistance from both state and federal sources for downtown infrastructure-revitalization projects. These funds will be used for new lighting, underground electrical service, and new sidewalks and curbs compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. It will also assist in addressing downtown Richmond's off-street-parking problem.

Even though this is a partial list of the grants awarded in the past twelve months, it is easy to see that grants are available to help fund a variety of community needs.

My congratulations go to the local leaders working to bring our tax dollars back to the local area. Several applications for exciting new opportunities are still pending. For more information about Community Development Block Grants or other similar programs, please contact my office at (573) 751-1507 or email bstouffer@senate.mo.gov.

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