

MID-OHIO VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL



MOVRC Monthly Newsletter
<http://www.movrc.org/>
304-422-4993

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Recently some county rankings were reported on by WBOY.

Our regional elected officials should be proud of their counties and communities.

WV doesn't hit the news much, which is a mixed blessing. But when folks relocate to WV they soon come to appreciate what they have found.

Stacker compiled a list of the best 25 counties to retire in West Virginia using data from Niche. Niche ranks counties based on a variety of factors including cost of living, healthcare, recreation and weather. #3 is RITCHIE County and #4 is WOOD County and #25 is JACKSON County.

The list of fastest growing Counties in WV.

#8 Pleasants County

#16 Wirt County

#23 Tyler County

#24 Roane County

#27 Jackson County

#29 Calhoun County

#38 Ritchie County

#44 Wood County



In providing services to the various communities, we have noticed an uptick in new WV residents that are buying businesses and starting to volunteer on one of our programs. It is refreshing to hear from these "new" West Virginians about how they want to give back to the communities that have welcomed them in and how quickly they have become acclimated. Overwhelming they state they moved to WV for the lifestyle, the lower crime rate and how beautiful it is.

We at the MOVRC appreciate your support and together we can continue to make our region a destination where people chose to live, work and play.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

By Stephanie Hickerson P.E, Manger, Infrastructure & Capacity Development, Bureau for Public Health, West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources

Recently President Joe Biden signed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). A fact sheet for BIL can be found here <https://www.whitehouse.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law/>. Among other items, this increased funding for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program for the next five years.

BIL identifies \$5.7 billion nationwide for the DWSRF in federal fiscal year (FFY) 2022, which represents a significant increase from the typical annual appropriation for the program.

For West Virginia, this results in approximately \$65 million this year for the state Drinking Water Treatment Revolving Fund (DWTRF) compared to an appropriation of \$11 million in FFY 2021. This money is split between four different grant opportunities: the DWSRF base allotment, the DWSRF Supplemental allotment, the Lead Service Line Replacement allotment and the Emerging Contaminants allotment. The yearly funding estimates available for each of these is shown in the table below. The additional funding is expected to continue for the next five years.

DWTRF Allotment FFY 2022 Funding Estimates

DWSRF Base \$11,400,000

DWSRF Supplemental \$17,900,000

Lead Service Line Replacement \$28,300,000

Emerging Contaminants \$7,500,000

The DWSRF base and supplemental funding have broad project eligibility, including water treatment plant upgrades, distribution and storage upgrades and extensions of existing systems. Projects solely for economic growth, recreational and commercial facilities or projects solely for fire protection are not eligible for DWTRF assistance. Disadvantaged communities will be eligible for a mix of low interest loan and principal forgiveness (no payback) funds.

The Lead Service Line Replacement funding eligibility is limited to lead service line replacement (LSLR), planning and design for LSLR projects and associated activities, including developing lead service line (LSL) inventories. This funding will be available as a mix of low interest loan and principal forgiveness (no payback) funds. The DWSRF program also plans to use this funding to hire a contractor to assist very small water systems (fewer than 1,000 customers) in developing LSL inventories.



The Emerging Contaminants funding eligibility is limited to projects that address emerging contaminants in drinking water, with a preference given to projects that address per-fluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The contaminants listed in the Draft Fifth Contaminant Candidate List (CCL 5) developed by the Environmental Protection Agency are also considered emerging contaminants, and projects to address these will be eligible as well. This funding is available as principal forgiveness (no payback) funds.

The Pipeline Winter 2022

The DWSRF program is currently accepting project applications for the next Intended Use Plan and Project Priority List associated with these funding allotments. The application form can be found online here: <http://www.wvdhhr.org/oehs/eed/iandcd/DWTRF.asp> or requested by email from Stephanie.D.Hickerson@wv.gov. For additional assistance in preparing the DWTRF application you can also contact your local Regional Planning & Development Council. The additional funding is expected to be available in the summer of 2022.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

SJPSD sewer



Southern Jackson County PSD is accepting bids for two different contracts that will improve wastewater facilities for many residents in the county. The first contract includes improvements to the existing Southern Jackson County PSD Wastewater Treatment Plant and the total contract amount is estimated to be \$8,559,000. This will include many needed improvements to the current facility. The second contract is for the Meadowview Mobile Home Park Sewer Service Extension and the total contract amount is estimated to be \$1,909,000. This contract consists of extending sewer service from the Owner's existing collection system to the Meadowview Mobile Home Park and decommissioning the Mobile Home Park's existing treatment lagoons. Bids will be accepted until 1:00 PM on April 1, 2022, at which time submitted bids in accordance with the contract documents will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Ripley Sewer

The City of Ripley is opening bids for the second phase of the Ripley sewer project Wednesday, March 30, 2022 at 2:00 pm. There are two contracts that are included in this bid. The first contract includes a proposed force main from Evans wastewater treatment plant to the plaza pump station estimated to be \$2,258,070. The other contract includes a proposed SBR wastewater treatment plant estimated at \$12,956,500. These projects will enable the City of Ripley to comply with environmental regulations and will eliminate treatment lagoons at both Ripley and Evans.



Spencer Demolition & Spencer Schoolhouse Hill Water System Improvements

The City of Spencer proposes to apply for two Community Development Block Grants in March 2022. Under the category Brownfields/Demolition, the city will request up to \$250,000 to address slum and blight in Spencer on a spot basis by removing approximately six dilapidated residential structures.

Under the Public Infrastructure Category, the city will re-apply for the Schoolhouse Hill Water System Improvements Project as well. The proposed replacement includes about 3,500 linear feet of aged and dilapidated water mains and 5 fire hydrants. The total estimated construction costs are \$1,200,000.

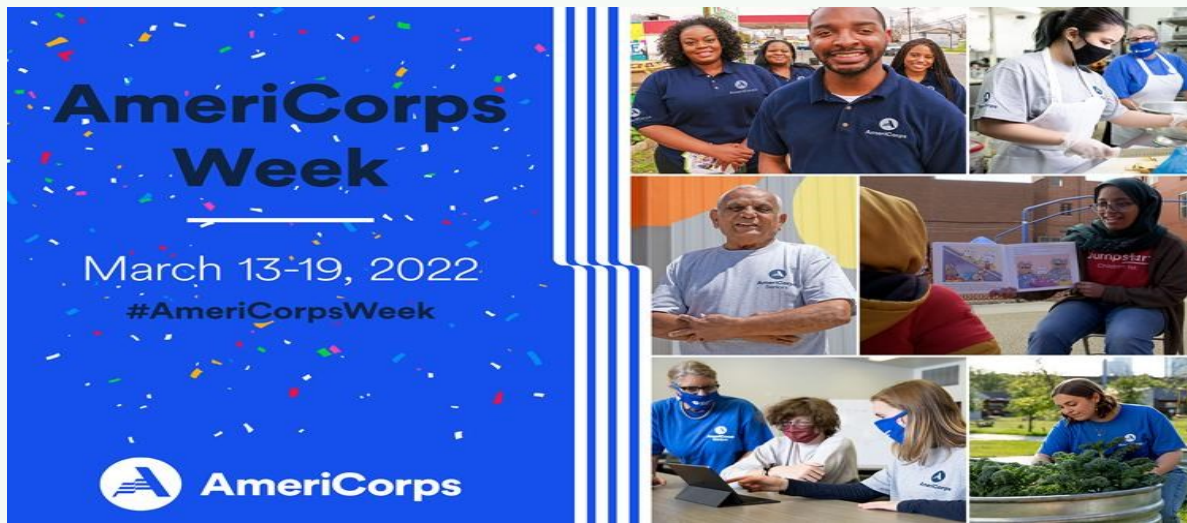
Roane County Commission Walton Sewer

Roane County Commission is applying to a Community Development Block Grant that would benefit one hundred and fifteen residents in the Walton area. The estimated construction costs for this project are \$7,076,300. This project would improve the sewage systems and eliminate current hazardous conditions that are due to current failing septic tanks in the area.

Wood County Commission Hill Street Sewer

The Wood County Commission has applied for a Community Block Development Grant that would benefit citizens of the Mართown area including Hill Avenue and Comer Street. The Parkersburg Utility Board has been asked to serve the project area with public sewer, as it is outside the city limits but too far away from the nearest PSD to be served. The total estimated project cost is \$1,600,000. Construction of the Hill Avenue sewer collection system will include the installation of approximately 5,000 linear feet of 6" and 8" sewer, 31 manholes, and all necessary appurtenances to serve 21 new customers.





During AmeriCorps Week we recognize the commitment of the more than 1.2 million Americans who have chosen to serve their country through AmeriCorps and millions more who have served in AmeriCorps Seniors and their community partners, and to encourage more Americans to follow their footsteps in service.

MOVRC AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparents-There are currently 80 AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers who mentor to children in early childhood programs; tutor students in elementary and high school programs; and tutor students in library programs to achieve improved physical, mental, emotional, and social development thereby helping them to reach social, behavioral, development and education goals. Our Foster Grandparent volunteers are the best in making a difference in the lives of the students they serve and the communities they serve in.

MOVRC AmeriCorps Seniors Senior Companions- There are currently 85 AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers who provide companionship to individuals at-risk of losing their independence by speaking about what has worked for them, talking about coping strategies, and providing empathy; assist with light housekeeping and preparing meals when needed; assist with securing transportation; and provide opportunities for social activities. Our Senior Companion volunteers do a wonderful job in taking care of the whole person and making sure all client needs are met.

MOVRC AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP-There are currently has 331 senior volunteers in our program at 25 designated stations. Our volunteers have continued to



battle COVID closures and cancellations, but we have remained a steady presence in our communities. During AmeriCorps Seniors Week we will continue to distribute food at our 8 busy pantries, provide transportation for local veterans to doctor appointments, check up on our homebound seniors and creating wonderful homemade, or made with love items for daycare centers, hospitals, shelters, and other nonprofit agencies. We are so proud of all our volunteers and their contributions not only during this week of recognition, but every week.

RSVP



Lighthouse Ministries Pantry in Walton, Roane County, WV.

What began as the idea of one young lady over 10 years ago, the food pantry at Lighthouse Ministries in Walton, WV has blossomed into a monthly event which, at its peak, saw over 100 Roane County families served a month. While Lighthouse provides most of the financial and labor resources we have been supported greatly by other churches, local businesses, and schools. Past years have seen us be able to give turkeys and hams for holidays, thousands of pounds of potatoes, paper products and cleaning supplies along with personal care and childcare items. We've incorporated a church service into our food pantry day, where we've seen people saved and baptized. We've even had Roane County High School girls' basketball team and a pastor from Uganda volunteer time helping distribute food bags. Walton Elementary Middle School always has food drives which help support us. While the name may say Lighthouse, our food pantry has truly been a community, county, and even international project.

