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Challenge Award Granted to Four Missouri MRCs

The National Associate of County and City Officials (NACCHO) announced in late 2015 that the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Challenge Award, which is a competitive nationwide grant application process, would be the only NACCHO funding available for MRCs during the current 2015-2016 cycle. The Challenge Award focuses on four areas of public health concern: Chronic Disease Prevention, Community Resilience, Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing, and Partners for Empowered Communities.

Ten Challenge Awards were granted to FEMA Region VII and four of Missouri's MRCs received the Challenge Award.

This edition of *The Call* will spotlight the projects associated with each of the four Missouri MRC Challenge Awards.

St. Francois County Health Center

St. Francois County Health Center has been awarded the 2015-2016 NACCHO Medical Reserve Corps Challenge Award in the amount of \$14,907. Of the award's four focus areas of public health concern, St. Francois County chose to focus on chronic disease prevention.

In the 2015 Missouri county health rankings, St. Francois County ranked 101 out of 114 for overall health outcomes and 90 out of 114 in health factors. St. Francois County has high rates of death from chronic diseases such as heart disease, cancer, stroke and COPD. St. Francois County has a smoking rate of 29%.

The St. Francois County Health Center will lead the development of a chronic disease prevention and health promotion program in cooperation with the St. Francois County Health Coalition and the county's MRC. The Health Center hopes to raise awareness for the importance of health screenings such as lipid and blood sugar screenings and blood pressure checks to increase early detection of chronic diseases including heart disease and diabetes.

An important aspect of the program will be to promote positive behaviors, including physical activity, healthy eating and smoking cessation. The program will provide individuals access to lipid and blood sugar screenings, classes in self-management skills to cope with Chronic Diseases and in Smoking Cessation.

Goals of the program include:

- Increased education and awareness of chronic diseases.
- Increased screenings for chronic diseases.
- Increased awareness of healthy behaviors that reduce risk of chronic disease.
- Enhanced partnerships between SFCHC, volunteers, MRC and local medical providers.

Chariton County Medical Reserve Corp

The 2015-2016 NAACHO Award will assist the Chariton County MRC (CCMRC) to improve the county's mental and emotional health and wellbeing. The CCMRC will partner with area schools, medical and mental health providers to strengthen these efforts.

According to a 2013 Missouri Department of Mental Health report, an alarming 7.1 percent of Chariton County students considered suicide in the past year. The report also states that students in this area have a greater than average rate of cigarette smoking, alcohol consumption and binge drinking, which is linked to higher suicide rates. By working with educators and students in the area, CCMRC has a chance to make an impact on the community. CCMRC will provide workshops on substance abuse, suicide prevention and access to mental health care for students in each of the county's public schools.

Training available to students will reinforce current drug and alcohol prevention efforts in the school. CCMRC will also provide in-service training for school staff. The goal of this training is to empower school staff to feel confident about recognizing signs of mental health crisis and intervening when a problem occurs. CCMRC will work to create a user friendly website to inform the public of mental health resources in the area.

Stone County Community Heroes Medical Reserve Corps

Through a community health assessment recently conducted in Stone County, the community health coalition recognized one of the most significant health concerns in the county is access to healthcare. The coalition is working to identify ways to provide better access to healthcare for members of our community.

The community health assessment identified four primary barriers to accessible healthcare in Stone County including not having a hospital located within the county, geographical isolation, lack of transportation and being underinsured. Fortunately, the county library had just donated the bookmobile to the Stone County Health Department. Thanks to new funding, including the MRC Challenge Award, the SCHD in partnership with the Stone County Public Health Volunteers MRC has converted the vehicle into a mobile medical unit (MMU).

The MMU has established four project goals:

- Increasing access to healthcare by providing traveling MMU services at least once a month to various county regions.
- Increase access to affordable health care services.
- Promote MMU services through quarterly community events and press releases.
- Market MMU services by posting a schedule of dates and locations throughout the county.

Stone County Public Health Volunteers MRC and the SCHD will use the \$15,000 award to retrofit the vehicle so it can effectively provide basic clinical services. In addition, the NACCHO Challenge Award will be used to supplement 50 percent of a nurse practitioner's salary. The nurse practitioner will serve on the vehicle 16 hours per month and expand the MMU's clinical service capabilities.

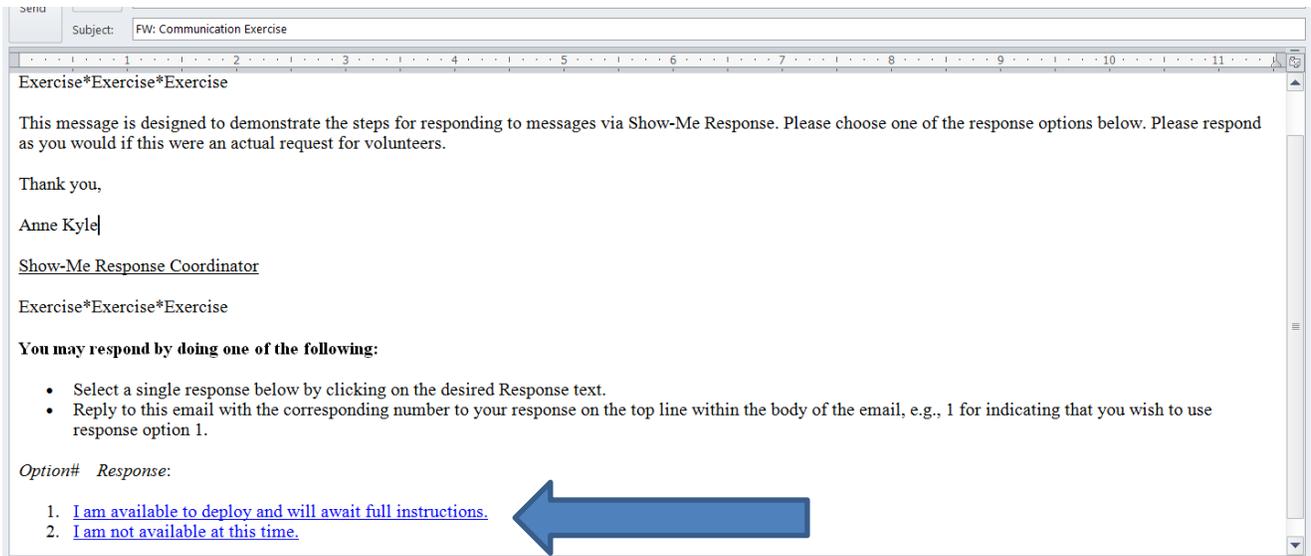
Medical Reserve Corp of Greater Kansas City

The Medical Reserve Corps of Greater Kansas City (MRCKC) will use the NACCHO Challenge Award to fund a program initiative focusing on the support of emotional, mental and spiritual wellbeing of families involved in a mass fatality incident. This initiative will form a partnership between the MRCKC, KCRMORG (the city's mortuary response team), and Children's Mercy Hospital (CMH).

The initiative includes administrative support related to volunteers active with the KCRMORG, assisting the KCRMORG with updating the current victim information center plan, and recruiting chaplains and behavioral health professionals to provide spiritual and emotional support to those affected by a mass fatality incident, especially those seeking assistance in the victim information center.

Upcoming Communication Drills

The *Show-Me Response* team will conduct communication drills during July and August. Please add the *Show-Me Response* phone number to your phone's contact list. The number is **866-988-3678**. All calls and text messages from *Show-Me Response* will come from this number. Email messages will also be sent. The first communication drill is a part of the email message associated with this edition of *The Call*. A response option was included with this email. Please take a moment to include your response by clicking on the link of your choice, as shown in the example below.



The 2016 National Mass Care Exercise Comes to Missouri

During the week of August 22 Missouri will be engaged in a National Mass Care Exercise. This event, called *Show-Me Mass Care*, is designed to test Missouri's plans for mass evacuation and sheltering based on a catastrophic earthquake in the New Madrid Seismic Zone. Evacuation sites will be rehearsed at a variety of locations along the proposed evacuation routes and two complex shelters will be set up, one in Independence and one in the Springfield area. Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) units representing local, regional and statewide jurisdictions will be active in this exercise which will include table-top and full-scale play. *Show-Me Response* volunteers may expect to be contacted via email, voice and/or text message as a part of this exercise. All calls and texts from *Show-Me Response* come from the same phone number.

Please take a few moments to add this number to your contacts list so that you will recognize communication from *Show-Me Response*. The number is 866-988-3678. Volunteers who are affiliated with a local organization such as the Medical Reserve Corps, local public health agencies or other *Show-Me Response* organizations may be called upon as boots-on-the-ground volunteers for this exercise.

Volunteers in Missouri's robust pool of unaffiliated *Show-Me Response* volunteers will be contacted for communication purposes. Unaffiliated volunteers will not be requested for boots-on-the-ground participation. Not sure about your own affiliation? Log in to *Show-Me Response* and check the **Organizations** tab in your profile.

The Call is produced by the Missouri State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA).

If you have information you would like to share with the readership, contact Anne Kyle via email to Anne.Kyle@sema.dps.mo.gov.

Show-Me Response is Missouri's Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP) and is used by Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), Local Public Health Agencies (LPHAs) and other partners for the management of volunteers.

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