

Glenda Wiles

From: MACO <MACO@mtcounties.org>
Sent: Monday, December 9, 2013 5:05 PM
To: MACO
Subject: URGENT - FFY 2013 SRS/FFR - Title I, Title II and Title III election letters and solicitation for quick responses from Counties.
Attachments: MT FFR_SRS Elections_Allocations December 2013 FFY13 E-MAILVersion.pdf
Importance: High

URGENT – IMMEDIATE RESPONSE NEEDED – SEE MESSAGE BELOW ABOUT SRS PAYMENTS

From: Franklin, Ralph [<mailto:RFranklin@mt.gov>]
Sent: Monday, December 09, 2013 4:42 PM
To: Harold Blattie
Subject: FFY 2013 SRS/FFR - Title I, Title II and Title III election letters and solicitation for quick responses from Counties.
Importance: High

Harold:

The following packet is going out in today's USPS pickup. Most county's should see it in Wednesday's mail (some even tomorrow).

Can MACo send it out through its electronic distribution?

The letter asks for the responses by December 20th – We apologize for the quick turnaround, especially during Holiday Season. We got it Friday a week ago and were waiting on responses from USDA about how they would implement any sequester retention. When I called USDA I spoke with Ms. L. LaRay Olson the financial analyst responsible for processing the payments directly, Friday.

Other than the reauthorization for FFY 2013, the Forest Service has adjusted the deadlines for Title II and Title III projects, setting the eligible project start dates and funding obligation dates to September 30, 2014. That Should give the Counties a bit more practical flexibility.

It is the Forest Service's intent to issue payment in early February. USDA should know by then if sequester retentions will be needed, if so they would be deducted from the payments before transmittal to the State. The allocation thresholds (\$100,000, \$350,00) however need to be made on the fully funded payment estimates.

Reading between the lines -- that date will push payment past the current January 15, 2014 federal budget deadlines so I think we'll know if there will be sequestered amounts. Final payments will re-calculated in January (once they know who opted into SRS, and possibility include November 2013 per capita income numbers) .

We will need the forms back – scanned electronic copies are preferred – by the 20th I'll compile them and make sure there are all good. The Governor's office has to submit the list of all the county elections by December 31st, 2013. I am a bit concerned that if we have issues with elections it is going to be difficult to re-consult with Counties. To help mitigate that I'll probably start calling around on December 17th (I'll be out of the office the 12th through the 16th).

Thanks for MACo's support in getting the word out,

Regards,

Ralph

Ralph Franklin

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