



PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **CARES Act Funding Available for HBPW Utility Customers in Ralls County**

October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020— Safe, reliable utilities are vital to protect public health and safety. Sanitation and hygiene are critical for citizens to protect themselves, their families, and their businesses against COVID-19, making access to clean, hot, water essential. Ralls County Commissioners have allocated \$4,000 of CARES Act Funds to HBPW to provide economic support through a utility assistance program to its Ralls County customers. Effective immediately, any HBPW residential or commercial customer having trouble paying their utility bill due to impacts from COVID-19 are encouraged to apply for assistance.

Eligibility for the program: customers receiving funding must live in (or business be located in) Ralls County, and have utility arrears dating no further back than March 1, 2020. Any residential or commercial customer that is having trouble paying their utility bills due to impacts from COVID-19 are encouraged to apply for assistance.

This program is unlike traditional income driven utility assistance programs; it is designed not to neglect citizens and businesses that are unable to receive other types of assistance from agencies with income restrictions. Funds will be distributed in the same order as applications are approved to customers who show they have been adversely impacted financially, due to COVID-19. Eligible customers can receive up to two payments on their account from the program through December 2020, or until all funds have been dispersed.

We are thankful to the Ralls County Commissioners for the opportunity to offer this assistance to our Ralls County customers. General Manager, Ken Reasoner states, “Economic hardships caused from the pandemic spreads beyond political boundaries, and the HBPW’s goal is to aid both Marion and Ralls County customers to the best of our abilities. We are looking forward to helping our Ralls County customers in the same capacity that we were able to help Marion County customers through the utilization of CARES Act funding.”

If you have been impacted by COVID-19 and need help paying your utility bills, contact HBPW directly at 573-221-8050.

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