

HIGHLIGHTS OF EAST MISSOURI ACTION AGENCY, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MONDAY, March 23rd, 2026

NOTE: The regularly scheduled meeting of the East Missouri Action Agency Board of Directors was held March 23rd, 2026 at 903 E. Chestnut, Desloge, Missouri and via zoom.

The dinner began at approximately 6:40 p.m. and the Board was called to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. A quorum was present at the Board meeting. The following highlights of actions taken by the EMAA Board of Directors during this meeting.

1. **Review of Agenda:** Approved as presented.
2. **Review and Approval of Minutes:** The Board reviewed and approved the February 23rd, 2026 Regular meeting minutes. A motion and a second was heard to approve the February 23rd, 2026 Regular meeting minutes. The motion carried.
3. **Executive Director Report:** A verbal overview of the written report was provided from the Board briefing book.
4. **Information Items:** Members reviewed the following:
 - A. Head Start Enrollment- Screenings- CACFP-Attendance February 2026
 - B. Head Start Annual Report 2025
 - C. Head Start Winter 2025 Aggregation
 - D. Agency Bylaws
5. **Consent Calendar Items:**
 - A. **Proposed Application for Renewal of the Summer Food Service Program in St. Francois and Washington Counties:** For the past 25 years, East Missouri Action Agency (EMAA) has operated the Summer Food Service Program. Funding for this program is provided through the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services and the USDA. Meals are prepared in a Head Start Center kitchen and distributed to children at five sites throughout St. Francois County. The program continues to be managed by the CS staff team and will provide services in St Francois and Washington Counties.
 - B. **Proposal Approval for Women's Wellness Centers Title X Grant Submission:** We are seeking board approval for the submission of a Title X grant to support Women's Wellness Centers. This grant is crucial for providing reproductive health services to uninsured and underinsured clients, as it is the only federal grant that caters to this demographic. Women's Wellness Centers play a pivotal role in ensuring that all women have access to essential reproductive health services.
 - C. **Proposed Application for Renewal of Shelter Operations Support (SOS).** For the last several years, EMAA has been awarded funds through the Missouri Housing Development Commissions - Shelter Operations Support program which helps fund the Uplift Shelter Day and Winter Overnight Managers salary, and putting clients on the Coordinated Entry list.

- D. Proposed Application for Renewal of Housing Emergency Solutions Program - (HESP) formally known as the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG). Since 2020 EMAA has been awarded funds through the Missouri Housing Development Commissions - Housing Emergency Solutions program which helps fund the Uplift Shelter Day and Winter Overnight shelter salaries and street outreach. It also supports Street Outreach in the other 7 counties EMAA serves.

A motion to approve Consent Calendar Items A, B, C and D was made and a second was heard. The motion carried.

6. Action on Committee Reports: as follows

A. Personnel / Equal Opportunity Committee:

1. Personnel Action Reports – February 2026. Informational purposes only.
2. Proposed Approval to Seat the Public Sector Board Member for Bollinger County- It is incumbent on the County Commissioner to fill the Public Sector seat for their respective counties. The presiding Bollinger County Commissioner, has submitted is certification form to be re-seated as the Public Sector Representative for Bollinger County. A motion to re-seat the Public Sector Representative for Bollinger County was made and a second was heard. The motion carried.
3. Proposed Removal of the Low Income Representative for Cape Girardeau County – The Executive Director recommends the Board of Directors remove the low-income representative for Cape Girardeau County due to employee relationship. A motion to approve removing the low-income representative was made and a second was heard. The motion carried.
4. Proposed Approval of a Personnel Policy Change – Sick Leave > Wellness Leave. The Executive Director and the Human Resource Coordinator recommend the proposed changes to the EMAA Personnel Policy regarding sick leave changing to Wellness leave effective October 1st, 2026. A motion to approve the personnel policy changes was made and a second was heard. The motion carried.

B. Finance Committee:

1. Travel Report – February 2026. This was for informational purposes only.
2. Agency Credit Card Statements – February 2026. Informational purposes only
3. Financial Reports – The January 31st, 2026 Financial Reports were reviewed. A motion to approve the Financial Statements was made and a second was heard. The motion carried.

C. Program Committee:

1. Proposed Approval for Application Submission for United Way of SFC Grant- Sr Center The Executive Director and the Senior Center Program Director recommend the Board of Directors approve the application submission for United Way of SFC Grant. A motion to approve the application submission for United Way of SFC Grant was made and a second was heard. The motion carried.

2. Proposed Approval for Head Start Eligibility Priority Criteria/Data Entry – The Executive Director and Head Start Director recommends the Board of Directors approve the proposed Head Start Eligibility Priority Criteria/Data Entry as presented. A motion to approve the proposed Head Start Eligibility Priority Criteria/Data Entry was made and a second was heard. The motion carried.
3. Proposed Approval to Apply for Affordable Housing Project Funding through FHLB of Des Moines-The Executive Director and the agency CFO recommend that the board approve applying for the Affordable Housing Project Funds through the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines. A motion to approve the application for the Affordable Housing Project Funds through the FHLB was made and a second was heard. The motion carried.
4. Proposed Approval to Apply for the Lowe’s Community Impact Grant- The Executive Director, Community Services Program Director and the Farmington Senior Center Director recommend the Board of Directors approve the application for the Lowe’s Community Impact Grant. A motion to approve the application for the Lowe’s Community Impact Grant was made and a second was heard. The motion carried.
7. **Report by Sarah Thurman, Board Liaison to Head Start/Early Head Start Policy Council:**
There was no meeting in the month of March.
8. **Old Business:**
 - A. Calendar of Future Board of Directors Decisions for 2026
 - B. Schedule of Future Board Meetings for 2026 and 2027
9. **New Business:** Bylaw distribution forms were collected from those board members that were present. The Board members that were present attended ERSEA training.
10. **Open Meeting – Comments:**

A discussion took place to inquire about a possible doctor occupying the Women’s Wellness facility during the days it is closed to clients. The board decided it would like more research to be done then report the findings back to them.

HOPE will be hosting a Murder Mystery event in April. A flyer to be sent to all board members. Board Members received the agency Annual Report.
11. **Notice of Closed Session:**
12. **Report from closed meeting:**
13. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned approximately 8:35 pm.

NOTE: A full copy of the Board of Directors meeting minutes are available upon request Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Contact Debbie Myers, Executive Secretary, at 573.431.5191 ext. 1142 or via e-mail at dmyers@eastmoaa.org