For immediate release

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MRHD Covid-19 Relief Grant online application process to open July 27

SIOUX CITY, Iowa (July 24, 2020) - Missouri River Historical Development, Inc. (MRHD) will open the online application process for organizations to request grants to help them respond to emergencies created by the new coronavirus pandemic on July 27. Grant funds must be used to provide direct relief &/or services to individuals impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Woodbury County-based, non-profit groups and government entities are invited to apply. The maximum individual relief grant is $25,000.

A total of $150,000 in awards will be announced on October 22. The public will be notified of the presentation details at a later date.

Application forms may be requested at www.mrhdiowa.org by submitting proof of nonprofit status only between July 27 through August 24. Telephone and postal service requests will not be accepted. Completed grant application forms will be due by 5:00 p.m. September 8.

Requests for grant application forms require submission of a copy of their 501(c)3 determination letter from the IRS. Government entities must submit a letter from their chief operating officer, indicating the entity has board approval to request grant applications and to receive grants.

Organizations that received grants in the traditional Spring/Fall grant cycle within the last 12 months are eligible to apply for these emergency grants. Recipient organizations that have not completed a project funded by a MRHD Grant before 2019 are ineligible unless they submit their report documents.
MRHD’s Emergency Relief Grants program was conceived, is conducted and administered by MRHD exclusively under present policy guidelines as voted by the MRHD Board of Directors. Once MRHD Officers have declared an emergency, present policy calls for grants to be awarded to Woodbury, Plymouth, Ida, Cherokee, Crawford or Monona County-based non-profits and government entities. Counties outside of Woodbury must show how their project will benefit residents of Woodbury County. A panel collects and reviews grant applications. The Grant Committee then presents recommendations to the full MRHD Board for final approval.

A non-profit organization, MRHD has the license to conduct gaming in Woodbury County. Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Sioux City has the license to operate gaming in Woodbury County.

Since 1994, the amount that MRHD has distributed and pledged adds up to almost $40 million. Grants have helped fund programs and services throughout Woodbury County in the areas of: Economic Development, Community Improvement and Tourism; Human Services and Health Services; Civic, Public, Patriotic, Charitable & Religious; Leisure, Cultural and Historical; and Education.

MRHD built the Sioux City Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center in 2002 at a cost of $4 million. MRHD also built the adjoining Betty Strong Encounter Center in 2007 at a cost of $3.6 million. MRHD has sustained the Center since 2002.

MRHD was formed in 1989 when Woodbury County voters approved a referendum that sanctioned riverboat gaming. A second referendum passed by 75 percent in 2002. The third referendum passed by 77 percent in 2010.