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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RPU receives an additional \$250,000 in Federal Coronavirus Relief Funds to help small business customers with utility bills

ROCHESTER, MN – Rochester Public Utilities (RPU) announced today that an additional \$250,000 in funding from the Federal Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) allocated to the city of Rochester, is available to go towards helping local small business customers pay their utility bills.

The CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act enacted on March 27, 2020, has appropriated \$150 billion to the CRF, which can be used towards paying customer utility bills that incurred during the period of March 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. Rochester has already received over \$8.8 million CRF dollars from the State.

The initial launch date for this program was August 4, 2020 and was a plan approved by the Rochester City Council to work with qualifying small business customers to utilize \$500,000 for utility bill payments.

In addition to providing assistance to locally owned small businesses, the program also has designated funding for women, minority, and veteran owned local businesses (WMBE).

“We are excited to be able to offer an additional \$250,000 to help local small businesses with their utility bills. To date RPU has been able to assist 363 business locations that were impacted by the pandemic. We continue to strongly encourage all RPU small business customers that meet the criteria for application to apply for assistance,” said Krista Boston, RPU Director of Customer Relations.

Applications must be submitted for approval by October 16, 2020.

Full program details, applications, and eligibility requirements can be found on the RPU website at www.rpu.org.

About Rochester Public Utilities

As the municipal utility of Rochester, Minn., for more than 110 years, RPU provides high-quality and reliable electricity to over 50,000 customers. Water customers number more than 40,000. RPU continually investigates innovative technologies to help customers realize the best value from the services they receive. Current initiatives include fuel cell research, wind power, and photovoltaic offerings.

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