**Missouri Local Public Health Agency**

**Core Requirements for Mutual Aid Agreements for Enhancement of Environmental Health Services Coverage**

In order to function effectively mutual aid agreements for the enhancement of environmental health services coverage must provide the following essential elements:

* Clearly outline the purpose and scope of the agreement and of the extent and type of environmental health services that will be provided.
* Describe the benefits to all parties of entering into the mutual aid agreement and of the challenges (i.e. staffing shortages or availability) that can be overcome through mutual aid.
* Delineate which local authorities have standing to enter into the agreement.
* Provide definitions of key terms to assure common understanding of critical concepts.
* Describe the governance structure, transference of authorities, and operational oversight under which the environmental health services will be provided.
* Clearly outline the required qualifications and training of the EHS staff that will be participating in the agreement and providing services.
* Provide for activation protocols, timeframes, communications, and notifications to DHSS that the mutual aid has gone into effect.
* Provide protocols for termination and severability of the agreement.
* Describe and have resolution for lability, indemnification, insurance, and worker’s compensation concerns.
* Address reimbursement issues related to personnel pay, transportation, equipment and supplies.
* Provide protocols for dispute resolution.