

LINC Commission Meeting

May 17, 2021



Students in the KCPS are back in school and also back to music, science and dance in LINC before and after school programs.

(Above) A student at Garfield Elementary practices the violin with an instructor from Harmony Project KC.



A student at Troost Elementary helps with a Mad Science experiment.



Students at African Centered College Preparatory Academy start the day with dance.



Local Investment Commission (LINC) Vision

Our Shared Vision

A caring community that builds on its strengths to provide meaningful opportunities for children, families and individuals to achieve self-sufficiency, attain their highest potential, and contribute to the public good.

Our Mission

To provide leadership and influence to engage the Kansas City Community in creating the best service delivery system to support and strengthen children, families and individuals, holding that system accountable, and changing public attitudes towards the system.

Our Guiding Principles

1. **COMPREHENSIVENESS:** Provide ready access to a full array of effective services.
2. **PREVENTION:** Emphasize “front-end” services that enhance development and prevent problems, rather than “back-end” crisis intervention.
3. **OUTCOMES:** Measure system performance by improved outcomes for children and families, not simply by the number and kind of services delivered.
4. **INTENSITY:** Offering services to the needed degree and in the appropriate time.
5. **PARTICIPANT INVOLVEMENT:** Use the needs, concerns, and opinions of individuals who use the service delivery system to drive improvements in the operation of the system.
6. **NEIGHBORHOODS:** Decentralize services to the places where people live, wherever appropriate, and utilize services to strengthen neighborhood capacity.
7. **FLEXIBILITY AND RESPONSIVENESS:** Create a delivery system, including programs and reimbursement mechanisms, that are sufficiently flexible and adaptable to respond to the full spectrum of child, family and individual needs.
8. **COLLABORATION:** Connect public, private and community resources to create an integrated service delivery system.
9. **STRONG FAMILIES:** Work to strengthen families, especially the capacity of parents to support and nurture the development of their children.
10. **RESPECT AND DIGNITY:** Treat families, and the staff who work with them, in a respectful and dignified manner.
11. **INTERDEPENDENCE/MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITY:** Balance the need for individuals to be accountable and responsible with the obligation of community to enhance the welfare of all citizens.
12. **CULTURAL COMPETENCY:** Demonstrate the belief that diversity in the historical, cultural, religious and spiritual values of different groups is a source of great strength.
13. **CREATIVITY:** Encourage and allow participants and staff to think and act innovatively, to take risks, and to learn from their experiences and mistakes.
14. **COMPASSION:** Display an unconditional regard and a caring, non-judgmental attitude toward, participants that recognizes their strengths and empowers them to meet their own needs.
15. **HONESTY:** Encourage and allow honesty among all people in the system.



**Monday, May 17, 2021 | 4 – 5:30 pm
Online Meeting**

Agenda

- I. Welcome and Announcements**
- II. Approvals**
 - a. April 2021 minutes (motion)**
- III. Superintendent Reports**
- IV. LINC Funding Update**
- V. COVID-19 Update**
- VI. Summer Food**
- VII. Caring Communities**
 - a. In person**
 - b. Summer School**
- VIII. Other**
- IX. Adjournment**



THE LOCAL INVESTMENT COMMISSION – APRIL 19, 2021

The Local Investment Commission met via Zoom. Cochair **Jack Craft** presided. Commissioners attending were:

Bob Bartman
Bert Berkley
Aaron Deacon
David Disney
Mark Flaherty
Rob Givens

Anita Gorman
Tom Lewin
Ken Powell
Marge Randle
David Ross
Marj Williams

Craft welcomed everyone to the meeting.

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2021, LINC Commission meeting was approved unanimously.

Superintendents Reports

- **Terry Ward**, Board Member (North Kansas City School District), reported students of all grades are back to in-person school full time for the fourth quarter. District is getting ready for prom and graduation. Eighty-one percent of staff are vaccinated. Enrollment for next year's career path program is starting. The new early childhood center is now open and expecting 900 children enrolled in fall. District is monitoring a pre-K funding increase now before the legislature.
- **Steve Morgan**, Assistant Superintendent (Fort Osage School District), reported the Missouri Department of Higher Education & Workforce Development awarded Fort Osage and Missouri College Advising Corps Advisor Ashley Ginger with the 2020 American College Application Campaign School of Excellence Award for increasing the number of students applying for college. Voters approved both the \$20 million bond issue and the \$13 million levy transfer that were on the April ballot. Last week 330 staff were vaccinated; district Covid dashboard shows positive cases have gone down. Graduation will be held May 21 at Sporting KC.
- **Brad Smith**, Program Coordinator (Education Policy Fellowship Program), reported EPFP coordinators have had national meetings on equity and policy. The current cohort of Missouri-Kansas EPFP fellows has two months left in the program. This week the digital editor of the Los Angeles Times will present on the role of media in education policy.
- **Yaw Obeng**, Superintendent (Hickman Mills School District), reported all district teachers and staff who wanted to have now been vaccinated. The district partnered with Kansas City Health Department to hold a vaccination clinic at Smith-Hale Middle School. As of April all grades returned to in-person school, although some students have chosen to remain virtual. The district is developing various strategies for summer learning and is preparing for graduation.
- **Christina Medina**, Director of Public Relations (Center School District), reported the district administration will recommend to the school board that the school year begin 100% in person next fall, with some online options. The district is planning summer school for recommended students and summer enrichment options for other students. The new Indian Creek Elementary building is scheduled to open in fall; an open house will be held on May 1. Graduation will be held at Starlight Theater on May 24. The Kauffman Foundation has extended the Real World Learning grant another year.

Jack Craft reported the LINC Executive Committee has recommended that **David Disney** and **Ken Powell** be appointed board cochairs and that **Bob Bartman** be appointed board Commissioner.

A motion to approve the appointment of Ken Powell as Commission Cochair was passed by unanimous vote.

A motion to approve the appointment of David Disney as Commission Cochair was passed by unanimous vote.

Powell and Disney thanked the board. Craft reported he will retain his position as a Commissioner after stepping down as Cochair.

A motion to approve the appointment of Bob Bartman as Commissioner was passed by unanimous vote.

Bartman thanked the board. Craft nominated Bartman for appointment the Missouri Family and Community Trust board, where he would succeed **Bailus Tate**.

A motion to approve the appointment of Bob Bartman to the FACT board was passed by unanimous vote.

LINC President **Gayle A. Hobbs** reported LINC will be seeking to expand the Executive Committee and appoint new Vice Chairs.

LINC Deputy Director **Brent Schondelmeyer** reported **Janet Miles-Bartee** has been promoted Executive Vice President of LINC. Miles-Bartee reported she was grateful for the opportunity and the confidence placed in her.

Miles-Bartee reported LINC Caring Communities site coordinators have been working hard to make possible the return of students to in-person programs; all students will be back in chairs by May 15. LINC is working with district partners to support summer school with Before & After School programs and other activities.

Miles-Bartee reported the vaccination clinic at Morning Star Youth and Family Life Center serves people who would otherwise not be able to get vaccinated. U.S. Sen. **Roy Blunt** recently visited the clinic. A video of the visit was shown. Caring Communities Supervisor **Jeff Hill** reported staff at the clinic are reaching out to people at the bus stop at 27th and Prospect, getting them vaccinated and asking them to spread the word.

Schondelmeyer reported **Gayle Hobbs**, **Robin Gierer**, and **Bob Bartman** left today's meeting early to meet with the Commissioner of Education regarding Caring Communities funding. LINC is requesting that \$5.3 million of LINC funding that is proposed to be moved to the Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education instead be retained by the Dept. of Social Services; this would allow LINC to continue its community work beyond Out of School Time activities. LINC has been aided in its efforts by several people including **Matt Haase** of U.S. Sen. **Roy Blunt's** office, **Matt Rooney** of former U.S. Sen. **Kit Bond's** office, Missouri Board of Education President **Charlie Shields**, Department of Social Services Director **Jennifer Tidball**, Mo. Sen. **Barbara Washington**, Missouri Senate Appropriations Committee ranking minority member **Lauren Arthur**, and former Mo. Sen. **Kiki Curls**.

The meeting was adjourned.

Local Investment Commission selects new leaders

Ken Powell and David Disney are the new co-chairs of the Local Investment Commission (LINC)—a major Kansas City, Missouri, non-profit serving children, families, and neighborhoods in Jackson, Clay, and Platte counties.

Powell and Disney have had distinguished careers in government and business.

The new co-chairs take over leadership from Jack Craft, who will remain on the board and served as co-chair with Bailus Tate Jr., who died in 2020.

Powell retired in 2016 as Regional Commissioner for the Social Security Administration’s Kansas City Region following a 40-year career with the federal agency.



Disney, an engineer, retired this year as a Senior Vice President for JE Dunn as head of Public Affairs and Community Development for the construction company—a major regional employer.

The co-chair appointments were approved at the April 19, 2021, LINC Commission meeting.

The LINC board also approved Dr. Bob Bartman as a new LINC Commissioner. Bartman is former superintendent of the Center School District. Prior to that he served 13 years as Missouri Commissioner of Education.



LINC is involved in broad social services initiatives including workforce development, employment, and family engagement and provides important services to children and families through its Caring Communities initiative.

LINC’s services are provided in Jackson, Cass, Clay, Platte and Ray counties but also include a statewide virtual school for court-involved young people.

The Caring Communities initiative includes social services and supports to children and families through food distributions, utility assistance, and household access to distance learning and technology assistance in addition to after-school programs.

LINC was created in 1992 by Bert Berkley, a Kansas City business along with civic and community leaders Adele Hall, Rosemary Smith Lowe, Herman Johnson and Landon Rowland, who was LINC chair for several years.

Reunited! The whole family is back for LINC's KCPS programs (and it feels so good)

May 10, 2021

Joe Robertson/LINC Writer



“Look out! Scoot back!”

After 14 months of separation and digital screens, enrapt LINC children were creeping in too close for a very real, very in-person moment preparing to launch in the Troost Elementary School gym.

Some 20 sets of eyes, peering over as many face masks, watched as the visiting Mad Science teacher “Cosmic Casye,” on her knees, a lighter in her hand, set up a blue bottle rocket on wheels that was corked with some volatile gas.

The whizzing *pop* wasn't really that huge, but the children jumped — even started to run away — as if the bottle zipping across the floor were a NASA fireball.

Then the squeals turned into laughter. Children looked delightedly into the faces of all their friends in a spontaneous glow. Everyone together. Finally. No more classrooms split by A days and B days.

At the start of May, as Covid cases fell and vaccinations rose, Kansas City Public Schools determined it was safe enough to open classrooms for all children at the same time after holding split classes since March. And the district also opened the doors again for LINC's visiting programs like Mad Science, Urban TEC, Kansas City Young Audiences and Harmony KC.

“We are all one big happy family today,” said Augustus Zuo, LINC’s Caring Communities Coordinator at Troost.

The laughter is contagious. Zuo saw it in the students, in the parents when they dropped their children off and picked them up, and the staff.

“I like being around my friends,” Troost Fifth Grader Aniya said, “because I missed them.”

This is what being back together means.

It means the raucous morning chants at LINC’s program at the African-Centered College Preparatory Academy regained their full voice.

“Learning Center, how are you feeling?!” LINC staff Shirley Scott sang out to the rows of children in AC-CPA’s gym. Their answer, in rhythmic chorus and a flurry of stomps, claps and fist pumps, spoke universally across the spring morning after Covid’s long winter.

“FAN-TAS-TIC! . . . TER-RI-FIC! . . . ALL DAY LONG WHOOP! WHOOP!”

“Our parents came in and we were so excited, we had the high-fives, the bumps, the hellos,” said LINC’s AC-CPA Caring Communities Coordinator Brenda Newsome. “Everybody was missing the hugs.”

Covid safety protocols remain in place, she said. Everyone’s temperature is checked, hands washed, masks worn (and LINC provides masks for children who leave theirs at home).

“We spread out and keep them distanced,” Newsome said, “which is hard (because) they’re so excited to see their friends.”

The contact that students, district teachers, LINC staff and families created during the pandemic’s separation was important. It kept up critical relationships.

But even though students may have been seeing each other on screens, said Border Star Montessori Sixth Grader Aniyah, the May reunions still brought “the excitement of seeing your friend you haven’t seen all year.”

Aniyah and fifth grader Phillip Jackson were among the students in a LINC classroom using the occasion of being together to collectively work on “The Pact” — a covenant of agreements like “Respect each other and yourself,” “One voice at a time,” “No messin’ around,” and “Don’t yell unless allowed to . . .”

“It’s just a good community,” Phillip said about the LINC experience. “They take care of us.”

These are exciting times for LINC staff as well, said Shelley Taylor-Doran, the Border Star Caring Communities Coordinator. “It’s a beautiful thing,” she said, “planning things for the kids.”



A Mad Science bottle rocket launch startles the students at Troost Elementary.



Border Star Montessori students take a dinner break at plastic-shielded desks.

And being “in-person,” added Phillip, “brings stuff to life.”

At Garfield Elementary School during the middle of the week, LINC hosted both Mad Science and the Northeast Kansas City Harmony Project, which teaches children to play the violin in its mission to connect them to the power of music.

“Kids love the hands-on activities,” said LINC Caring Communities Coordinator Deanna Snider. “They love the interaction.”

This all is so much better, said Garfield schoolmates Abdiel, 11, and Alexander, 9.

No more of getting only two days a week together in school. No more separation from half of your friends. “There are more people,” Abdiel said, “and we get to do more projects and stuff.”

They send us off, speaking in unison with a bilingual, Spanish and English parting:

“Todos estamos aqui teniendo divertido . . . everybody is back at LINC and it’s so much fun.”



LINC staff start the day with language flash cards at ACC Prep.



Garfield students learn to play the violin with Harmony KC



Troost students are reminded how to create safe space.

USDA to Provide Critical Nutrition Assistance to 30M+ Kids Over the Summer

Builds on Proven Solution to Combat Child Food Insecurity

Release & Contact Info

Press Release

Release No. 0085.21

Contact: USDA Press

Email: press@usda.gov

WASHINGTON, April 26, 2021 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced a new effort funded by the American Rescue Plan to provide adequate nutrition to more than 30 million children over the summer by expanding Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) benefits. Summer months are difficult for low-income children because they lack access to school meals that fill a nutrition gap during the school year. When school is out of session, summer feeding programs—considered a lifeline for some families—reach just a small fraction, typically less than 20%, of the number served during the school year. This summer, USDA will offer P-EBT benefits to all low-income children of all ages, helping families put food on the table during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The expansion of P-EBT benefits over the summer is a first-of-its-kind, game-changing intervention to reduce child hunger in the United States,” said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. “By providing low-income families with a simple benefit over the summer months, USDA is using an evidenced-based solution to drive down hunger and ensure no child has to miss a meal.”

P-EBT was established in March 2020 to provide food dollars to families to make up for meals missed when schools have closed due to COVID-19. The program was set to expire on September 30, 2021, but through the American Rescue Plan Act, benefits are now available for the duration of the pandemic, including during the summer months.

P-EBT builds on lessons learned from USDA’s [Summer EBT pilots](#), which began in 2011 and have proven successful at reducing severe food insecurity as well as improving the quality of children’s diets. Recent research by the Brookings Institute confirms P-EBT also has a measurable impact on food insecurity, decreasing food hardship faced by low-income children by 30% in the week following benefit issuance.

Children are eligible for this temporary nutrition benefit – loaded onto an EBT card that can then be used to purchase food – if they are eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals during the school year or if they are under age six and live in a SNAP household. Families of eligible children typically receive \$6.82 per child, per weekday, or roughly \$375 per child over the summer months.

“Help is here for financially stressed families trying to put food on the table,” said Stacy Dean, deputy undersecretary for USDA’s Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services. “Our nutrition assistance programs are powerful tools that are critical to America reaching a full and equitable recovery from the pandemic.”

For more on the estimated impact of this effort broken down by state, visit www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/usda-p-ebt-summer-2021.pdf (PDF, 105 KB).

Some 29 million adults and as many as 12 million children haven’t always had enough to eat throughout this pandemic. Further, food insecurity has disproportionate impacts on communities of color, with more than 1 in 5 Black and Latino adults living in food insecure households compared to 1 in 9 adults overall. However, recent data from the Census Bureau shows food insecurity among adults has fallen from 14 percent to 9 percent from December 2020 to April 2021.

The announcement today comes in addition to a variety of actions taken recently by USDA to strengthen food security, drive down hunger, and put a greater emphasis on the importance of nutrition. Just recently, USDA maximized economic relief for struggling families by taking administrative action on SNAP emergency allotments by targeting an additional \$1 billion per month to roughly 25 million people. The Biden-Harris Administration’s American Rescue Plan Act provides over \$12 billion in new nutrition assistance to address hardship caused by the pandemic, including:

- Extending a 15 percent increase in SNAP benefits— providing over \$1.1 billion per month in additional benefits for about 41 million participants—through September 2021;
- Adding \$1.1 billion in new funding for territories that operate nutrition assistance block grants—home to nearly 3 million Americans—to support those hard-hit by the pandemic;
- To help reopen schools safely in the fall and address child food insecurity, USDA issued a broad range of flexibilities that will allow schools and childcare institutions to serve healthy meals for free to all kids in the 2021-2022 school year;
- Funding meals for young adults experiencing homelessness through Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) emergency shelters;
- Providing nearly \$900 million for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), including a temporary increase in fruit and vegetable vouchers to \$35 per month and an historic investment in innovation and outreach to better serve more than 6.2 million people that use WIC to support a healthy start for infants and young children.

For more information about P-EBT, please visit the [P-EBT website](#).

USDA Moves To Feed Millions Of Children Over The Summer

April 26, 2021 3:30 PM ET

MARY LOUISE KELLY, HOST:

Nearly 1 in 4 kids in this country experiences hunger on a pretty regular basis. And during the pandemic, as many as 12 million children have not always had enough to eat. Last year, the Department of Agriculture introduced a universal free school lunch program to try to combat that increased food insecurity. And today the department is announcing an expanded benefit, one aimed at making sure kids have enough to eat through the summer. Well, here to tell us more is secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack.

Secretary, welcome back to ALL THINGS CONSIDERED.

TOM VILSACK: It is great to be back and certainly great on a day that, for 30 million American children, is a very meaningful day.

KELLY: Well, walk us briefly, if you would. Give me the two, three sentence version of what this program will do that wasn't already being done through the free lunch program.

VILSACK: Well, the reality is a free lunch and reduced lunch program works during the school year, but there is no counterpart during the summer. And what we're creating is the opportunity for a continuum of nutritional assistance through the summer by providing parents of children who are currently free and reduced lunch students at school and parents who have children under the age of 6 that are currently receiving - their family's receiving SNAP benefits the opportunity to receive additional financial help during the summer to be able to afford more nutrition and better nutrition for their children.

KELLY: And basically, this is a transfer of money because kids are - as you note, during the summer, they're not going to be going to school. During the pandemic, it wasn't a guarantee that they would be anyway. This would add up to something like \$375 for the summer. It would be about \$6.82 a day per child every weekday. Is that right?

VILSACK: That's correct, so it's roughly the reimbursement that schools receive. Now parents will receive that benefit for the summer to be able to meet the nutritional needs of their children.

KELLY: Let's talk about how you're going to pay for this. Child hunger in the States, as we mentioned, was impacted certainly by the pandemic but sadly is not exclusive to the pandemic. This extra aid is going to be paid for through the coronavirus relief package. Are there enough resources to keep it up when that money runs out?

VILSACK: Well, the way it's structured, it isn't going to run out of money. That's not the issue. The issue is making sure that every child who qualifies for the program participates. That's

working with the states and school districts to make sure we've identified properly those students who are free and reduced lunch in schools and those families that are currently in SNAP that have children under the age of 6 and encouraging states and school districts to get the information to the states so that they can send the cards out as quickly as possible.

KELLY: So do you have any concern that you're creating a benefit that you would not be able to sustain once that coronavirus money is gone?

VILSACK: Well, obviously, Congress and the president have to make decisions about future budgets. But I think what we want to be able to do this year is to show the significant importance of this to families and to explain and understand that if children and children's learning and children's health is a priority for us in this country, then we need to fund our priorities. We need to recognize the importance of investing in their future, investing in their nutrition, investing in their health and in their education.

KELLY: Yeah.

VILSACK: And I think, you know, from what we have seen from the pilots, we know these programs reduce hunger. We know that they impact positively poverty rates. Those are two very good reasons for looking at this program. I can give you several others. I think children will learn better because they'll be better nourished during the summer, better prepared to start school next school year. I think it is also a health issue, potentially less obesity, and that will result in fewer chronic diseases going into adulthood, less cost associated. I mean, there are multiple reasons why policymakers should really think about the - prioritizing programs like this as they make future decisions.

KELLY: What are you hearing back from kids?

VILSACK: Well, kids (laughter) - what kid doesn't like to get fed?

KELLY: (Laughter).

VILSACK: And especially kids during the summer, you know - I mean, they also like the convenience of this because in the past, if they were to get a summer meal, they had to go someplace. They had to disrupt their day. And maybe some of their friends didn't go, and some friends did go, so they had to disrupt the whole summer vacation mode here. This basically provides parents the capacity to have the food at home. They can enjoy their summer. There will still be summer feeding programs, and it's important for those programs to continue. But at the end of the day, this is really providing an opportunity that has not existed before. It's a massive opportunity here for us to make a statement about child health, about child nutrition. And I think it's an important day.

KELLY: Tom Vilsack - he is U.S. secretary of Agriculture.

Secretary, thanks for your time.

VILSACK: Thank you.



Pandemic EBT - Summer 2021

Projected Beneficiaries and Value of Benefits, Estimated Impact Based on School Year 2019-2020 Enrollment

State	Number of Children (thousands)			Value of Benefits (millions)		
	School Age	Age Under 6 (and not in school)	Total	School Age	Age Under 6 (and not in school)	Total
Alabama	468	84	552	\$175.60	\$31.60	\$207.20
Alaska	68	7	76	41.3	4.5	45.8
Arizona	631	96	728	236.7	36.2	272.9
Arkansas	324	41	365	121.4	15.5	137.0
California	3,862	678	4,540	1,448.6	254.4	1,703.0
Colorado	354	47	401	132.9	17.5	150.5
Connecticut	261	24	285	97.9	9.2	107.1
Delaware	94	11	105	35.1	4.3	39.4
District of Columbia	69	9	78	25.9	3.4	29.3
Florida	1,933	252	2,185	725.2	94.5	819.8
Georgia	1,143	170	1,314	428.9	63.9	492.8
Hawaii	93	16	109	40.6	7.0	47.6
Idaho	123	20	144	46.2	7.6	53.8
Illinois	1,122	186	1,307	420.8	69.6	490.4
Indiana	575	72	647	215.6	27.2	242.7
Iowa	241	35	276	90.3	13.1	103.4
Kansas	234	22	257	87.8	8.4	96.2
Kentucky	586	63	649	219.9	23.7	243.5
Louisiana	613	88	701	229.9	33.1	263.0
Maine	77	11	88	28.7	4.3	33.0
Maryland	418	62	480	156.7	23.3	180.1
Massachusetts	446	64	510	167.4	24.0	191.4
Michigan	838	111	949	314.4	41.5	355.9
Minnesota	319	42	360	119.6	15.6	135.2
Mississippi	349	50	399	130.9	18.9	149.8
Missouri	456	85	541	171.2	31.9	203.1
Montana	63	11	74	23.5	4.3	27.8
Nebraska	149	18	168	55.9	6.9	62.8

State	Number of Children (thousands)			Value of Benefits (millions)		
	School Age	Age Under 6 (and not in school)	Total	School Age	Age Under 6 (and not in school)	Total
Nevada	323	47	370	121.1	17.7	138.7
New Hampshire	42	7	49	15.7	2.5	18.2
New Jersey	576	64	640	216.0	24.2	240.2
New Mexico	267	43	310	100.1	16.2	116.3
New York	2,150	181	2,331	806.3	68.0	874.3
North Carolina	891	150	1,042	334.4	56.3	390.7
North Dakota	40	7	47	14.8	2.7	17.5
Ohio	846	142	988	317.4	53.1	370.5
Oklahoma	438	60	498	164.3	22.4	186.7
Oregon	289	56	345	108.3	21.2	129.4
Pennsylvania	945	162	1,107	354.5	60.9	415.4
Rhode Island	70	11	81	26.2	4.3	30.5
South Carolina	487	74	561	182.6	27.7	210.3
South Dakota	63	10	73	23.6	3.9	27.5
Tennessee	666	102	768	249.8	38.1	288.0
Texas	3,633	566	4,198	1,362.6	212.2	1,574.8
Utah	207	22	229	77.7	8.1	85.8
Vermont	39	5	44	14.8	1.8	16.6
Virginia	628	72	700	235.6	27.0	262.7
Washington	458	85	544	171.9	32.0	203.9
West Virginia	226	31	257	84.7	11.6	96.3
Wisconsin	393	64	456	147.3	23.9	171.2
Wyoming	29	3	32	10.9	1.3	12.2
American Samoa	15	*	15	6.5	*	6.5
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands	12	0	12	5.1	0.1	5.1
Guam	29	9	38	12.8	3.8	16.5
Puerto Rico	279	73	353	122.4	32.2	154.6
Virgin Islands	11	3	15	5.0	1.5	6.4
All	29,960	4,431	34,391	\$11,281.40	\$1,670.10	\$12,951.60

* - estimate not available

Number of children:

“School Age”: State-reported USDA program data for the National School Lunch Program, school year 2019-2020. The State-reported data include children eligible for NSLP meals, regardless of age. (Figures for American Samoa and CNMI are from communication with the territories.)

“Under 6”: USDA State-reported SNAP Quality Control (QC) data. The QC figures include all SNAP-enrolled children under age 6. These are then adjusted to remove the estimated number of children who attend pre-school and are in the “School Age” column. That adjustment uses figures from the American Community Survey 1-year estimates for 2019.

Dollar estimates: Dollar figures assume a fixed 55 day benefit period.

Gov. Parson praises 'model' in Covid fight: Walk in and choose your vaccine at Morning Star

April 30, 2021

By Joe Robertson/LINC Writer

Just as Gov. Mike Parson came to see the “model” in Missouri’s fight against Covid, the vaccination crusade at Morning Star’s Kansas City clinic announced its latest appeal to those who still haven’t gotten their shots:

Now you can walk in and you can choose from any of the three available vaccines.

Do you want the two-shot Pfizer or Moderna? Or the one-shot-and-done Johnson & Johnson? The clinic in Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church’s Youth and Family Life Center at 2525 E. 27th St. offers them all.

This is the kind of outreach that Parson said needs to happen statewide.

“We know the vaccine works,” Parson said when he visited the clinic April 29. “So we’ve got to make sure we get everybody to understand how important it is to get that vaccine to get back to somewhat of a normal life.”

The clinic has given nearly 17,000 vaccines since early February, targeting East Kansas City neighborhoods and vulnerable populations with a success that Parson said “will be a model for our state and it will be a model for the country.”

Parson has long known Morning Star’s Rev. John Modest Miles and knew he could rely on the church and its partnership with LINC to deliver on a plan to bring vaccines to the surrounding neighborhoods. So the governor’s office dispatched a Missouri National Guard unit to provide vaccinations that has remained on “the front line” at 27th and Prospect ever since. In March the Kansas City Fire Department joined the operation, adding more trained vaccinators.



Missouri Gov. Mike Parson and LINC Executive Vice President Janet Miles-Bartee tour the Morning Star vaccination operation April 29.

COVID-19
Vaccines Available Now!
Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson



Three ways to get started:

1. Call or text (816) 256-5003
2. Visit covidvaccine.mo.gov/navigator/
3. Walk-in appointments:

Monday	8am–2pm
Tuesday	8am–2pm
Wednesday	1pm–7pm
Thursday	8am–2pm
Friday	8am–2pm



Morning Star Youth and Family Life Center
2525 E 27th St., Kansas City, MO 64127

Demand for the vaccine is dropping across the state and the nation, but the National Guard will remain on duty “for months to come,” Parson said, to continue the effort to vaccinate more difficult-to-reach populations that is needed to secure Missouri’s recovery from the pandemic.

“We need to encourage people to get the vaccine,” Parson said. “We need to encourage people it is still important to be tested.” And that means, he added, making stronger efforts with populations that aren’t coming on their own and becoming more determined “to take it to them.”

Kansas City resident Walter Bolden Sr. had just gotten his vaccination and was in the required waiting room when Parson and Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas came through on the Morning Star tour and talked with him and members of his family.

Bolden has difficulty walking, he said after meeting the governor and mayor, and having an accessible clinic that is convenient is “an asset to the neighborhood.”

He was heartened by the dignitaries’ visit and he shared his own message to his community:

“Keep the faith,” Bolden said. “They’re working on getting everything done best they can. Come on out and get the shot.”

LINC and its partners want to make the vaccination process as inviting and easy as possible, said LINC Executive Vice President Janet Miles-Bartee.

“We are here to welcome you,” she said. “We are here to support you . . .”

In addition to its expanded walk-in hours (the clinic is open 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and is open late on Wednesdays from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.), the National Guard and Kansas City Fire Department have begun working with LINC to take some vaccination operations off-site to reach more people.

LINC, a citizen-driven collaborative that leverages state funds to build and support programs for children and families in the Kansas City area, seizes on these kinds of challenges, Miles-Bartee said.

“This is our work, serving the community, being a beacon of light and giving hope,” she said. “Because that’s what the vaccine does — it gives hope.”



Walter Bolden Sr: “Keep the faith . . . Come on out and get the shot.”

Giving 'lives back'; National Guard top brass tour Operation Vaccination

May 3, 2021

By Joe Robertson/LINC Writer



It was some three months ago that Missouri Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Kenneth Eaves got orders from his adjutant general to “send people to Pastor Miles.”

He didn’t know then about the Rev. John Modest Miles, the Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church’s partnership with LINC or their audacious plan to deliver thousands of Covid-19 vaccines where they were needed most in East Kansas City.

“I had no idea what we were sending them to,” Eaves said. “But I can tell you,” he said now, addressing the unit and gathered partners at the clinic April 29, “is that it is absolutely the best story I get a chance to tell.”

“This team gets it done,” he said, “and gets it done in style.”

Some 15 men and women in the Guard have been stationed at the clinic at 27th and Prospect Avenue, many of them since early February, leading a vaccination operation in partnership with the community organizations on site.

Command Sgt. Maj. Jessica Settle of the Missouri Air National Guard, who came with Eaves to see the operation, praised the unit’s dedication and strong morale.

“You have been at this a long, long time, putting your boots on and putting your face on and getting your mo-

rare going every day,” Settle said.

“Carry these memories and treasure this mission,” she said. “You have given lives back — *lives back.*”

Both LINC Executive Vice President Janet Miles-Bartee and the Rev. Miles told the top commanders that working with the National Guard is “like family.”

The National Guard unit is specially trained to deliver vaccinations and manage many of the logistics with the state’s vaccination effort. LINC has provided support, helping with the logistics and the outreach. The Kansas City Fire Department provided paramedics to help increase capacity and the Church of Scientology has provided services for customers in the required waiting area immediately after they are vaccinated.

The clinic has delivered nearly 17,000 vaccinations, said Missouri Air National Guard Capt. Tony Rich, “which is just amazing.”

“It’s a testament to the partnership,” Rich said. “We’ve done it with a small, but mighty group.”

The Guard will remain at Morning Star through June. The team is also working with LINC and other community contacts to take vaccine operations into the community on special events to encourage more people to get vaccinated.

The experiences gained since February will last beyond the pandemic, Eaves said.

“One thing we can’t lose sight of with the pandemic we have lived through for 14 months now is the goodness that has come out of it,” Eaves said. “There are relationships here that will carry on.”

“Our state and our nation are hurting,” he added. “We have people who are hurting. We have people who are in a bad way, but what you all do is making a huge, huge difference.”



New Housing department to launch

City creates department with emphasis on housing insecurity; Department of Housing and Community Development launches June 1

05/06/2021 **NEWS RELEASE**

The City Council has approved creation of a standalone housing department with dedicated resources and staffing to support tenant advocacy, homelessness prevention and support, affordable housing preservation and creation, and overall community development. This new Housing and Community Development Department was created through [Ordinance #210235](#), approved May 6, 2021, by a unanimous vote after several weeks of council debate and listening to public feedback.

One of the key components of this new housing department is the implementation and funding of the Office of the Tenant Advocate, created to assist renters with a variety of available services ensuring safe and affordable accommodations for all Kansas City residents.

"All Kansas Citians deserve to have stable and affordable housing — regardless of zip code or socioeconomic status. With nearly 2,000 children and adults experiencing homelessness in and around Kansas City, Kansas City government understands that systemic housing issues will require more than just short-term solutions," said Mayor Quinton Lucas.

"I am proud that the City Council decisively voted today to establish a new Kansas City Housing Department, one of my key campaign promises, whose focus will be advocating for Kansas Citians who are experiencing homelessness and prioritizing the creation of affordable family housing. This Housing Department is just one step of many in our work to continue providing housing services to continue building a more equitable community."

Council sponsors of the ordinance also include Councilmembers Andrea Bough, Eric Bunch, Brandon Ellington and Ryana Parks-Shaw.

"Establishing a new Housing Department is important to ensure that this Council makes clear that providing safe and affordable housing to our citizens is not only a priority but is crucial to the implementation of policies with meaningful impact," said 6th District at-large Councilmember Bough. "We are also strengthening our commitment to our neighborhoods and working with our neighborhood organizations as we take bold steps in moving our city forward."

The new department will formally begin on June 1.

“With council approval of this new department, we will now for the first time have staff and resource dedicated to eliminating homelessness, to advocate for our tenants, and to better support our lowest income families and individuals,” said City Manager Brian Platt.

The City Council has also recently approved new legal requirements for developers to create more affordable housing when they receive incentives for housing projects and has created the Houseless Task Force. The task force, comprised of councilmembers and advocates for the unhoused, will develop ways the city can best partner with the community to resolve homelessness issues.

The City of Kansas City has also implemented several programs this year to help our residents with housing and homelessness issues:

- The Bartle Hall Warming Center provided a safe, warm place to stay for an average of 307 people nightly during the worst two months of the winter.
- Last week the City announced a plan to construct tiny homes to provide emergency transitional housing for the unhoused community.
- The City is planning to build hundreds of affordable housing units on Barney Allis Plaza as a part of the rehabilitation of the parking garage.
- The City just announced the application process to turn 111 vacant and abandoned homes into affordable housing for anyone at or below 30% AMI and/or homeless individuals and families.
- The City has invested \$8.5 million in the past fiscal year to serve those experiencing homelessness, using COVID relief funding (and our normally budgeted funds) to help those thrown into poverty due to the pandemic and loss of jobs. This funding supports community organizations that provide housing, emergency shelter, outreach, counseling, rent and utility assistance and other services to KCMO residents.
- To prevent homelessness, an additional \$14.8 million in federal relief is now available to tenants through several community organizations. Go to [KCMO.gov/renthelp](https://www.kcmo.gov/renthelp) for more info, an online application and the list of agencies to call for immediate help.

For more information, media can contact Neighborhoods and Housing Services Department Communications/Community Liaison [John Baccala](#) at (816) 513-3202.

National Foster Care Month celebrates advocates and the children, families they serve

May 7, 2021

By Joe Robertson/LINC Writer

Since 2007, LINC's child advocates have been helping children in Missouri foster homes transition into independent living as thriving adults.

LINC's Chafee Independent Living Initiative is the selected "community partner" by Missouri's Children's Division to support hundreds of foster youth in Jackson, Clay and Platte counties.

May is National Foster Care Month, and LINC joins the community of advocates and supporters who help the dedicated foster parents and who help children and youth achieve full and meaningful lives.



LINC's team members are experts who connect the teens and young adults to resources that are close and accessible to them, helping them secure things like school supplies, tuition aid, life skills training, budgeting skills, driver's education, job searching, help with utilities and housing.

The work carried on through the pandemic as the youths' needs only grew, said Susan Estes, LINC's coordinator of special projects. "A lot of driveway meetings," she said.

A team of three advocates serve some 450 youths across the three-county area, the majority in Jackson County.

The Chafee initiative is named for longtime youth advocate U.S. Sen. John H. Chafee of Rhode Island who championed federal legislation that boosted the resources provided to the states to help foster youth who too often were not prepared for successful independent living when they aged out of foster care systems.

LINC's team supports youths between the age of 14 and 23, many of whom have suffered trauma in their lives. The Chafee team works with Children's Division case managers, helping the foster parents when youths are still in homes, and then working with the youths as they find their own living spaces as adults.

During 2020 LINC youth advocates worked with 626 youth 14 years or older in foster care or aftercare, providing a total of 2,573 services.



2021 Summer Programs

District	Location	Before & After Summer School
Center	Boone Elem.	June 7–25
Grandview	Conn-West Elem.	June 14–25
Hickman Mills	Ervin Elem.	June 7–July 2
	Millennium @ Santa Fe Elem.	
	Smith-Hale Middle.	
Kansas City	Banneker Elem.	June 21–July 23
	Foreign Language Academy	
	Hale Cook Elem.	
	James Elem.	
	King Elem.	
	Melcher Elem.	
	Phillips Elem.	
Wheatley Elem.		
North Kansas City	Topping Elem. @ Maplewood	June 1–July 16
Charter	Tolbert Academy	June 6–July 16

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