

LINC Commission Meeting

June 10, 2019



Students challenge LINC Chess instructors at the Mid-Continent Public Library Blue Ridge Branch at the How To Fair. The event featured many unique and challenging activities and projects.



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, June 10, 2019 | 4 – 6 pm
Kauffman Foundation
4801 Rockhill Rd.
Kansas City, Mo. 64110

Agenda

- I. **Welcome and Announcements**
- II. **Approvals**
 - a. **Approval May 2019 minutes (motion)**
- III. **Superintendent Reports**
- IV. **Cooperating School Districts of Greater Kansas City**
 - a. **Dr. Kenny Southwick**
- V. **LINC Caring Communities Changes**
 - a. **Center School District**
 - b. **Hickman Mills School District**
- VI. **LINC Data System**
 - a. **Social Solutions Partnership**
 - b. **Data Sharing Agreement**
 - c. **Tolbert**
- VII. **Report Out**
 - a. **Safe Sleep - Initiative**
 - b. **Other**
- VIII. **Adjournment**

Next meeting: Monday, July 15^h, 4-6 pm (Kauffman Foundation)



THE LOCAL INVESTMENT COMMISSION – MAY 13, 2019

The Local Investment Commission met at the Kauffman Foundation, 4801 Rockhill Rd., Kansas City, Mo. Co-chair **Jack Craft** presided. Commissioners attending were:

Sharon Cheers
Tom Davis
Aaron Deacon
David Disney
Mark Flaherty

Anita Gorman
Mary Kay McPhee
Ken Powell
David Ross
Bailus Tate

Minutes of the April 15, 2019, LINC Commission meeting were approved.

Superintendent Reports

- **Christina Medina**, Public Relations Director (Center School District), reported 150 students will be graduating this week. A video featuring teacher of the year **Emily Stoverink**, pre-algebra teacher at Central Middle School, was shown. The district recently held a resource fair for homeless families. Planning is under way for projects to be financed by the \$48 million bond issue that was approved by voters in the April election.
- **Steve Morgan**, Assistant Superintendent (Fort Osage School District), reported 336 students graduated last Friday. On Saturday volunteers did painting and landscaping projects at the former early childhood center, which will be converted into a new Mid-Continent Public Library branch. The last day of school is May 30; summer school begins May 31. A social worker will continue to work with students next school year through an ongoing partnership with Comprehensive Mental Health.
- **Yolanda Cargile**, Superintendent (Hickman Mills School District), introduced **Marissa Cleaver Wamble** and **Amanda Fischer-Penner** of the district Public Information Office. The district will hold graduation events this week including commencement at Ruskin High School. Forty-one district students were awarded scholarships, including four student who received full-ride Honeywell Hope scholarships. June 7 is the last day of school
- **Terry Ward**, School Board Member (North Kansas City Schools), reported three district math teachers received the Jedel Excellence in Mathematics Education award. For the third year in a row, 100% of district graduating seniors have been accepted to college, trade, apprentice, or military programs. The district recently gave a presentation on college and career readiness to the Northland Chamber of Commerce. May 31 is the last day of school; June 10 is the first day of summer school.
- **Gayden Carruth**, Executive Director (Cooperating School Districts of Greater Kansas City), reported the Missouri legislature will adjourn this Friday. Twenty-three applicants have been recruited for EPFP.
- **Bob Bartman**, Director (Education Policy Fellowship Program), reported the EPFP fellows will visit the White House Decision Center at the Truman Presidential Library this week. Fellows will deliver group presentations on a policy issue in June.

LINC Caring Communities Administrator **Sean Akridge** introduced a report on Girls on the Run of Greater Kansas City, which held a 5K run on May 4. A slideshow of the event was shown. **Victoria Patrick**, Girls on the Run volunteer manager, reported on the Girls on the Run mission creatively integrates running in a fun, experience-based curriculum to inspire girls to be joyful, healthy and confident. This year 150 girls participated at 11 LINC teams in the 10-week program, which engages girls in outdoor activities with friends and “running buddies.” LINC site coordinators **Shelley Taylor** and **Yolanda Robinson** reported the initiative provides a positive experience for both the girls who participate and their volunteer coaches.

Rob Reiman, Executive Director, reported on the Giving Grove, an initiative to plant fruit trees in green spaces at schools and other community locations. The organization provides grants to plant orchards in return for commitments on the part of schools to maintain the trees over the long term. The Giving Grove provides opportunities for students to learn about trees, and eat fresh healthy fruit.

Brent Schondelmeyer, Deputy Director of Community Engagement, reported that several LINC staff recently visited Jefferson City to meet with legislatures and educate them about LINC's work in their districts. He introduced a panel discussion by LINC site coordinators including:

- **Jason Ervin** (Santa Fe Elementary School)
- **Steve McClellan** (Cler-Mont Elementary School)
- **Danielle Small** (Garfield Elementary School)
- **Jason Ervin** (Grandview Middle School)
- **Bryan Geddes** (Smith-Hale Middle School and Hickman Mills Freshman Center)
- **Jimmarie Stinson** (Ervin Early Learning Center and Freda Markley Early Childhood Center)
- **Darryl Bush** (King Elementary School)
- **Marlisa Collins** (Foreign Language Academy)

Topics included LINC's effect on employment through hiring staff and on business growth through contracting services; providing valuable experiences for children, school staff, and the community; assisting in the educational growth of adults as well as children; increasing parent involvement in schools; and creating a sense of belonging for all.

Cori Smith, project coordinator of Justice in the Schools, reported on the initiative of Legal Aid of Western Missouri to provide free legal assistance to families at school-based legal clinics in Kansas City Public Schools locations. The partnership is especially focused on legal issues related to evictions, housing, health care, and family law (domestic violence).

Aaron Deacon reported on the Expungement Day event on April 27 at Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church. The event was part of a campaign to clear the old criminal records of people for whom the offenses pose a barrier to employment or housing. A video featuring volunteers and participants at the event was shown.

Rod Hsiao, CEO of InPlay, reported on the non-profit organization's online out-of-school-time activity guide. InPlay will soon launch the guide in Kansas City. A video explaining the tool was shown. Discussion followed.

Gayle A. Hobbs, LINC President, announced the retirement, at the end of the school year, of long-time LINC site coordinator **Roosevelt Dickerson**. LINC Caring Communities Administrators **Janet Miles-Bartee** and **Sean Akridge** spoke about his strong organizational skills and ability to engage with the Gladstone Elementary School community. Dickerson reflected on his time with LINC. Gifts were presented.

The meeting was adjourned.

More than books, more than food

New community facility to extend services to northeast Independence

By Mike Genet

mike.genet@examiner.net

As the Fort Osage School District worked to pass a bond issue in 2017 for capital improvements, Superintendent Jason Snodgrass often faced questions about what the district would do with the Early Childhood Center building on U.S. 24 that it sought to replace.

The answer came not just from the district but from two wide-reaching community institutions.

The former early childhood education building has been renovated, and both the Mid-Continent Public Library and the Community Services League will soon be offering some services. Library patrons will have access to MCPL's full collections, just like any other branch in the system, and CSL will have a food pantry open initially one day a week.

Fort Osage retains ownership, and the partner organizations see the 5,000-square foot structure at U.S. 24 and Viking Drive as a chance to provide easier access to citizens in the neighborhoods east of Missouri 291 and around U.S. 24 – an area they believe had been underserved.

Snodgrass calls it a “community betterment project.”

“What I’m excited about is renovating that building, and really, the families in our district will be able to use that facility,” he said. “We have hundreds of families within walking distance there.

“They’ll have internet access, the summer reading program, be able to check out books, and the food pantry; to have that is really exciting to me.”

Fort Osage did pass the bond issue, allowing for the new Woodland Early Childhood Center next to Elm Grove Elementary. But what to do with the facility the district had outgrown.

“I kept telling people, ‘There will be a use for it, I just don’t know what the best will be now,’” Snodgrass said. “We would like to reutilize it for a good purpose for families in our district. We could’ve entertained selling, but that’s not what we wanted to do.”

Snodgrass then pitched an idea to Steve Potter and Doug Cowan, the CEOs of Mid-Continent and CSL respectively.

Mid-Continent had passed a capital improvements levy in 2016, and one of many plans was to create a third branch somewhere in Independence.

“Our projections indicated eastern Independence,” Potter said, adding that the nearby Hawthorne Place Apartments identified as a particular at-risk area for library services. The

nearest Mid-Continent branch otherwise is at U.S. 24 and Spring Street near the Truman Library – almost four miles away.

“We went and toured the building and realized could be an interesting opportunity,” Potter said “We liked the idea of being able to create some kind of library service to help an at-risk area.”

The three sides have three-year memorandum of understanding in place.

“We’re doing a trial location to see how the area would be receptive, to get us an idea of if we could go out on 24 or down toward U.S. 40,” said Susan Wray, Mid-Continent assistant director. “Public transportation isn’t wonderful in that area, and this is an opportunity to serve the community in that area.”

The Community Services League keeps an office in the Hawthorne complex to offer services there, but otherwise its next-nearest location is the headquarters near the Square.

“The way we describe our services is neighborhood- based,” Cowan said. “We’re typically in buildings that are very accessible, and that’s what we like about his. Generally in the northeast there’s not a lot of services, and we know that access is a big deal to families.”

CSL will just have the food pantry, which will be staffed by volunteers from the congregation at nearby Village Heights Community of Christ – a “unique partnership” in itself, as well, Cowan said. It can also provide referrals for other basic needs where CSL helps, such as housing, employment and financial programming.

“They’ll provide the staffing, assess demand and see if it fits with neighborhood,” he said.

Mid-Continent will occupy most of the space with its bookshelves, computers and small collaboration rooms. Potter said there won’t be a large amount of material on hand for adults, but otherwise will be a standard small library.

“We’ll have early learning and children’s services, making sure it’s a good outlet to participate in summer reading,” Potter said. “We want students to avoid that summer slide, and they return to school in much better position to learn.”

The food pantry has been partially stocked by donations from Comcast employees, dozens of whom helped with painting and exterior for a company volunteer day earlier this month. Mid-Continent handled much of the interior work at little cost thanks to its existing capital improvements.

“JE Dunn was able to roll right into – economy of scale,” Potter said.

Fort Osage will maintain the grounds, which Snodgrass said should be a bare minimum cost using staff that does work at nearby Elm Grove Elementary.

“I’ve heard nothing but positives in regard to this,” he said. “We kind of announced in the beginning of January that thought this is what we would do with it, all three boards have approved it, and it was full steam ahead. It’s really taken on a life of its own.

“Collaborating with these two organizations, and they also had a vision of their programs, I think we all just utilized our strengths. The value of providing these services to families in our district far outweighs the amount we would’ve received from selling the building.”

LINC ready to grow as Hickman Mills, Center prepare families for changing schools

By Joe Robertson, LINC
May 30, 2019

The anxious parent who questioned LINC site coordinator Bryan Geddes this spring was worried about just one of the many transitions facing the Hickman Mills and Center school districts this summer.

With the Hickman Mills Freshman Center closing, the parent was anticipating her teen's move directly to Ruskin High School for the upcoming school year.

But she could have been speaking for a broad community of families facing changes when she asked:

"Is LINC going to be there?"

The answer, Geddes assured her, was "Yes."

LINC is working with Hickman Mills staff to help ease the families' transitions as the district closes Johnson and Symington elementary schools and the freshman center this summer.

LINC will boost its Caring Communities programming at the other Hickman Mills elementary schools, which LINC also serves, and LINC will open a new site at Ruskin for the 9th grade class that LINC had served in the freshman center.

"We'll be another welcoming face," Geddes said. "Many of the kids have known LINC since elementary school. There's comfort knowing that people you know are going with you."

LINC is also opening a new Caring Communities site at Indian Creek Elementary School in the Center School District for the 2019-2020 school year.

Change is coming for Indian Creek as well after Center voters overwhelmingly approved a \$48 million bond issue this spring that dedicates \$18.6 million to build an entirely new school.

The current Indian Creek building will remain in use in the coming school year while the new school is being built — to open in the 2020-2021 school year.

LINC also has Caring Communities sites in Center at Boone and Center elementary schools.

Overall LINC will be operating 52 Caring Communities sites in six different school districts in 2019-2020 compared to 53 in the previous year.

For Hickman Mills, it has been a year of stress as the district wrestled with financial strain in the face of declining enrollment, shrinking reserves and an unexpected loss of property tax revenue after Cerner Corp.



Families at Johnson Elementary gather for a Donuts for Dads event.



Families at the Symington Elementary Black History Program.

won an appeal against the state that reduced its anticipated tax payments by some \$2.4 million.

The Hickman Mills school board voted 6-to-1 in March to close three schools.

The changes affect all of the districts schools. Families that would have attended Johnson and Symington will be absorbed into the remaining elementary schools. The Ervin Early Learning Center will add elementary grades. The Compass and Millennium schools, which had been district-wide specialized programs, will become neighborhood schools.

All sixth graders, who had been served in elementary schools, will move in with the seventh and eighth graders at Smith-Hale Middle School. And the ninth grade joins the 10th-through-12th graders at Ruskin.

That’s a lot for families to absorb, so the school district has been talking with families and holding “meet-and-greets” at the schools to help prepare for the changes.

“We’re working hard to make sure everybody is familiar and comfortable with where they’re going,” said district spokeswoman Marissa Cleaver Wamble. “We have faith in our building leaders that they will make the transition as seamless as possible.”

LINC site coordinators were also making rounds as the school year closed, meeting district staff and students in the old and new locations.

Geddes toured Ruskin to meet its principal and teachers and extracurricular program leaders to plan the roles for LINC’s new site for ninth graders in the coming year, he said.

LINC-experienced students will be an asset to Ruskin, Geddes told them.

“We do a great job of preparing students to be assertive and take leadership roles,” he said. “The main thing (for LINC in its new schools) is building relationships, building trust and finding our niche.”

LINC will complement the schools’ extracurricular programming, offering STEM programs (science, technology, engineering and math), tutoring, drill teams and chess, Geddes said. LINC will help the schools engage and involve parents and strengthen adult and peer mentoring programs.

And those familiar sights will help families in new schools feel back at home.



LINC Staff at Johnson Elementary prepare a healthy snack using vegetables from the school garden.



Johnson and Symington elementary schools.

###

Ruskin neighborhoods know: Saying 'goodbye' to schools will be hard

By Joe Robertson, LINC
June 4, 2019

To get to the two elementary schools that are closing in Hickman Mills, you have to burrow deep into Ruskin Hills and Ruskin Heights.

Off of the main thoroughfares.

Rolling by houses on curving streets, built during what was then 1950s suburbia.

You find each school — Johnson and Symington — in its own clearing like a wellspring.

“The quintessential neighborhood school,” said Cathy Poole, who is coming all the way from Cincinnati, Ohio, to say goodbye to Symington.

The Hickman Mills School District is holding ceremonial open houses Saturday, June 8, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. because people want to come and remember.

“I lived just behind the school, so not only could I walk to school but the playground was all mine after school and during the summer,” Poole said, who attended in the early 1980s. “There was so much to miss about Symington — the great teachers, my friends, the supportive environment. I felt I had to come back to say goodbye.”

Because there are few other neighborhood gathering places, Johnson Elementary, at 10900 Marsh Ave., and Symington, at 8650 Ruskin Way, are important fixtures in the Ruskin Hills and Ruskin Heights neighborhoods, said longtime resident and schools supporter Lillie Walker.

The Ruskin Hills Homes Association has met for many years in Symington, and they held or joined many events over the years in the school and also helped care for Iser Park to keep it a fun sanctuary for children and families of both schools.

“We’re going to miss the safety and comfort that the school is here,” Walker said.

Open Houses for closing schools

Closing ceremonies for the three schools will be held Saturday, June 8, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at each school. Each building will be open for the public to walk through, take photos, and reminisce.

Johnson Elementary

10900 Marsh Ave.

Symington Elementary

8650 Ruskin Way

Hickman Mills Freshman Center

9010B Old Santa Fe Rd



Johnson Elementary opened in September, 1957



Symington Elementary opened in January, 1959

The Hickman Mills school board voted in early March to close the two schools as well as the Freshman Center as part of a reconfiguring of schools and grade levels to cut costs.

It was a difficult decision by the board and the district administration, said Marissa Cleaver Wamble, the district's spokeswoman.

"We understand what it means to close schools and the impact it has," she said. "We know there are people who have strong feelings and strong ties to these schools. Many went to school there. Many of their kids went there. Their grandkids went there."

The open houses, she said, are meant to give a chance for all "who want to visit them one more time, to walk through the halls, visit with old friends, take pictures . . . memorialize their school one more time."

The history of these elementary schools, like much of the Ruskin neighborhoods, is indelibly marked by the Ruskin tornado of May 1957.

Johnson Elementary, whose construction was set back by the tornado, opened just months later on Sept. 3, 1957. It was named for Hickman Mills civic leader William H. Johnson, a proponent of Missouri's school consolidation law of 1901 that led to Hickman Mills becoming the first consolidated school district in the state.



Johnson Elementary today



Symington Elementary today

Symington opened in January 1959 in what was the heart of the tornado-ravaged Ruskin Heights neighborhood, according to "The Journey to Our Future; The History of Hickman Mills C-1 School District" by Jami Parkison.

The school was named for U.S. Sen. Stuart Symington, who helped the Hickman Mills community secure emergency relief after the tornado.

The schools "were foundations of a strong neighborhood," said John Sharp, president of the South Kansas City Alliance and a former school board member. "They develop a sense of community." The loss of the schools "is devastating."

Sharp and the SKCA were part of those in the community who opposed the closings and urged the school board to manage concerns over its fund balance without the closings.

It was all part of the weighty community conversations the district convened after a consulting firm hired by the district had proposed options that included closing as many as five schools.

The district will continue to work with the neighborhoods going forward as the board will have to determine what happens next for the school properties, Cleaver Wamble said.

“We want to be transparent,” she said. “We’re going to have an open ear.”

The district hopes to bring focus back to the momentum the district has gained toward reclaiming full accreditation from the state. Hickman Mills, which is provisionally accredited, has made improvements in its annual performance report that scored in the full-accreditation range, and another year of high marks would likely earn the state’s approval for full accreditation.

Walker, whose four children went to Symington, has lived on her corner near the school for 40 years, she said.

She paid special attention to the children in the neighborhood and their safety because she had her home designated as a McGruff House — part of the National Crime Prevention Council’s “McGruff the Crime Dog” campaign.

Hers was a certified safe home, and she watched over the children as they marched to and from the bus stop.

She wants her school district to thrive and keep on and she wants financial relief to unburden the schools.

Because the children she sees are the same, from one generation to the next, she said.

“Nothing has changed in the need.”

###



Hickman Mills 2019-20 School Year

- All incoming Kindergarten to Elementary Schools or Ervin ELC
- All incoming 6th grade to Smith-Hale Middle School
- All incoming 9th grade to Ruskin High School
- Ervin ELC is now Pre-K through 5th Grade



Schools Closing

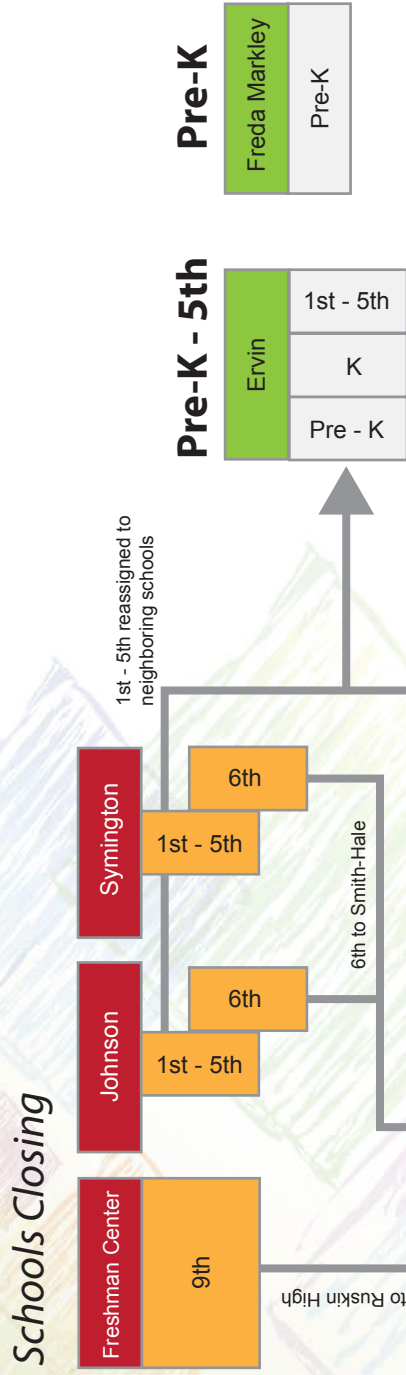
Elementary

Johnson Elementary

Symington Elementary

9th Grade

Freshman Center



Re-Shaped District

Pre-K

Freda Markley Early Childhood Center

Pre-K and Elementary (Pre-K - 5)

Ervin Early Learning Center

Elementary (K-5)

Compass

Dobbs Elementary

Ingels Elementary

Millennium

Truman Elementary

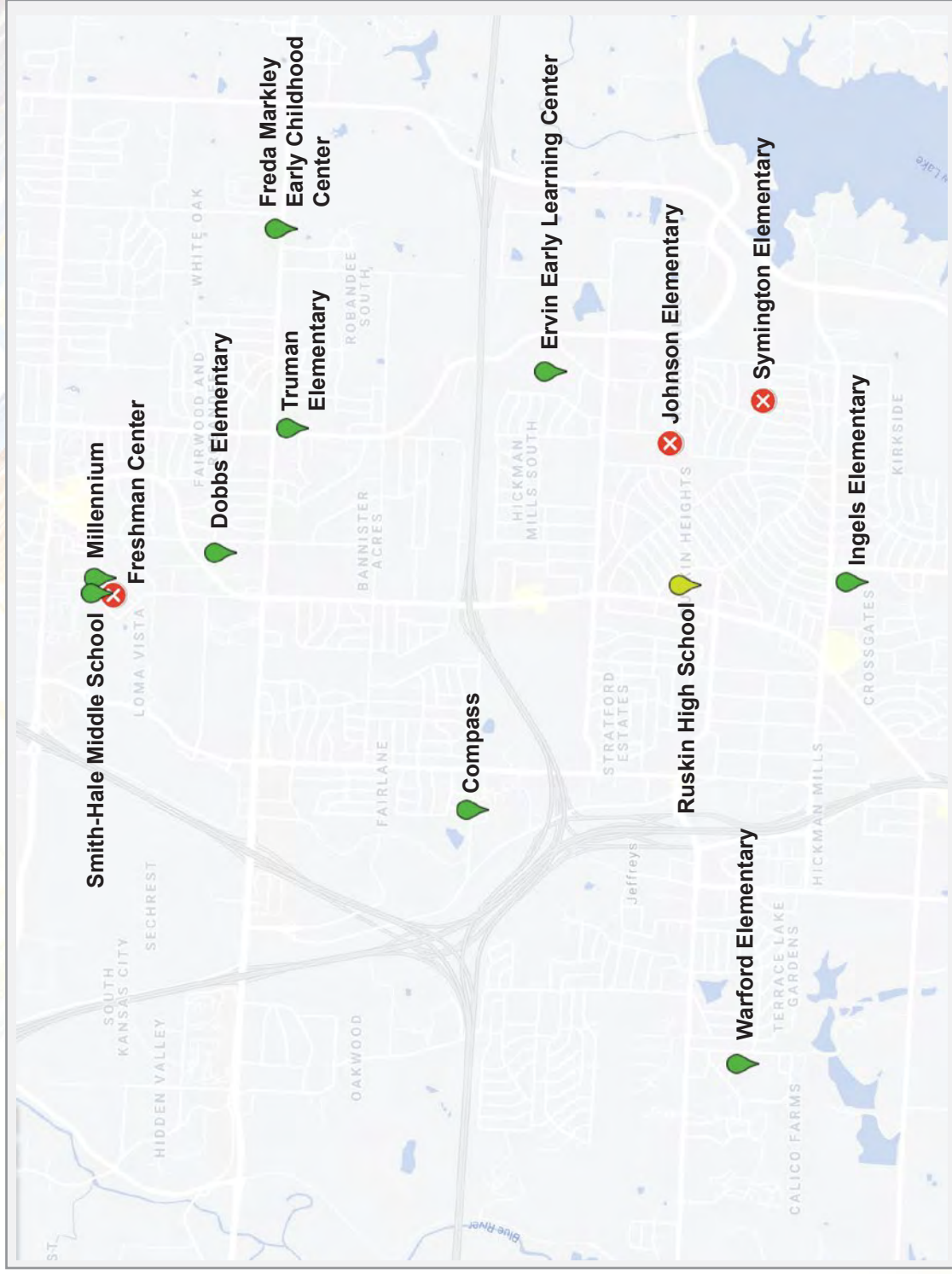
Warford Elementary

Middle School (6, 7, 8)

Smith-Hale Middle School

High School (9, 10, 11, 12)

Ruskin High School



Cooperating School Districts of Greater Kansas City

PRESS Release

For immediate release

April 2, 2019

For more information, contact:

Dr. Gayden Carruth, Cooperating School Districts of Greater Kansas City Executive Director

(816) 753-7275 or gcarruth@csdgkc.org



Kenny Southwick named new executive director of Cooperating School Districts of Greater Kansas City School administrator to replace Gayden Carruth, who is retiring after 11 years in metro-area school leadership position

Dr. Kenny Southwick, deputy superintendent of the Shawnee Mission School District, was named executive director of Cooperating School Districts of Greater Kansas City, which includes 32 Missouri school districts. Southwick will begin his new job in Sept. 2019 following his retirement from Shawnee Mission in July.

He will replace Dr. Gayden Carruth, who is retiring from Cooperating School Districts on Aug. 31 after serving as executive director for 11 years. In order to ensure a smooth transition, Carruth gave notice to the CSDGKC Board in October 2018. Carruth has worked in education for 47 years, including serving as a teacher, principal and district administrator in Mississippi, Minnesota, Virginia and Missouri. Within this area, she served as Park Hill School District's superintendent from 1994 through her retirement from the district in 2005.

Carruth was named 1998 Superintendent of the Year by the Missouri Association of School Administrators and was recognized among *Ingram's* 2014 Icons of Education. As part of her role with Cooperating School Districts, she also serves as co-leader of the Education Policy Fellowship Program, a 10-month training opportunity for current and emerging leaders.

Carruth said her goal has always been to help improve the quality of education for children. "What I feel best about is that in every position I've held, I left that organization better than it was when I arrived," she added.

Dr. Dennis Carpenter, president of the Cooperating School Districts Board and Lee's Summit R-7 School District superintendent, said the organization is looking forward to a positive transition from Carruth to Southwick.

"Cooperating School Districts is grateful to Dr. Carruth for the visionary leadership she has provided for our school districts and the educational community," Carpenter said. "We also feel fortunate to be able to make the transition from one outstanding leader to another as Dr. Southwick steps into the executive director role later this year."

Southwick has worked in the Shawnee Mission School District since 2014 serving as both deputy superintendent and interim superintendent. He previously worked as a teacher, counselor, coach and district administrator within the Maryville, Excelsior Springs and Belton school districts, finishing his career in Missouri public education as Belton's superintendent.

Southwick was honored among *Ingram's* Icons of Education for 2017 and received the University Council for Educational Administration's Excellence in Educational Leadership award. He earned his bachelor's degree from William Jewell College, his master's degree in guidance and counseling from Northwest Missouri State University and a doctorate in education from the University of Kansas.

[Cooperating School Districts of Greater Kansas City](http://www.csdgkc.org), established in 1976, includes Adrian, Archie, Belton, Blue Springs, Center, Excelsior Springs, Fort Osage, Grain Valley, Grandview, Harrisonville, Hickman Mills, Independence, Kansas City, Kearney, Knob Noster, Lathrop, Lee A. Tolbert, Lee's Summit, Lexington, Liberty, Lone Jack, Mid-Buchanan, North Kansas City, Oak Grove, Park Hill, Platte County, Pleasant Hill, Raymore-Peculiar, Raytown, Richmond, Smithville and West Platte.

The 32 districts work together on legislative issues, professional development, research, communication and cooperative purchasing.

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Customer Case Study

we help people transform lives



Local Investment Commission (LINC)

“Apricot is becoming an indispensable organizational tool. We are now taking scattered data - paper records, spreadsheets, and data files - and pulling them systematically into a single data system. It can be exasperating to have information, but for all practical purposes have it be inaccessible or unavailable.”

– Brent Schondelmeyer,
Deputy Director of
Community Engagement,
Local Investment Commission (LINC)

It was 1992 in Kansas City. Income inequality was rampant, with the highest poverty rates among children and youth. From state and county government to local businesses, individual organizations were devoted to improving the Kansas City community. But they had yet to come to a common agreement, with everyone pulling in their own direction. Enter Bert Berkley, a Kansas City business leader, with a simple but powerful idea: **a collaborative citizen commission dedicated to community improvement and engagement.**

And so, the Local Investment Commission (LINC) was founded. The desire to collaborate across organizational boundaries, and between private and public entities, was uncharted territory for many. Nonprofit organizations, businesses, and bureaucracies were all providing services to members of the community without systematic information on what the others were doing. LINC provided the unique opportunity for members from all parts of the community to create a shared understanding of the community needs, and work together to provide the services required to meet those needs.

As with any change, people had doubts about LINC’s purpose and place in the community. There was a fear of being defined by statutes, processes, and bureaucracies. There were questions around funding and organizational resources. But perhaps, the largest question waiting to be answered remained, “How will we do it?”

As Brent Schondelmeyer, LINC’s Deputy Director of Community Engagement, explains, “The first two or three years were really difficult because you have to find your way in the world.” LINC leaders were now faced with the challenge of delivering on the bold mission they created.

From Good Intentions to Clear Direction

LINC first developed a community presence through their welfare-to-work system. By leveraging the community distribution of federal waivers, LINC received national attention from President Bill Clinton, praising LINC’s innovative approach and desire to reform welfare.

With the success of this program behind them, LINC began to consider where they should concentrate their efforts moving forward. The leaders at LINC knew they needed to develop a clear direction, but first they needed to understand who was benefiting from their services. They needed data.



Once leaders at LINC started tracking basic demographic information, they learned that the majority of the people they served were low-income families with children. This led them to conclude that schools should be at the center of their community efforts. They established a partnership with several school districts in the area to create Caring Communities, places where community members can regularly gather to receive health and social services such as before- and after-school child care, tutoring, and job skills training. These services and others like them are the reason LINC’s Caring Communities improve student learning, and develop stronger families and communities. ***This initiative is an ambitious implementation of the “community school model” being undertaken by other school districts, nonprofits, and community-based organizations across the country.***

There were logistical challenges with community collaboration. Staff were spending a lot of time tracking basic information about clients that had to be entered in multiple places, or collecting that same information from others. ***In 2015, LINC introduced Apricot software, allowing them to redirect saved time and effort towards direct client work.***

For Brent, access to data means understanding what’s happening at every Caring Community site in real-time. “I can now come to work with confidence that I can get to the data I need,” he stated. Greater visibility into the work LINC’s sites are doing has been critical when informing internal decisions, as well as conversations with the media and funders. The organization can now report much more efficiently to stakeholders – both when seeking new funding and reporting on funding received.

Looking Forward: Making a Measurable Impact on Kansas City

What does the future hold for LINC? For Brent, it’s about using the data they have to make a measurable impact on the community. Where better to start than where they began: in schools. LINC’s latest project has a clearly defined goal of reducing the number of days children miss school when they transfer school districts. LINC will use Apricot to support the provision and coordination of services that aid in the smooth transition between schools for children. And they will use data to monitor how successfully they are reducing the number of school days children miss.

LINC has come a long way since the idea took shape in 1992. Today, unprecedented insights into services delivered throughout the community have gone into supporting effective collaboration. As Brent puts it, “While the idea remains the same, what we now have is an effective scalable data tool capable of supporting broad implementation of our wide ranging ever unfolding work.”

Tshibanda & Associates, a project management firm approved by Social Solutions, assisted LINC with the implementation of their Apricot system.

LINC At-A-Glance:

- **87 LINC Caring Communities** sites currently in operation
- Services provided to **7 school districts**
- Involvement with **46 before- and after-school sites**
- **59% of students** attended 101 school days or more
- Between FY 2015-2016, LINC **added 320 Apricot users** to their system

“We serve highly mobile children and families in low-income schools in after-school programs and may also be providing case management for adult household members. The daily lives of the working poor are truly difficult - multiple jobs, frequent moves and the children need a safe place to be. Apricot allows us to support that family where they live and the children go to school by providing place-based, people-based supportive services.”

– Brent Schondelmeyer,
Deputy Director of
Community Engagement,
Local Investment Commission (LINC)



A groundbreaking partnership that will drive radical acceleration of social change.

Program Overview

Have you ever wondered how much a high-performing collaborative of nonprofits, school districts, SIS (school information systems) providers and a case management software provider could move the needle on social change given the opportunity? Well, Steve Ballmer did – and that’s why the Ballmer Group made a \$59 million investment in Social Solutions. This investment will provide Social Solutions the opportunity to rapidly accelerate the development of its case management software, Apricot, with a powerful, expanded solution for nonprofits focusing on education-related causes.

The Ballmer Group’s commitment will benefit a number of initiatives, including:

- enabling Social Solutions to double-down on research and development to more quickly expand product features and improve design of the Apricot platform,
- facilitating integration with other public and non-profit systems, using robust data-sharing agreements to protect privacy, for better analysis of service results, and
- cutting the licensing costs for early showcase users to show the possibilities in using Apricot, and encouraging broader usage, empowering more agencies and case workers to more efficiently serve their clients with data about their specific needs.

“Social Solutions’ Apricot can monitor school data and use algorithms to determine which students are doing well and may need accelerated programs and which students may be at risk for falling behind or dropping out. The software combs the resources available in local nonprofits and suggests services such as tutoring, after-school care or meal support. “The software will be able to make recommendations and actually facilitate the referrals within the program.” -- Social Solutions CEO Kristin Nimsger.

Today, Apricot clients use the software platform to combine data from local participating community programs, school districts, and government entities to create actionable insights. For example, the Local Investment Commission (LINC), a nonprofit organization in Kansas City, Missouri, uses Apricot software to share data between local schools and its after-school programs. They are able to track critical indicators like student attendance for over 7,000 students across five school districts in the region. Before switching to Apricot, LINC relied on paper records, spreadsheets, and data files that were not always informed by school records and meant that teachers, tutors, and program staff were not always alerted to early warning indicators, particularly among students who were on a path to drop out. A broad range of social service programs, including those focused on job placement, neighborhood improvement, family support, and mentoring can also use the software platform.

With respect to the rollout of the education-focused platform, Social Solutions endeavored to build a model to help target the cities that would have the opportunity to drive the biggest impact –

the max scale possible. While historical models have looked strictly at student populations, Social Solutions decided to look at market size, and the feasibility of the solution being adopted. Market size considered (a) the number of students in the district; (b) how many nonprofits supporting education causes were in those locations; and (c) how many existing Social Solutions clients are in the location.

That information was then overlaid with feasibility factors including:

- The school information system (SIS) being used, the complexity of the school district infrastructure, and the ability to do technical integrations, so the existence of an API (meaning cloud-based deployment of the system).
- The final overlay was whether there is a pre-existing data-sharing arrangement in the city, and if the answer was yes, we then viewed that as determinative of a high probability of cooperation between the public and private sector.

The resulting data gave Social Solutions a list of approximately 20 priority cities, including San Antonio, Kansas City, and Dallas, where Social Solutions will focus the initial rollout of this transformative solution.

Targeting Support: Behind a Big Impact Investment by the Ballmer Group

Ade Adeniji

Founded in 2000, [Social Solutions](#) is an Austin-based tech firm that provides performance management software for the likes of Harlem Children's Zone, the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Social Solutions' software products, called Apricot—for small and mid-sized shops—and Efforts to Outcomes (ETO)—for the largest outfits—help organizations measure the progress that they make with participants and families. Now [comes news](#) that billionaire couple Steve and Connie Ballmer have invested \$59 million over five years for a stake in Social Solutions. The funds will accelerate the development of the firm's Apricot software and make it more widely available for nonprofits working with K-12 students.

I recently spoke with Social Solutions CEO Kristin Nimsger to find out more about the recent infusion from the Ballmers and how the technology company was able to get on the wealthy couple's radar.

Nimsger explains that while Social Solutions has long been a leading provider of software to case management and outcomes causes, the company has lately been going through a transformation, pivoting toward leveraging data in new ways. Social Solutions connected with the Ballmers last year and found aligned visions for harnessing data and technology.

In an era when many philanthropists, nonprofits and government service providers want to better track impact and target resources, a key selling point of Apricot is that it offers ways to do both of those things. Nimsger explains that the capabilities "help leverage the collective intelligence and experience of the sector in order to make recommendations on programmatic work that individuals should be in at the moment when they have the need, or even before they have the need. That's the real driver behind this latest partnership."

Steve and Connie Ballmer launched the [Ballmer Group](#) a few years ago to improve economic mobility for children and families in poverty. Connie has a longstanding interest in at-risk youth, which was sparked after reading stories about kids lost in Washington State's foster system, and she played an instrumental role in founding a regional nonprofit, Partners for Our Children.

As we've reported, the Ballmers have made a string of big moves to support nonprofits working on poverty and education. At the same time, they've trained an eye on the larger issue of better connecting efforts in this corner of the social sector. Connie has said, "We believe that the best work in philanthropy happens when multiple sectors—public, private and nonprofit—come together to tackle problems. Everybody brings a different perspective, and sometimes it's a little painful because we are all so different, but we think that's where the power is. Together, we all go farther."

New collaborations are key. But the Ballmers also see a need for improved data and technology. In announcing the Ballmer Group's partnership with Social Solutions, Connie said that better measuring the impact of services for poor kids is a key to faster progress. "Social service organizations can often be 20 years behind the private sector in the availability and use of data and technology, and so in order to help nonprofits and the families they serve, we want to support leaders in this field like Social Solutions."

Connie has seen the tech challenges in the social services space close up. A few years ago, she was part of a committee trying to bring new technology to Washington State's child welfare offices, replacing cumbersome boxes of case files. The committee opted to build a software system called OLIVER, and the Ballmers bankrolled it with \$9 million. But while caseworkers loved the software, it was a custom system, so broadening it to more agencies and adding more features had to be done from scratch, as well. The price tag cited was between \$50 million and \$200 million. To do it, "you were basically starting a software company," Connie [explained](#) to Bloomberg news. So the couple pulled the plug. There had to be a better way.

"To build this kind of software requires a for-profit company rather than donations to nonprofits," Steve Ballmer said. "There's just a lack of money in this sector," Connie added. "Ten years ago, investing some of your incredibly precious money into data or tech would have been nice, but nobody could afford it. Now, it's mission critical, so they are making room for it."

This is where Social Solutions comes in. The Ballmers are especially excited about Apricot's potential within K-12 public school systems.

The software can monitor school data and use algorithms to determine which students are doing well and may need accelerated programs, and which students may be at risk for falling behind or dropping out. Apricot also combs the resources available in local nonprofits and suggests services such as tutoring, after-school care or meal support. "The software will be able to make recommendations and actually facilitate the referrals within the program," Kristin says. "It's sort of the Netflix of philanthropy." Social Solutions will

eventually expand beyond education, but first priority will be helping kids in the K-12 public school system.

The Ballmers did a fair amount of research before coming into conversation with Social Solutions. Kristin explains that last fall, the firm was able to convince the couple that not only was its software the market leader, but also that "we had the right technology strategy, right team, to deliver our audacious vision."

It's important to note that efforts to use new technology to track and assess students haven't always worked out. Most famously, a \$100 million student data project backed by the Gates Foundation, called InBloom, famously [crashed and burned](#) in 2014. The initiative sparked strong resistance from educators and parents worried about student privacy. Meanwhile, critics of big K-12 technology investments persistently raise questions about who's profiting from such efforts, and whether funds could be better used elsewhere in an era when teachers often use their own money to buy basic supplies for their classrooms.

All that said, philanthropists may be more excited than ever about using new education technology to transform how students learn and how schools operate. In addition, as we've often reported, foundations across many issue areas are tantalized by the potential to better use data to drive impact.

Given the number of funders looking to move the needle on education, often by focusing on specific niches like STEM education for girls or students at risk of dropping out, Social Solutions is in the right space at the right time. Its software allows schools to target support for specific demographics of students and tailor programs specific to their individualized needs and desired outcomes.

To better serve the funding community, Social Solutions has developed a funder portal that the Ballmer Group will be the first to use. The idea here is to allow funders to access and analyze data to see the impact of their donations on the causes they care about.



Social Solutions

Social Solutions Global Awards Kansas City LINC and St. Louis ARCHS with Ballmer Group Investment Matching Grants

Matching grants will defray costs of Apricot 360 software; empower organizations to improve K-12 student outcomes

March 12, 2019 09:00 AM Eastern Daylight Time

KANSAS CITY, Mo. & ST. LOUIS--(BUSINESS WIRE)--[Social Solutions Global](#) today announced [Kansas City Local Investment Commission](#) (LINC) and [St. Louis Area Resources for Community and Human Services](#) (ARCHS) as recipients of Social Solutions matching grants using funding from [Ballmer Group](#). The matching grants will defray 50 percent of the licensing costs for Social Solutions' leading case management and analytics solution, Apricot 360.

Both organizations are significant providers of out-of-school time child care in their communities, supporting critical initiatives including early childhood education, correctional re-entry programs, and fostered youth programs, and serve as crucial coordinating hubs in their respective communities. The matching grant includes other community partners that are part of the [Missouri Family and Community Trust](#) (MoFACT), a private-public sector partnership that consists of the major state agencies involved in social services and education.

With their Apricot 360 licenses, LINC, ARCHS and the other Missouri community partnerships can now:

- harness data for more comprehensive reporting
- proactively identify risks and take action
- address chronic absenteeism
- support education enrichment in out-of-school time programs

"Robust, state-of-the art data systems are needed to tackle complex community issues that straddle jurisdictions, funding streams or single-focused initiatives," said Brent Schondelmeyer, deputy director of community engagement for Kansas City LINC. "Upgrading to Apricot 360 will allow us to effectively address the myriad of issues, such as absenteeism, that often affect working poor families facing the enormous pressures of improving the futures of their children."

The news comes on the heels of the [recent partnership with Kansas City Public Schools \(KCPS\)](#), the first district in the country to join Social Solutions and Ballmer Group's initiative to share data for better integration between school districts and local nonprofit programs. The partnership between KCPS and Social Solutions will allow LINC to incorporate student data, like grades and attendance, to better assess its impact in advancing the success of specific students participating in their programs.

"We're thrilled to expand our partnerships throughout Kansas City and St. Louis and are inspired by the dedication of these organizations in supporting at-risk students and families in their communities," said Kristin Nimsger, CEO of Social Solutions. "With more robust access to insights and data, these organizations can take their work to the next level and support students where they need it most."

LINC and Social Solutions are working together closely to develop powerful tools that specifically address chronic absenteeism, a problem affecting 13.8% of Missouri students. Apricot 360 can proactively identify those at higher risk of absenteeism from instances such as eviction, flagging the risk to caseworkers along with recommended steps to help ensure the student remains on track in their education.

"Absenteeism is a growing concern, and historically the solution has been to evoke legal action against students that are chronically absent," said Hedy Chang, director of the California-based Attendance Works. "However, there is a need for solutions that are not solely focused on the fact students are absent, but that identify the reason behind the absences and how the community can better support each child."

"In St. Louis, ARCHS is committed to disrupting cycles of intergenerational poverty by advancing lifelong learning, and a large part of this is providing holistic support of each student and family," said Wendell E. Kimbrough, Chief Executive Officer of ARCHS. "With this matching grant, the Apricot 360 solution will enhance ARCHS' strategic consulting and technical support services for our grantees related to data management and program evaluation."

To find out if an organization qualifies for these matching grants, or to learn more about Social Solutions' Apricot 360 solution visit: <https://www.socialsolutions.com/software/apricot-360/>.

About Social Solutions Global

Social Solutions Global, the provider of Efforts to Outcomes (ETO®) and Apricot® Software, specializes in outcomes management software for human services, workforce, and education programs. Across the globe, our software is the leader in equipping thousands of organizations with the tools needed to transform the lives of children, adults, and families by making data useful to staff at all levels, from case managers to executive leadership. Follow us on Twitter: [@SocialSolutions](#).

About ARCHS

Area Resources for Community and Human Services (ARCHS) funds and strategically enhances initiatives that improve the lives of children and families facing disparities and disadvantages in St. Louis' most impoverished communities. ARCHS' 30 funded programs currently serve 180,000 people in more than 300 business, education, faith-based, and community locations. Follow us on Twitter: [@stlarchs](#).

About LINC

The Local Investment Commission is a non-profit community collaborative involving efforts by the state of Missouri to work with neighborhood leaders, citizens, business, civic and labor leaders to improve the lives of children and families in the Kansas City region. Follow us on Twitter [@kclinc](#).

Contacts

Catherine Taylor

214-734-1401

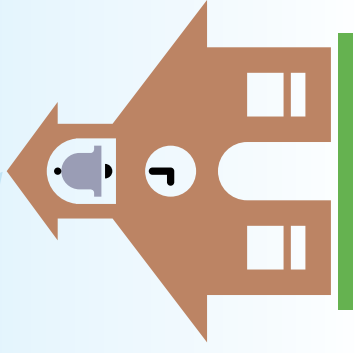
catherine@ink-co.com

Tweets by [@SocialSolutions](#)

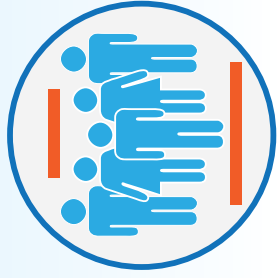


Enabled Programs, Connected Systems

Apricot is an extremely secure and flexible nonprofit software solution that offers case management, client, donor and volunteer tracking as well as outcomes management.



Before and After School Care



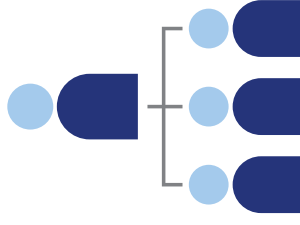
373
Apricot Users

Program Enrollments & Attendance
Activity Attendance
Individualized Care Plans
Medication Authorization & Administration

Site Incident Reports
Site Licensing
- Fire & Tornado Drill Records
- Equipment Lists
- Inspection Dates & Reports

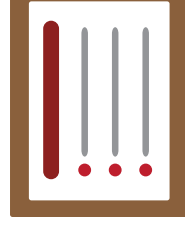


216
Apricot Users



Staff

Part-time Staff Recruitment
Staffing Ratios
Staff Training
Staff Background Checks



Events & Activities

Events
Flyer & Poster Requests
Chess Attendance (site)
Chess Tournaments

68

State Agencies
& Other Users



Community Organizing

One-to-One
Group Meetings
Site Councils
Site Plans



Supportive Services

Food Pantry
Holiday Assistance

89

FACT Community
Partner Users



FACT
Family and Community Trust



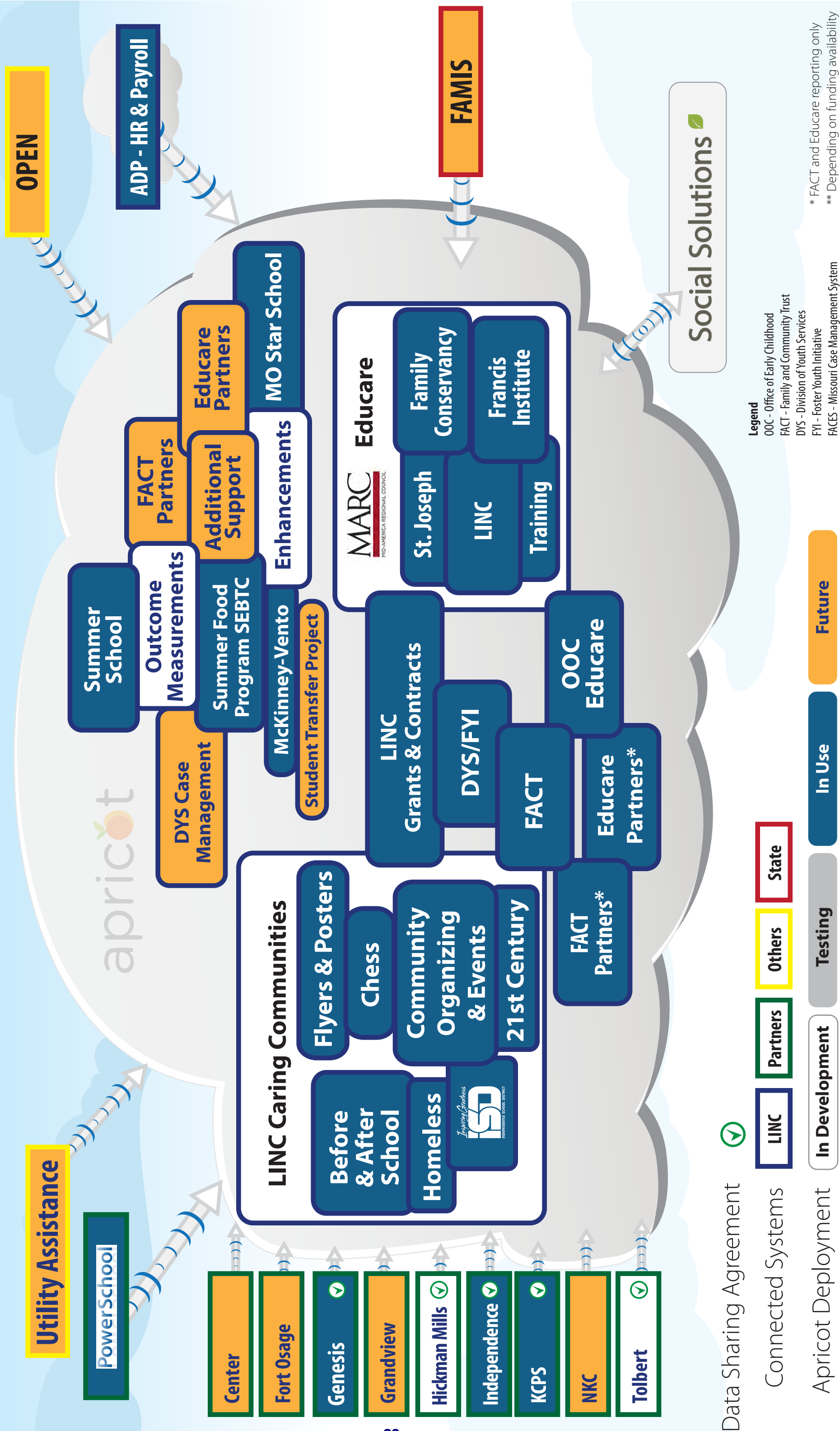
Finance & Operations

Leveraged Resources & Volunteer Hours
Service Agreements
Chess instructor invoices

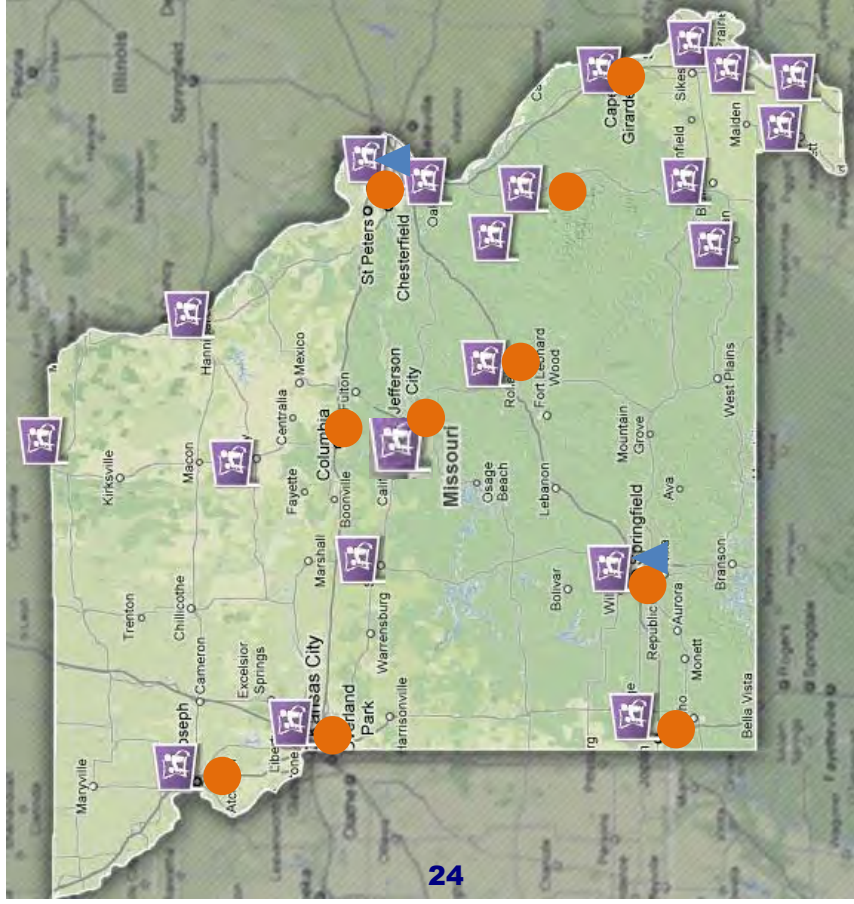





Local Investment Commission

Apricot-Enabled Programs, Connected Systems & Future



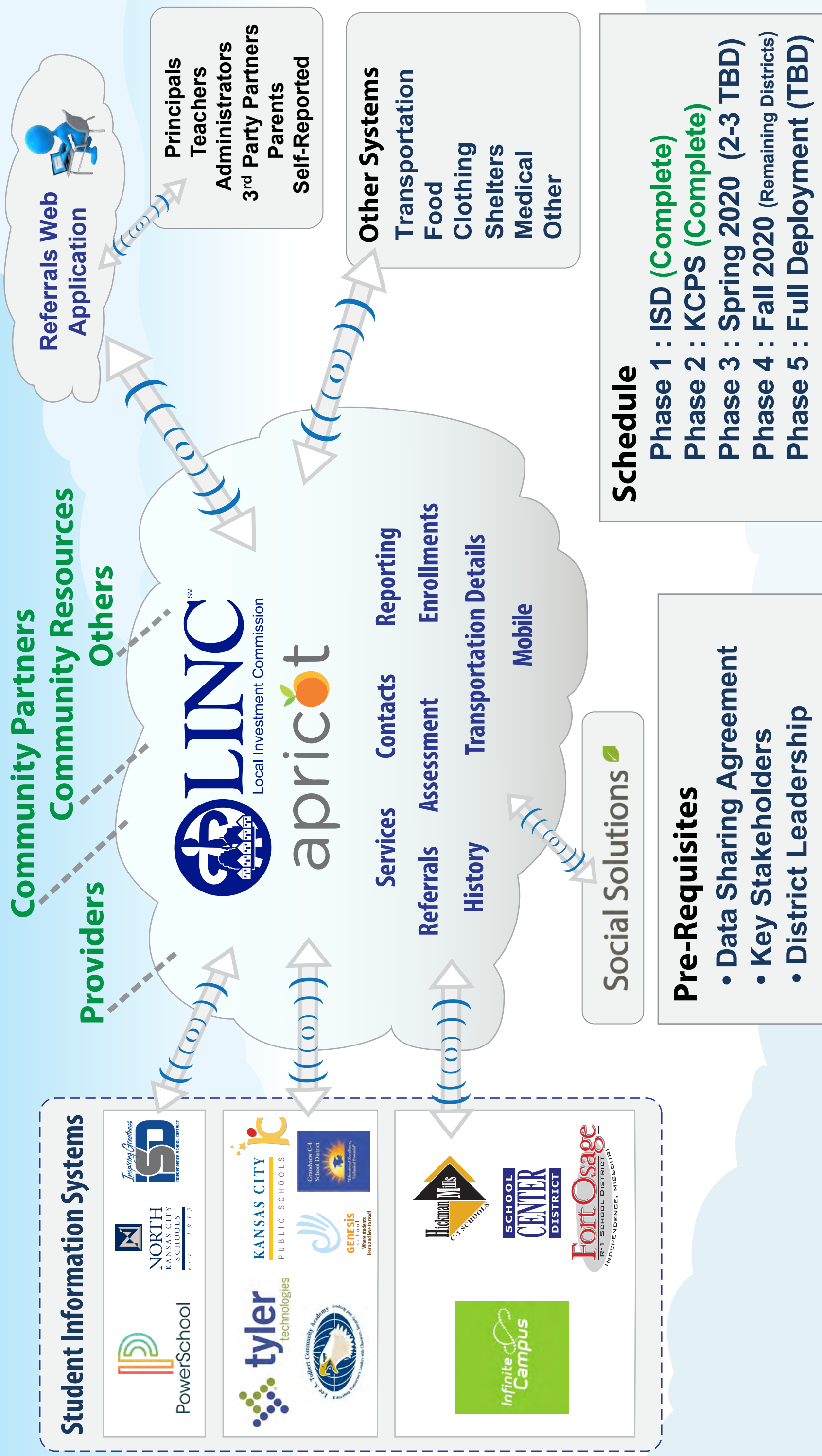
Partner & Geographic Scope



-  FACT/Community Partnerships
-  OOC/Educare Partners
-  Missouri Mentoring Program (MMP) Partners

Partners	Family & Community Trust (FACT)	Office of Early Childhood (OOC)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 20 Community Partnerships ▪ 2 Missouri Mentoring Partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 9 Educare Partners
Users	65	32
Apricot Scope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Partnership Budgeting & Invoicing ▪ FACT Reporting ▪ FACT/Partnership Administration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Educare Monthly & Quarterly Reporting ▪ Attendance & Payment Accuracy ▪ Training Needs/ Completions

High-Level Students In Transition System Framework



A Secret to Better Health Care

By Robert E. Rubin and Kenneth L. Davis

May 27, 2019

It seems obvious: better social services. So why are things like food stamps and housing not part of the conversation?

Health care is at the center of the national policy conversation, and with the 2020 presidential election now in full swing, that is where it will probably remain. But for all the talk about how to increase access and reduce costs, we're missing a critical piece of the puzzle: the inverse relationship between health care costs and spending on social programs.

One reason the United States spends more on health care than any other nation — more than 17 percent of gross domestic product, compared with an average of 9 percent for other advanced economies — is that we spend far less on social services like food stamps, free school lunches and public housing.

If our spending on social programs were more in line with other developed countries, our health care costs would fall. That means that as policymakers evaluate a social program, they should weigh not only its direct and second-order benefits — from reducing crime and recidivism to increasing productivity — but also its effect on lowering federal health care costs.

These safety net programs can lower health care costs by strengthening what medical professionals call the “social determinants of health”: the environment in which people are born, grow, live and work. Effective social programs provide access to good nutrition, clean and safe shelter and a subsistence income, which are critical to avoiding disease. They help food-insecure children receive nutrient-dense meals rather than empty calories, and families with incomes below the poverty line to live in sanitary environments free of serious health risks.

Especially important are programs that ameliorate poor housing conditions and prevent disease, including lead abatement, control of mold and dampness and heating-system repairs. Consider a real-life example.

Days after an elderly patient was treated for heart failure at Mount Sinai Hospital and returned home, the elevator in his apartment building broke down. Lacking the ability to climb stairs, he became a prisoner in his own home, unable to go out for a walk, shop for fresh food and visit his doctors for follow-up care.

A social service worker took up his case, and the elevator was repaired. His substandard housing was literally a threat to his health; the intervention of the

social worker may have saved his life — and certainly saved him from a possible relapse and expensive hospital care.

Two programs — one in Chicago, the other in Los Angeles — show the multidimensional benefits of social spending. The Chicago program supplemented federal housing subsidies to help patients with chronic health problems afford stable housing. It reduced health care costs in the University of Illinois hospital system for participating patients by roughly 18 percent. And once in stable housing, beneficiaries can better pursue public benefits and job opportunities.

The Los Angeles program showed even greater cost savings, according to [a study by the nonpartisan RAND Corporation](#). After receiving housing assistance, beneficiaries' costs to the public health system plummeted. Inpatient services fell by 75 percent. Over all, the study found that, even accounting for the increased housing costs, recipients' total social service and health care costs fell by 20 percent. And beneficiaries showed signs of reduced involvement in crime and improved mental health.

All of this is intuitive and supported by reams of data. But the United States continues to spend a relative pittance on such programs. Housing programs, including rental assistance, public housing and homeless-assistance grants, account for one-quarter of 1 percent of G.D.P. Nutrition programs, such as food stamps and the Women, Infants and Children nutrition program, amount to one-half of 1 percent of G.D.P.

Our underinvestment sets us apart from other advanced nations around the globe, particularly in Western Europe. France, Sweden and Britain commit far more than the United States to social services, as a percentage of their economy, while spending significantly less per capita and as a percentage of their economy on health care — and boast a higher life expectancy.

Many factors influence discrepancies in health care spending and outcomes between the United States and its counterparts: vastly different views about the financial incentives in health care; [the high cost of prescription drugs, diagnostic tests and administrative expenses](#); and cultural expectations about end-of-life care. But we won't effectively reduce costs, and improve outcomes, until we think bigger and recognize the critical link between health care spending and social programs.

Read more

Opinion coverage on health care.

Robert E. Rubin, secretary of the Treasury from 1995 to 1999, is a chairman emeritus of the Council on Foreign Relations. Kenneth L. Davis is the president and chief executive of the Mount Sinai Health System.

5

simple

steps

to make your baby

Safe to Sleep

steps

- 1 Place your baby on his or her back to sleep alone, for naps and night time, to reduce the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).
- 2 Place your baby in a safety-approved crib, bassinet or portable play area with a firm sleep surface and fitted sheet.
- 3 Remove all soft objects, toys, blankets, bumper pads and pillows from the sleep area.
- 4 Dress your baby in a sleeper or sleep sack instead of using a blanket or other covering.
- 5 Put your baby to sleep alone in a crib or bassinet, but in the same room where you sleep. Bed sharing is dangerous.

It's as simple
as ABC.

Babies should...
sleep **A** **LONE**,
on their **B** **ACKS**,
in a **C** **RIB**.



**Children's
Trust Fund**

Strong Families, Safe Kids

ctf4kids.org

Many Kansas Babies Still Aren't Sleeping Safely. Here's What Families Should Know.

By [CELIA LLOPIS-JEPSEN](#) • APR 18, 2019



Use a firm sleep surface to reduce the risk of SIDS. Learn more at [safetosleep.nichd.nih.gov](https://www.safetosleep.nichd.nih.gov).

Many Kansas families may not be following safe sleep practices meant to cut down the risk that infants could die in their sleep.

[The first survey of its kind in the state](#) found four in five new mothers said their babies sleep primarily on their backs.

Rachel Sisson, the director of the Bureau of Family Health at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, wants to make it five out of five.

“It’s very clear that the safest place for a baby is in a crib on his or her back,” she said. “With no soft items or pillows or blankets or bedding.”

What are the best practices and why?

Babies can die of accidental suffocation or strangulation while sleeping, or of other less clear causes. The state groups these deaths together as sudden, unexpected infant deaths.

In recent years, [nearly 20 percent of infant deaths](#) in Kansas fell into this category, which includes sudden infant death syndrome, or SIDS.

Many factors appear to play into SIDS. But pediatricians have reached a broad consensus after studying those and other sleep-related deaths that certain sleep positions and bedding come with higher risks.

Here's what the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends:

- Don't lay your infant on his or her tummy or side to sleep. Lay your baby on his or her back, whether it's nighttime or a daytime nap.
- Don't use car seats for sleep. Or strollers, swings or other seat-style carriers that don't let your infant lay flat. Babies can end up sleeping in a position that cuts off their airway. If your infant falls asleep in one of these, move him or her as soon as possible to....
- ...a firm and flat sleep surface such as a crib or bassinet. That's where babies should sleep. The surface should be firm enough that he or she doesn't sink into it. Soft surfaces come with risks of suffocation. Sofas and armchairs are especially dangerous.
- No stuffed animals, no pillows, no bumper pads — *not even loose sheets or blankets*. They pose risks of suffocation or overheating. The AAP notes that many SIDS deaths involve bedding covering a baby's face. Use sleep clothes to keep your baby warm instead of loose bedding.
- Don't lay your infant to sleep in bed with you, because of similar risks of smothering and overheating. It is, however, good to keep his or her crib in your bedroom.

For a lot more detail (What about pacifiers? Swaddling? What if your baby tends to roll around while sleeping?), here's [an explainer of the AAP policy](#).

Celia Llopis-Jepsen is a reporter for the Kansas News Service, a collaboration of KCUR, Kansas Public Radio, KMUW and High Plains Public Radio covering health, education and politics. You can reach her on Twitter [@Celia LJ](#).

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2019 Summer Programs

District	Location	Before & After Summer School
Center	Boone Elementary	June 10-27
Grandview	Meadowmere Elementary	June 10-July 3
Hickman Mills	Ervin Early Learning Center	June 13-28
	Johnson Elementary	
	Santa Fe Elementary	
	Smith-Hale Middle	
Kansas City	Faxon Elementary	June 6-28
	Foreign Language Academy	
	Hale Cook Elementary	
	Holliday Montessori	
	James Elementary	
	King Elementary	
	Phillips Elementary	
	Trailwoods Elementary	
	Banneker Elementary	Year-Round School
N. Kansas City	Topping Elementary	June 3-28
Charter	Tolbert Academy	June 11-July 16

For more information, visit www.kclinc.org/summer





LINC Chess Camp

Improve your chess game at LINC Chess Camp. LINC Chess Camp is free and available to students who have participated in at least one LINC Chess Tournament. Instructors will help you keep your chess skills sharp for the upcoming school year.

LINC Chess University

Get hands-on experience teaching chess. LINC Chess University is free and available to any adult who wants to learn the LINC Chess way of teaching chess. The Instructor will lead you through the LINC Chess curriculum and help you understand how to teach students how to play the game of Chess.

Both Courses

July 15 - 25, Monday-Thursday

Two Sessions: 9 a.m. - Noon OR 1 - 4 p.m.

Genesis School

3800 E 44th St, Kansas City, MO 64130

Register online at kclinc.org/chess



LINCSM
Local Investment Commission

Chess Resources

Chess.com - A learning site with all levels of chess from beginner to top-ranked players. Over 100,000 games and 15,000 players to challenge.

ChessGames.com - Games and chess history. Database of 1 million games.

KCLINC.org - Info on all LINC Chess activities. Local and school-based chess programs, posters, flyers, history, and posting of tournament results.



For more information:

Ken Lingelbach, LINC Chess Coordinator
klingelbach@kclinc.org, 816-650-7525



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JUNE 18 is ELECTION DAY in Kansas City

**GET YOUR PERSONALIZED BALLOT AT
WWW.VOTE411.ORG/BALLOT**

ENTER YOUR ADDRESS TO...

- PREVIEW RACES AND BALLOT ISSUES
- LEARN ABOUT CANDIDATES
- COMPARE CANDIDATES SIDE-BY-SIDE
- SAVE YOUR BALLOT FOR ELECTION DAY
- PRINT IT
- TEXT IT
- EMAIL IT
- SHARE IT ON SOCIAL MEDIA



AVOID SURPRISES ON ELECTION DAY

