

LINC Commission Meeting

February 23, 2015



The Ervin Early Learning Center in the Hickman Mills School District is operating at full-capacity after opening last fall. The center offers full-day Pre-K and Kindergarten to over 800 students. LINC is a partner with the school and provides before- and after-school care.



LINC

Local Investment Commission
www.kclinc.org

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, Feb. 23, 2015 | 4 – 6 pm
Kauffman Foundation
4801 Rockhill Rd.
Kansas City, Mo. 64110

Agenda

- I. Welcome and Announcements
- II. Approvals
 - a. **January minutes (motion)**
- III. Superintendents' Report
- IV. Early Education
 - a. Hickman Mills – Dennis Carpenter
- V. Summer Food
 - a. Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer
 - b. Other
- VI. Other reports
 - a. LINC employee financial education
- VII. Adjournment



THE LOCAL INVESTMENT COMMISSION – JAN. 26, 2015

The Local Investment Commission met at the Kauffman Foundation, 4801 Rockhill Rd., Kansas City, Mo. Chairman **Landon Rowland** presided. Commissioners attending were:

Bert Berkley
Sharon Cheers
Jack Craft
Aaron Deacon
Anita Gorman

Rosemary Lowe
Mary Kay McPhee
Richard Morris
David Ross
Bailus Tate

Rowland made the following announcements:

- **Bridget McCandless** was scheduled to give a presentation on regional health issues at today's meeting. She has agreed to give the presentation at the March meeting instead so that sufficient time can be given to other items on today's agenda.
- Commissioner **Margie Peltier** will be leaving the Commission because she is moving to Chicago to be near family.
- **David Leone** and **Mark Enderle**, superintendents of the Center and Fort Osage school districts, will retire at the end of the current school year.

A motion to approve the Nov.24, 2014, LINC Commission meeting minutes was passed unanimously.

Superintendents' Report

- **Mark Tolbert** (Chairman, Lee A. Tolbert Academy) reported the school has a full enrollment of 550 students and a waiting list of 250. Kindergarten roundup will be held in February. Tolbert encouraged others to let legislators know of the importance of implementing Common Core standards.
- **Jerry Kitzi** (Director of Early Learning, Kansas City Public Schools) reported the district is meeting with community partners about facilities planning and school boundaries. The district is applying to Mo. Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education for charter school sponsor status. The district is planning with partners including LINC for summer school programming.
- **Anissa Gastin** (Assistant Superintendent, Fort Osage School District) reported **Jason Snodgrass** will succeed Mark Enderle as superintendent. Under the district's 1-to-1 program, students in grades 7-9 have received computing devices; teachers are receiving training on how to use them in the classroom; and the program will expand to include students through the 12th grade next year.
- **Beth Heide** (Director of Human Resources, Center School District) reported the district is working on benchmarking literacy and math programs from kindergarten up and ensuring the curriculum is aligned with benchmarks. The district is partnering with university to develop positive interventions with students, and with Swope Health Services to develop mental health services for students.
- **Dred Scott** (Assistant Superintendent, Independence School District) reported on the district's partnership with Ford Motor Co to develop the first Generation Next Learning program in the Midwest region. The program provides eight pathways for students to learn about professional careers and earn an A.A. or industry recognized credentials (IRC).

- **Gayden Carruth** (Executive Director, Cooperating School Districts of Greater Kansas City) reported there are 12 participants in the current class of the area Education Policy Fellowship Program co-sponsored by LINC. Through the program fellows develop leadership skills, learn about public policy issues, and network.
- **Kevin Foster** (Executive Director, Genesis Promise Academy) reported the school will go before the Missouri Board of Education next month to renew its charter; the Genesis school board emphasizes its role as a community school in its mission. The school is developing plans with daycare centers to share data in order to learn about student performance. The school is planning to expand its calendar to 195 days, or nearly year-round schooling (except the month of July), and will be seeking partners for summer programming.
- **Allan Tunis** (Chief Financial Officer, Kansas City Public Schools) reported the district is making significant progress in increasing academic performance. District staff met with LINC staff twice a month to discuss everyday programming as well as summer. The district is working with community partners to raise awareness of technical programs available at Manual Tech.
- **Ralph Teran** (Superintendent, Grandview School District) reported the district is engaged in budget planning for next school year in an environment of scarce resources.

Marge Randle reported that she is serving as Designated Principal Assistant to the Family Support Division Director, and introduced **Stephanie Fowler**, who succeeds her as Missouri Family Support Division Kansas City Regional Administrator. Fowler reported the division is undergoing a 2-3 year period of reorganization, and that Kansas City will administer Temporary Assistance and Child Care for the entire state. Randle and Fowler recently met with Missouri Work Assistance contractors (including LINCWorks) to gain insight on the contract monitoring process. FSD Director **Allyson Campbell** has directed that the division work with contactors as partners in order to increase work participation.

Andrea O’Neal, Deputy Director, LINCWorks, reported the partnership between LINCWorks, FSD and Full Employment Council is seeing positive results, with a December 2014 work participation rate of 27.8%, the highest-ever in the Kansas City region. LINCWorks continues to enhance the statewide participation rate.

Discussion followed.

Tom Daniels, LINC Contact Manager, reported LINC’s investments achieved a rate of return of 7% in calendar year 2014. LINC’s investments, which are guided by the LINC Finance Committee, allow the organization to take on responsibilities that it otherwise couldn’t.

David Ross reported the LINC Nominating Committee recommended Jack Craft and Bailus Tate be selected to serve as interim co-chairs of the LINC Commission.

A motion to adopt the recommendation of the LINC Nominating Committee was approved unanimously.

Bill Dent, Executive Director of the Missouri Family and Community Trust (FACT), presented a resolution from the Missouri General Assembly to **Landon Rowland**, thanking him for his leadership of LINC, FACT, and the community.

A video on Teen Families and Schools Together (FAST) at Van Horn High School was shown. LINC uses the Teen FAST program to encourage one-to-one communication between teens and parents and between families. Teen FAST participants **Maurice, Tiffany, Tia** and **Cailyn Johnson** reported the program was successful in strengthening interpersonal relationships. Van Horn Caring Communities site council chair **Lisa Temple-Young** reported the program increased parent involvement at the

school. Van Horn vice principal **Patrick Layden** reported the program supported the success of Van Horn High School.

A video on a partnership between LINC and The Links, Inc., was shown. **Ratana Tshibanda**, Arts Facet Chair of the Jackson County chapter of The Links, reported over 600 LINC students have attended at the Coterie Theater and the Music Hall through the initiative. The Links provides performance etiquette classes for students recruited by LINC; the students typically have had no previous experience attending live theater performances. Tickets are provided through a grant from the Theater League, and LINC provides transportation to the performances.

Van Horn Caring Communities site coordinator **Lindsay Browne** introduced two Van Horn Life Skills class participants, **Riley** and **Brittany**, who with Temple-Young gave an overview of the class.

Discussion followed.

The meeting was adjourned.

The Washington Post

High-quality early education could reduce costs

By [Lyndsey Layton](#) February 3

High-quality early childhood programs can reduce the number of children diagnosed with certain learning disabilities by third grade, according to a [study published Tuesday](#) in the *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis* journal.

The study, conducted by Clara G. Muschkin, Helen F. Ladd and Kenneth A. Dodge of Duke University, could have significant implications for reducing the financial burden special education services place on municipal budgets.

The researchers explored how two early childhood initiatives in North Carolina affected the likelihood that children would be placed in special education by the end of third grade. It focused on a preschool program for four-year-olds from at-risk families and a program that provides child, family, and health services for children from birth through age five. The study tracked 871,000 children who were born between 1988 and 2000 and were enrolled in third grade between 1995 and 2010.

Children who participated in the More at Four preschool program, now called NC Pre-K, were 32 percent less likely to be placed in special education by third grade, compared to peers who did not participate in the preschool program, the study found.

Those enrolled in the Smart Start program for children from birth through age five were 10 percent less likely to be receiving special education services by third grade, the researchers found.

Together, both programs reduced the likelihood of third-graders receiving special education services by 39 percent, the researchers said. That could translate into significant savings, as special education in the U.S. costs almost twice as much as regular classroom education.

“It shows a level of benefit not only in academic terms but also financially, because special education services are so expensive,” Muschkin said. “This gives policy makers useful evidence that investments in early childhood education are a source of significant cost savings for the state.”

Some small studies have suggested children enrolled in high-quality preschool gain [lifelong benefits](#), such as better jobs and higher wages and are less likely to be involved in the criminal justice system and to receive social services.

But in 2013, a large-scale study of nearly 5,000 children enrolled in Head Start, the federal government’s early childhood program for low-income children from birth to age five, found that progress in literacy among those children fades by the end of third grade. Critics of [President Obama’s push to make preschool universal](#) for low-income

four-year-olds have pointed to the Head Start study in arguing that heavy investment in preschool might not be cost effective.

The Duke study suggests that high-quality preschool might not only benefit children who would otherwise need special education services, but that it has a “spillover” effect that benefits other children, Muschkin said.

Children in the same high-quality preschool programs as those who were enrolled through “More at Four” also benefitted, because the program was high-quality, Muschkin said. “The state funding goes to the slots in the classroom, but because the quality has to be high, the other children in the classroom also benefitted, even though they didn’t qualify for More at Four,” she said.

The children who attended state-funded early childhood programs also were ready for kindergarten and beyond, which made their public school classrooms better for their peers, she said. “When kids come to school ready to learn, it’s better for all kids,” she said.

Early Childhood Programs Found to Significantly Lower Likelihood of Special Education Placements in Third Grade

WASHINGTON, D.C., February 3, 2015—Access to state-supported early childhood programs significantly reduces the likelihood that children will be placed in special education in the third grade, academically benefiting students and resulting in considerable cost savings to school districts, according to new research published today in *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, a peer-reviewed journal of the American Educational Research Association.

The findings suggest that the programs provide direct benefits not only to participating students but also to other third graders through positive spillover effects.

The [study](#), by Clara G. Muschkin, Helen F. Ladd, and Kenneth A. Dodge at Duke University's Sanford School of Public Policy, examined how investments in two high-quality early childhood initiatives in North Carolina—a preschool program for four-year-olds from at-risk families and a program that provides child, family, and health services for children from birth through age five—affected the likelihood that children would be placed in special education by the end of third grade from 1995 to 2010.

The authors found that an investment of \$1,110 per child in the More at Four preschool program (now called NC Pre-K)—the funding level in 2009—reduced the likelihood of third-grade special education placements by 32 percent. An investment of the same amount in the Smart Start early childhood initiative reduced the likelihood by 10 percent. Both programs together reduced third grade students' odds of special education placement by 39 percent, resulting in significant cost savings for the state. Nationwide, special education costs nearly twice as much as regular classroom education.

“These major investments in childhood programs have been important not only to the future of students but to the state's financial bottom line,” said Muschkin, who serves as associate director for Duke's Center for Child and Family Policy. “Our research finds that the effects of these initiatives for students are quite large and still paying off after students have completed almost four years of elementary school.”

The More at Four program, introduced in 2001, targets four-year-olds whose families have an annual income at or below 75 percent of the state median income or who are limited English proficient, disabled, chronically ill, or have a developmental need. Smart Start, which is available to all North Carolina children, has been in place since the early 1990s. The programs are recognized as national models for early childhood initiatives to address early academic disadvantage.

In addition to cost implications, the findings have implications for children's educational careers and for their future lives. Previous research cited in the study suggests that children placed in special education are at higher risk for dropping out of school and for committing crimes as adults. Yet some special education placements may be preventable with early intervention.

“Significant cognitive and social disadvantages often emerge before children enter kindergarten,” said Muschkin. “Our findings provide further evidence that high-quality early childhood intervention provides the best opportunity to reduce preventable cognitive and social disabilities. Access to early education may allow some children to transition early from special education placements. For some children, early intervention and treatment may help them to avoid special education in school altogether.”

The More at Four preschool program helped to reduce the numbers of children classified with several types of preventable disabilities, including mild mental handicaps, attention disorders, and learning disabilities. The Smart Start initiative contributed to reducing the numbers of students being identified as having a learning disability, which is the largest category of special education in North Carolina, accounting for almost 40 percent of placements. Neither program had a measurable impact on behavioral-emotional disabilities or the less malleable categories of physical disability and speech-language impairment.

The study findings imply that children who did not participate in the state-supported programs still benefited from them. For instance, some children not funded by More at Four were enrolled in the same preschool classrooms as those who were, and apparently benefited from the high-quality standards required for state funding.

Once children enter elementary school, they “can still benefit from being in classes with more students who have had access to high-quality early childhood initiatives,” said Muschkin. “Access to high-quality early education contributes to more positive elementary school classroom environments, as well as to fewer subsequent placements in special education.”

About AERA

The [American Educational Research Association \(AERA\)](#) is the largest national professional organization devoted to the scientific study of education. Founded in 1916, AERA advances knowledge about education, encourages scholarly inquiry related to education, and promotes the use of research to improve education and serve the public good. Find AERA on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Suffering children in need of mental health care too often starve for help

By JOE ROBERTSON - The Kansas City Star

02/14/2015

Maybe she was trying to commit suicide. She's not sure.

The hydrocodone and ibuprofen the 18-year-old downed that morning last fall in her south Kansas City home would at least make her very sick. Maybe faint.

The senior made it to her school bus. Made it through her first hour at Center High School.

But when assistant principal Sharon Ahuna saw the overdosed student in the hall between classes, she had sunk to the floor against the wall with her arms clutching her legs.

The adults who swept in to her aid were sped by fear but swollen with frustration over the fractured

network of mental health services struggling to help the nation's children.

"Their problems are overwhelming, and (mental health services) are not working well for a lot of them," said Mary Kettlewell, program officer for the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City.

"And it's not just two or three kids who need help," she said. "Some 80 percent of students could benefit from services. ... The need is tremendous."

Center knew the student's struggles well. The school's social worker had been meeting with her, and the teen sometimes had dropped in on her own to talk. Her school counselor, assistant principal and others had been supporting her.

But their efforts to secure consistent help with a professional mental health therapist kept running into barriers, especially with transportation.



Assistant principal Sharon Ahuna (right) often checks in with Center High School students, including Malik Collins (front to back), Breauna Porter and Tyrese Gully, all 17. Chats sometimes help school faculty and administrators spot troubled students earlier. Allison Long The Kansas City Star

“I’d come home and there’d be no one to help me,” the teen said.

She told her story in an interview with The Star while Ahuna and the social worker, Beth Schroeder, listened in. She did not want to be named.

Her mother had split from her during her high school years over the daughter’s complaints about conflicts and serious threats involving her mother’s boyfriend, she said.

Her biological father had been shot to death when she was 7.

The psychological pain has been brutal and school would be her way out, if only she could manage the mounting stress.

Although her school supporters would assure her she is a good student, the teen was suffocating in doubt.

“Am I good enough to go to college?”

Her situation spurred Center to redouble its efforts to bring some stability to its mental health services.

Administrators convened meetings with the Missouri Department of Mental Health. They worked it out so Swope Health Services could serve Center High School — and this is helping the 18-year-old student.

The district and Swope also worked out a pilot program to have a liaison from Swope rotating through district schools.

But it’s not enough.

The impact is felt strongest among the poor, where families are transient, disconnected from resources and often uninsured, said Beth Heide, director of student services and human resources in the Center School District.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation research project Kids Count found that 10 percent of Missouri children and 8 percent of Kansas children lack health insurance, and the number reaches as high as 23 percent for children living below the poverty level.

In both states, the research shows, 16 percent of children have one or more emotional, behavioral or developmental conditions.

Too often families don’t get help until a crisis — a suicide attempt or a police call — said Fred Watts, director of clinical services for KVC Hospitals.

He knows because he witnessed the cycle when he worked in emergency rooms.

“Crisis-based services is *not* the answer,” he said.

KVC has been in the mix in trying to expand care into schools and homes, including grant-funded programs — now lapsed — with the Independence and Center school districts.

Other districts also have been trying to create or restore professional mental health services in their schools, including Belton and Lee’s Summit, wading into the competitive and elusive world of funding grants.

The school and home services help families get past transportation barriers and also ease the stigma families fear in walking into an agency or hospital, said Kim O'Connor, who helped coordinate the school programs for KVC.

The burden hanging on so many of the school programs is how to make their case for funding. Getting programs is hard. Sustaining them is harder.

Scientific analysis showing a program's benefits is difficult, said Melissa Jonson-Reid, a professor in the George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis.

It's generally too costly to establish a randomized control group that is necessary to make comparisons between children who get services and those who don't. You can't simply isolate families from other services they might seek on their own.

Schools will see benefits — better attendance, better grades, healthier habits — “but you can't say that (a mental health program) caused it,” Jonson-Reid said.

Correlation and intuition only go so far when there is so little funding in budgets and grant programs to go around.

The Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City, which is one of the major grant sources for schools, can dole out \$4.25 million to mental health programs a year, Kettlewell said. But it typically sorts through some \$15 million worth of requests — and that's for all community-based proposals, not just from schools.

Another fund, reviewed on a monthly basis, doles out some \$400,000 a month, and the foundation culls from more than \$1.5 million in requests.

More public funding is needed, Kettlewell said, but that's an even bigger fight during scarce economic times.

So much of the mental health pain that children suffer is invisible, said Sharon Nibbelink, director of assessment in the Center School District. And help is so complicated.

“We can't help them the same way with the coat drives and the mitten drives and the food drives,” she said. The children struggle into their classrooms “and we pick up the pieces.”

School nurse Cindy Noll gathered the broken teenager into her nurse station that morning while they waited for the ambulance. She recalled the deep, helpless cavity she felt, stating the teenager's name, which is changed here to protect her identity.

“She let out this sob,” Noll said, and the nurse withered. “We want to save the world here. We want to save the world. But at that moment, I just wanted to save *Clarisse*.”

To reach Joe Robertson, call [816-234-4789](tel:816-234-4789) or send email to jrobertson@kcstar.com.

Aaron Deacon:

Kansas City has a big role to play in the debate over Internet access and net neutrality

The Internet may be open, but it certainly isn't free. Amid all the lessons learned in Kansas City's tech boom of the last few years, this one may be the most important. All the tubes and cables that make up the Internet cost a lot of money, and we're still figuring out the best way to pay for it. That challenge is made more difficult because how we use the Internet is changing all the time.

This dilemma is essentially what's at stake when people talk about net neutrality, often described as a "free and open Internet" that doesn't have "fast lanes," where one provider's traffic is prioritized over another's. The truth is, some traffic should be prioritized. Imagine real-time remote surgery or live video transmitted from a school during a disaster. Is it the seller (say Netflix) who pays to make sure they can deliver what they promise, or the buyer who counts on both the seller and her ISP to make sure things work? Either way, the whole system has to bear the costs.

The beautiful thing about fiber networks is that they deliver abundant capacity, and they support technology for much smarter networks. The promise of gigabit Internet is not simply the "killer app" that uses all that speed—it's providing so much bandwidth that the questions about how to allocate it are much easier to answer.

But abundant bandwidth is not the model our Internet has been built on. Cable companies don't like to hear it, but the Internet is increasingly like a utility in how it functions in our everyday lives. And the way we finance and pay for utilities is different. Imagine figuring out how many hours of electricity you would need for a month and then balancing usage hoping you didn't go over the limit. Metered payment may not be the future of Internet delivery, but we're now searching for the business and regulatory models that will pave the way for the future. And we need our Internet providers to be honest partners in evaluating a changing landscape.



With at least four gigabit fiber providers in the metro area, and as the first market for Google Fiber, Kansas City is looked to as a leader in that area. When people look at you as a leader, you had better lead. We have two critical opportunities in front of us.

FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler has recommended a net neutrality framework that employs a "light touch." No one knows quite what that means, probably not even Wheeler.

The desire for robust competition and broad access to the Internet is shared by both political parties; and while specific tactics may be driven by ideology on a federal or state level, it's our job at the city level to take an honest assessment of how these policies affect our businesses and citizens and fight for the results we want.

Kansas City civic and technology leaders can and should continue to play a strong role in how national policy develops on the so-called middle-mile infrastructure.

But we also can lead on the last mile. Every household in Kansas City should have access to a high-speed fiber Internet connection. We've made great progress on this front, but there is much work to be done.

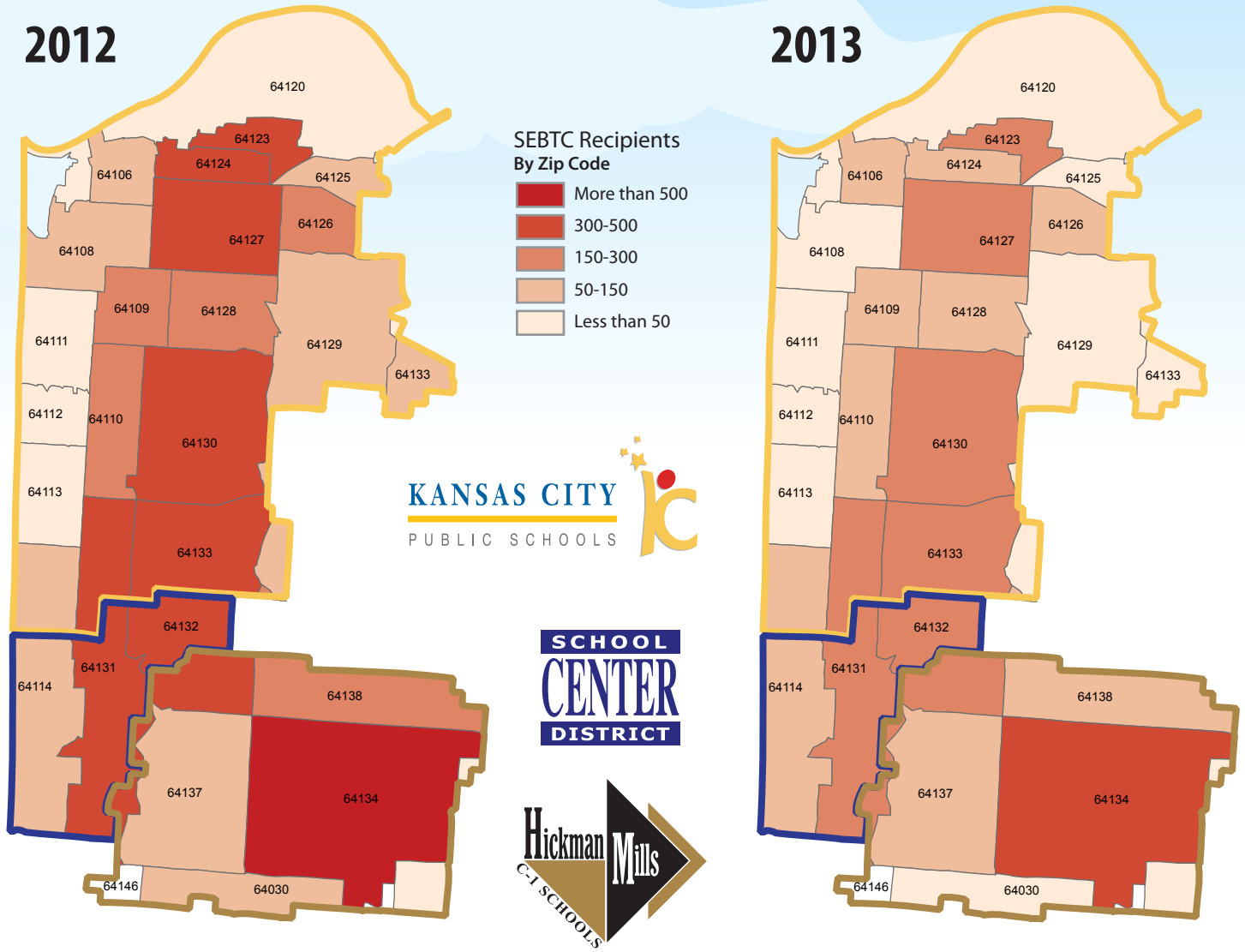
Ubiquitous access to fiber connectivity — like access to electricity or access to water — isn't the job of one company. Google is not — and should not be — a sole solution.

We have a unique opportunity in Kansas City to make bandwidth flow like water and to deliver a world-class platform for future generations. It requires support and commitment across the community. And it's not free.

Aaron Deacon is managing director of KC Digital Drive, a local nonprofit seeking tech solutions for a better city. He lives in Mission.

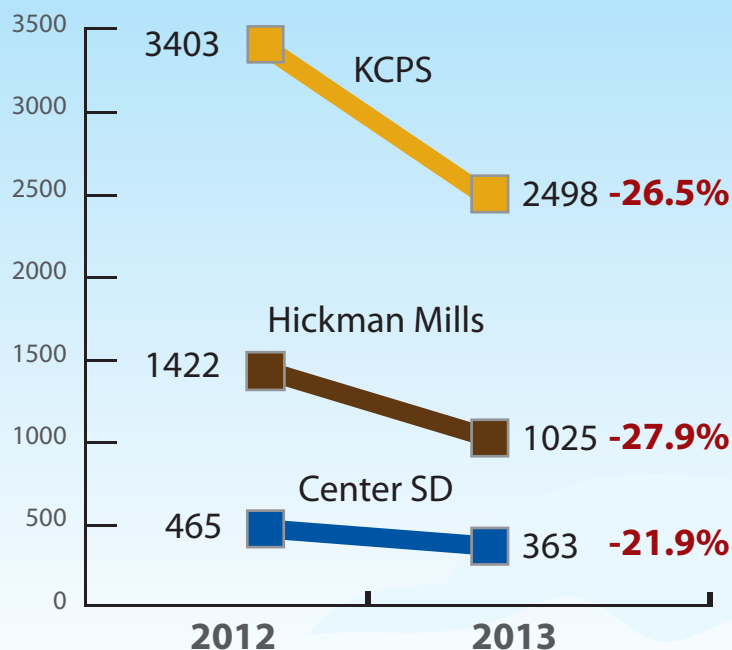
SEBTC Demonstration Project 2013

SNAP Hybrid Model

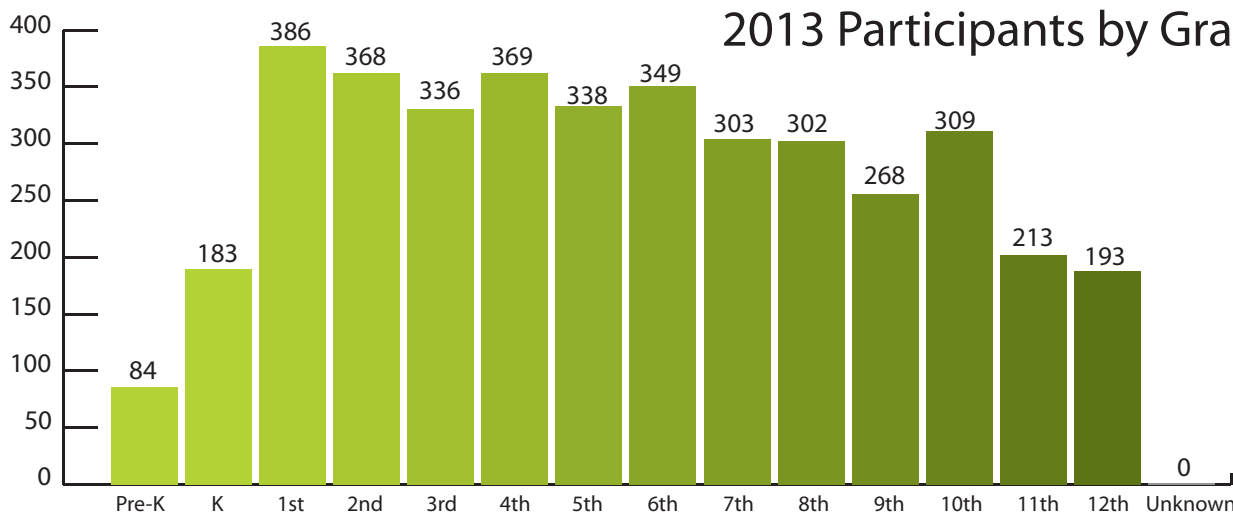
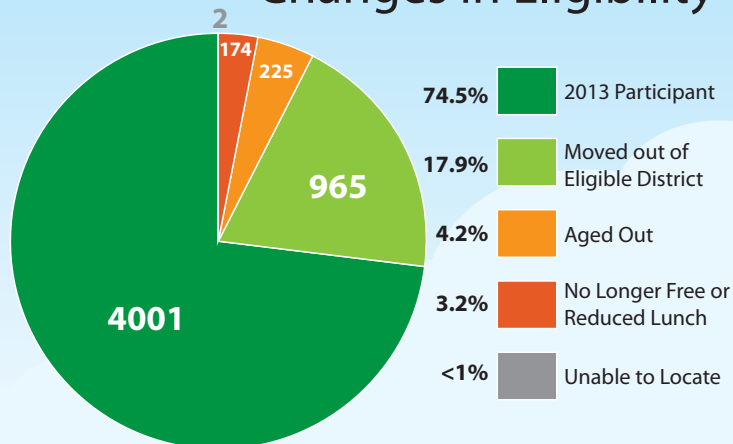


2012	Selected for SEBTC Benefits	2013
3,041	Households	2,262
5,364	Children	4,001

Changes in Participation from 2012 to 2013



Changes in Eligibility



2013 Participants by Grade Level

2011-12	2012-13
Combined District Enrollment	
25,247	26,267
Free/Reduced Lunch	
85%	84%



**2015 Funding Request:
\$519,169**

12,500 total children

*5,500 returning children/siblings (2013)
5,200 new urban children
1,800 new rural children*



Project Summary

Missouri effectively implemented a Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer program for Children (SEBTC) in 2011, 2012 and 2013. Benefits totaling more than \$3.4 million were administered to qualifying children in Kansas City in 2011 and both St. Louis and Kansas City in 2012 and 2013. Missouri will implement the SEBTC program in 2015 and serve approximately **12,500 children** in the existing demo sites in both St. Louis and Kansas City (10,700 children) and expand to a rural area (1,800 children). Each of the 12,500 eligible children will receive a monthly benefit of \$30. In preceding years, Missouri's approach utilized community partners to assist with the administration of this grant. The Local Investment Commission (LINC) worked with the program in Kansas City and Area Resources for Community and Human Services (ARCHS) collaborated to implement the program in the St. Louis area. Missouri intends to utilize the same community partnership approach by working with ARCHS and LINC to assist with benefit administration in St. Louis and Kansas City, respectively. Since the community engagement model was so successful, Missouri intends to mirror that same concept using a partnership to serve children in the rural area. Missouri seeks an **award of \$519,169** to administer the SEBTC program.

Kansas City and St. Louis Areas – Missouri intends to serve not only the 2013 children that are still eligible (along with eligible siblings), but also expand and will serve 10,700¹ in the current pilot area. Each partnership will serve approximately ½ of the 10,700 children.

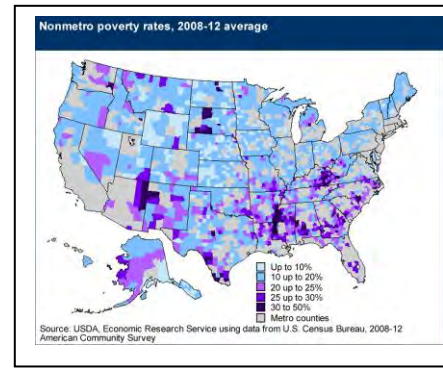
In 2013, 8,670 children (5,223 families) were served by the grant. Preliminary estimates indicate that about 5,500² children (3,313 families) from 2013 will still be eligible in the summer of 2015. Both LINC and ARCHS intend to serve any child (including newly eligible siblings) from 2013 that is still eligible and will expand up to 10,700 children. Missouri estimates approximately 5,200 new children will be served. The combination of new and returning children, as well as the children in St. Louis or Kansas City will be adjusted when data analysis is completed.

Missouri intends to use a hybrid random selection method to identify new children in St. Louis and Kansas City. The Department of Social Services will work collaboratively with the Missouri Departments of Elementary and Secondary Education and Health and Senior Services and through the community partnerships and school districts to select new children. The initial pool will include the name of any child that lives in one of the pilot districts and is part of a household that receives food stamps. From that pool, a random selection will occur to identify the specific children whose family will each receive the SEBTC benefit.

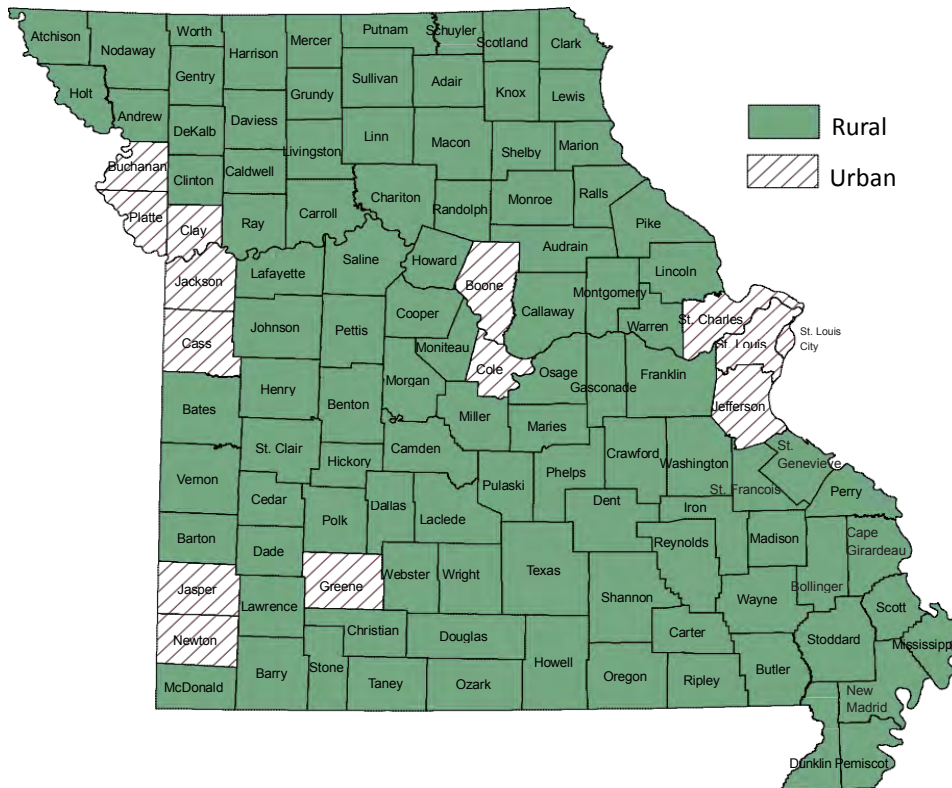
¹ Missouri served 10,678 children (6,390 families) in 2012; its largest year.

² The actual number of eligible children is unknown. This figure is an estimate based on drop-out rates in preceding years.

Rural: Missouri, like other states, struggles with high rates of poverty in non-metro (rural) areas. Poverty rates for youth in rural Missouri are 26.3%, while for urban youth the rate is 19.9%. It is no surprise that there is a direct correlation between high rates of poverty and food insecurity. The United States Census Bureau and other federal agencies use varying definitions of “rural.” Each definition emphasizes different criteria, such as commuting patterns, population size and population density. As a result, different definitions generate different numbers of rural people. However, for purposes of this application, Missouri will define urban counties as those with a population density over 150 people per square mile, and any county that contains at least part of the central city of a census-defined Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA).

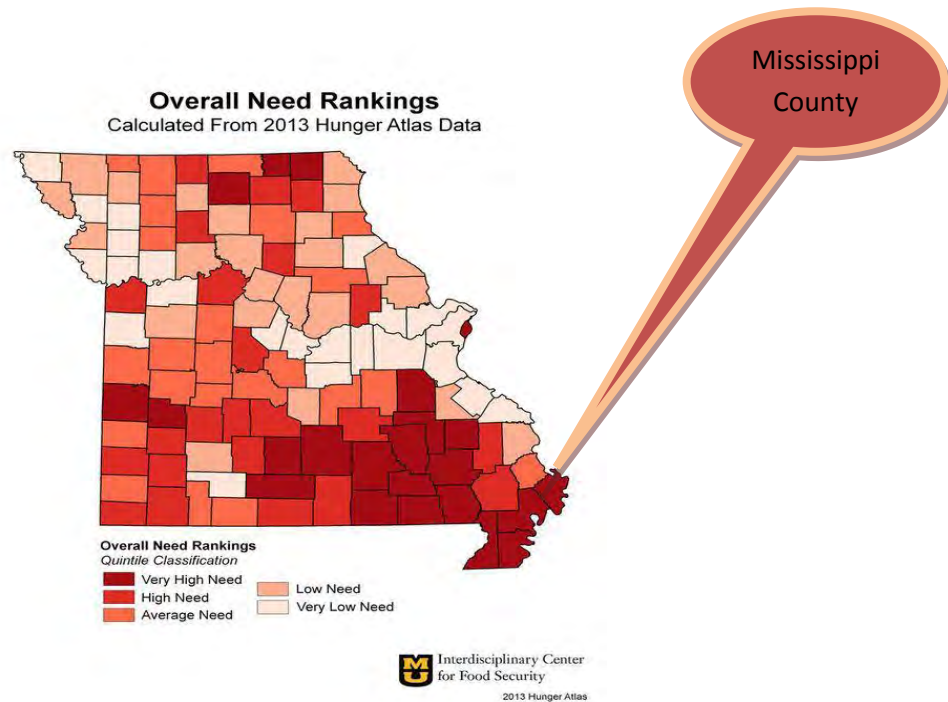


Rural/Urban County Classification



Using this definition, 14 Missouri counties are urban (Buchanan, Platte, Clay, Jackson, Cass, Jasper, Newton, Green, Boone, Columbia, St. Charles, St. Louis, St. Louis City and Jefferson). The remaining 101 counties in Missouri are rural.³

While there are many rural areas to choose from, the logical choice is to select a rural area with the highest need. The below map depicts these areas with the highest need. The overall need rank is a single composite measure (combination of factors including percentages of food uncertainty, SNAP eligibility, free or reduced lunches, etc.) of food insecurity needs for each county (Missouri Hunger Atlas, 2013).



The “Overall Need Rankings” map identifies ~15 counties in the southeast and boot heel areas of the state that have a very high need. The United States Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, 2013 County Data rank **Mississippi County** has having the highest percentage of children in the state ages 5-17 living in poverty (49.9%). The second highest county, Shannon, has 45.9% of children ages 5-17 living in poverty. The median household income in **Mississippi County**, Missouri is \$29,787 compared to the statewide median income of \$47,380.

³ Health in Rural Missouri, Biennial Report 2012-2013, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, Office of Primary Care and Rural Health; <http://health.mo.gov/living/families/ruralhealth/pdf/biennial2013.pdf> accessed 1/26/2015.



Mississippi County is located in the boot heel and is the eastern-most county in the state. Its eastern border is formed by the Mississippi River. As of the 2010 census, the population was 14,358. Mississippi County, Missouri has two school districts, with 2,237 children enrolled.

School District Data			
County	School District	Apx Number of Students Enrolled	Number Expected to Participate
Mississippi County	Charleston R-I	1,050	1,000
	East Prairie R-II	1,200	800
	Total Children	2,250	1,800

Charleston R-I participates in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)⁴ for the National School Lunch Program while East Prairie R-II does not. Since CEP allows every child in a participating school to be served, all 1,050 students enrolled in Charleston will be offered the SEBTC program. However, the initial communication with the family will provide specific instructions on how to decline participation in the program. An estimated 1,000 of the 1,050 enrolled students will participate. East Prairie is not a CEP school. Only students who receive both free and reduced lunch will be eligible to participate. The communication with these families will also offer a choice to decline participation in the program. An estimated 800 of the 1,200 students will participate from East Prairie.

Missouri estimates approximately **1,800 children** in Mississippi County will participate in the 2015 SEBTC program.

⁴ The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) provides an alternative approach for offering school meals to local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools in low income areas, instead of collecting individual applications for free and reduced price meals. The CEP allows schools that predominantly serve low-income children to offer free, nutritious school meals to all students through the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs.

816

NORTH



Tasty teaching

High school students learn culinary arts in an impressive facility.

Page 18

SEND ME NO ROSES ... JUST DRIVE THE CAR POOL

Oh, Valentine romance is fine, but a swept floor makes one heart swoon. | Snarky in the Suburbs, Page 12



Culinary arts gets a makeover in Kansas City Public Schools

By **JOE ROBERTSON**
The Kansas City Star

No pressure here, but Roxana Lopez is a senior, after all.

It's with a hint of a wince that the 18-year-old Paseo Academy student says she's still "exploring" her post-high school/college/career direction.

She's not sure yet whether the culinary arts will end up being her calling. But this much she does know:

When she takes in the stainless-steel shine of the Kansas City Public Schools' new culinary arts kitchen and its stylish restaurant, it's hard to imagine a better way to find out.

"It's one of the best, funnest classes that you can have," she said.

The \$1.6 million upgrade unveiled late last month, like other career and technical education



SHANE KEYSER | THE KANSAS CITY STAR

Paseo Academy's Roxana Lopez, 18, appears to have mastered the art of decorating a plate thanks to career and technical education courses focusing on culinary arts.



PHOTOS BY SHANE KEYSER | THE KANSAS CITY STAR

Roxana Lopez (from left), 18; Tracy Nguyen, 16; and Romikko Baker, 20, work to put together the dish called swans on creme anglaise with help from James Holmes, owner of Piece of Cake bakery.



Among the many new spotless stainless-steel appliances in the culinary arts facility is an espresso coffee machine.



Kansas City district career and technical education administrators and chef instructors say the culinary arts program not only teaches cooking skills but helps students use math and other skills that will help them in their careers.

programs in Kansas City and other districts, aims to keep students from spinning their wheels while sorting through life choices.

Consider the disciplines in play, says chef Peter Castillo, an instructor at L'École Culinaire on the Country Club Plaza and owner of Westport's Eat Me Gourmet.

Learning to be a chef means learning accounting, math, sciences like molecular gastronomy, and writing, he said.

"You're administrators who happen to know how to cook," he said.

Castillo is one of several industry professionals serving on the school district's advisory board, helping the career and technical programs stay abreast of industry skills in demand.

In the culinary world, he said, the demand is high for food service directors, dietitians, food stylists and event planners, to name a few.

Northland districts, including North Kansas City, Liberty and Park Hill, likewise have been introducing students to the world of culinary arts, among other career and technical education programming.

They use the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation ProStart program in many of their high schools.

And then the Northland districts collaborate on a culinary arts program at the Northland Career Center, 1801 Branch St. in Platte City.

When career and technical education courses work, they're not determining a teen's career path but giving the student a place to apply the math and writing he or she has learned, to explore careers and to polish the soft skills needed to make impressions in the workplace, said Jack Bitzenburg, the Kansas City Public Schools' career and technical education director.

The culinary program, for instance, with its full kitchen and accompanying restaurant, gives students chances to learn

“IT’S ONE OF THE BEST, FUNNEST CLASSES THAT YOU CAN HAVE.”

Roxana Lopez, 18-year-old Paseo Academy student



SHANE KEYSER | THE KANSAS CITY STAR

The school district’s head chef Dennis Charest (right) introduces his assistants and members of the advisory board during a tour of the culinary arts facility. He also pointed out some of the center’s impressive appliances: a tilt skillet, a dough sheeter and a deck oven.



SHANE KEYSER | THE KANSAS CITY STAR

Peter Castillo, an instructor at L'Ecole Culinaire, says demand in the culinary industry is high for food service directors, dietitians, food stylists and event planners. But there needs to be someone to scoop the chocolate chip cookie dough, a job Tyrrence Walker, 17, takes on.

Rakeisha Hattley, 18, pulls out freshly baked cookies from the oven at the culinary center, which also has a restaurant so students get the chance to work a variety of jobs.



the ins and outs of both the “front of the house and the back of the house,” Bitzenburg said, speaking the language of restaurants.

If a student is heading on to two or four years of college or more, he said, those who need to support themselves will have skills “to work their way through school.”

Similar opportunities arise from other current programs in automotive technology, construction technology and health care services, he said.

This fall, the Kansas City career and technical education program at Manual Career Technical Center, 1215 E. Truman Road, will be opening courses in engineering design, principles of engineering, computer science and video game design and software engineering.

The district expects to add digital electronics, computer integrated manufacturing, medical interventions, biomedical innovation, business international studies and strategic communications in 2016.

The intent is to give students more chances to work with modernized industry tools.

The district’s head chef, Dennis Charest, took visitors through the new facilities, where they saw the white-smocked students finishing up the rich pastries they’d be serving in the restaurant soon.

There was a tilt skillet, an up-to-date fryer, a dough sheeter, more walk-in coolers, a deck oven, a rotary oven that can pick up and rotate stacked trays and “bake tons,” Charest said. And the space to allow these things to stay in place, no shuffling appliances around, and the expanses of hard-wood surfaces.

And that doesn’t include what you can’t see — the air systems overhead and the plumbing below.

“It’s just wonderful,” Charest said.

So now 16-year-old junior Deysi Espinoza of Northeast High School is spending part of her afternoons relishing the love of cooking she gained working alongside her mother.

“We’re learning how to run a restaurant,” she said.

To reach Joe Robertson, call 816-234-4789 or send email to jrobertson@kcstar.com.



SHANE KEYSER | THE KANSAS CITY STAR

Guests sit down for a dessert in the new cafe area during a tour of the new \$1.6 million culinary arts facility at the Manual Career Technology Center, 1215 E. Truman Road in Kansas City. The culinary arts expansion is four to five times larger than the previous facility.

HCA Midwest Health agrees to pay \$15 million to Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City

By DIANE STAFFORD - The Kansas City Star

02/11/2015 5:11 PM

Read more here: <http://www.kansascity.com/news/business/article9729083.html#storylink=cpy>

The Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City and HCA Midwest Health have settled a long-running dispute about whether HCA spent promised funds to provide charity health care in the metro area.

The foundation was created with some of the proceeds from HCA's \$1.3 billion purchase of the former Health Midwest hospitals in 2003. The deal, which transferred not-for-profit hospitals to for-profit HCA, created two charitable foundations to help continue Health Midwest's charity service to the community.

The contractual obligations called for HCA to provide at least \$653 million in charity and uncompensated care in the Kansas City area over the 10 years ending in March 2013. The health care foundation sued HCA when it believed the obligation was unmet.

In the settlement announced Wednesday, the foundation will receive \$15 million, an agreed-upon shortfall in HCA's charitable spending that occurred at some point during the contracted 10 years.

The settlement funds will be used "to continue our mission of improving health for the uninsured and underserved in the Kansas City community," said Kenneth Southwick, the foundation's board chairman.

M.L. Lagarde, president and chief executive of HCA Midwest, said the hospital company remains "steadfast in our belief that the company fully satisfied and exceeded" its charity obligations by providing "tens of millions of dollars in free or uncompensated care every year."

HCA Midwest did not say what its exact charity care spending has been, but a court-ordered accounting audit helped arrive at the \$15 million settlement.

The charity settlement doesn't affect litigation in which the foundation has charged that HCA also failed to spend contractually promised amounts on capital improvements at the former Health Midwest properties, including Research Medical Center, Menorah Medical Center and Overland Park Regional Medical Center.

Previously, in the capital improvements litigation, the foundation received two judgments against HCA, one for \$162 million in 2013 and an additional one for \$77 million in 2014. The foundation argued that HCA had not met its contractual obligation to spend \$450 million on improvements to the hospitals it bought.

HCA argued that since it had spent \$343 million in new construction on the Centerpoint and Lee's Summit medical centers, it had fulfilled its capital spending obligation. But a Jackson County circuit judge ruled that HCA could take credit only for upgrades to the existing hospitals.

The capital improvement awards are not yet final, and HCA is expected to appeal. None of the total of \$239 million in capital spending judgments has been paid.

In addition to creating the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City, the Health Midwest sale created the REACH Healthcare Foundation. The REACH foundation did not participate in the litigation and is not receiving any of the charity settlement.

Both foundations use the assets from the Health Midwest sale to make grants to health and social service nonprofits in the area that provide safety net services.

To reach Diane Stafford, call [816-234-4359](tel:816-234-4359) or send email to stafford@kcstar.com. Read more from Diane at kansascity.com/workplace. Twitter: [@kcstarstafford](https://twitter.com/kcstarstafford).

Missouri attorney general sets conditions for sale of St. Joseph and St. Mary's medical centers

By DIANE STAFFORD

The Kansas City Star - 02/11/2015 2:24 PM

Read more here: <http://www.kansascity.com/news/business/article9748481.html#storylink=cpy>

Missouri Attorney General Chris Koster said Wednesday that Ascension Health has agreed to set aside \$20 million in expected proceeds from the coming sale of two Kansas City area hospitals to be used for charity care.

Steps are underway to complete the sale of St. Joseph Medical Center in Kansas City and St. Mary's Medical Center in Blue Springs to Prime Healthcare Services.

The pending sale drew concern from hospital supporters who wanted to ensure that previous donations to the hospitals' philanthropic foundations stayed in the Kansas City area, if not at the hospitals themselves.

Koster said that until the agreement about the \$20 million was reached, he had "not received sufficient assurance that the money would remain available for acute indigent medical care benefiting the general public in Kansas City."

Nothing in the new agreement indicates that the restricted funds would be allocated for use by the two hospitals that are being sold. Specific allocation of the restricted funds for use in Kansas City will continue to be discussed.

"Ascension cannot access the \$20 million in restricted funds until this concern is resolved, either through further negotiation, mediation or litigation," according to the attorney general's office.

The two hospitals, consolidated under the Carondelet Health umbrella, became part of Ascension Health, a St. Louis-based not-for-profit organization, in 2002. Ascension owns three long-term-care facilities in the Kansas City area and will retain them after it sells the two hospitals to Prime, a California-based hospital chain.

By law, the attorney general must be notified when a Missouri nonprofit corporation such as Ascension plans to sell all or substantially all of its assets. The attorney general then is obligated to ensure that charitable assets in Missouri are used for their intended purpose.

Similar oversight by the attorney general's office helped lead to creation of two large health care foundations in the Kansas City area after the former nonprofit Health Midwest hospitals were sold to HCA Health Midwest in 2003.

Koster's review of the pending transaction led him to inform Ascension that his office would not conditionally approve the hospitals' sale to Prime unless Ascension agreed to put the expected proceeds in a restricted account. That agreement was received Wednesday. The notice of agreement from the attorney general's office didn't specify how the "acute indigent medical care" requirement would be met.

"We are pleased to come to an arrangement with the Missouri attorney general regarding the sale of St. Joseph Medical Center and St. Mary's Medical Center to Prime

Healthcare Services and look forward to continuing to work with the attorney general to ensure that all his concerns are addressed,” Ascension said in a prepared response.

To reach Diane Stafford, call [816-234-4359](tel:816-234-4359) or send email to stafford@kcstar.com. Read more from Diane at kansascity.com/workplace. Twitter: [@kcstarstafford](https://twitter.com/kcstarstafford).

Read more here: <http://www.kansascity.com/news/business/article9748481.html#storylink=cpy>

Waldo apartments will help former foster care youths, but some neighbors are concerned

By DIANE STAFFORD - The Kansas City Star

02/09/2015

A small apartment building under construction in south Kansas City, lauded by social service providers as a breakthrough, is stirring neighborhood angst.

The 14-unit property in the heart of Waldo will be the city's first supervised, independent living alternative for young people who have aged out of the foster care system but aren't quite ready to live completely on their own.

"It's new. It's innovative. It's desperately needed," said Evie Craig, chief executive of reStart Inc., one of several nonprofit, government and private entities that are cooperating on the project.

Others aren't happy about it.

"It's a complete shock. It sucks. It can't help property values," said Mark Evans, who has lived half a block from the site for 27 years.

Craig and colleagues in the social service system say the apartments fill a housing gap that will help deter homelessness, crime, unemployment and substance abuse among young people who don't have all the skills needed to be thrust out into the "real" world when they turn 18.

The building will house 14 young people in individual one-bedroom apartments plus a resident manager-counselor's apartment. Residents will be screened by social service and housing agencies based on their assessed needs.

But Evans and some of his neighbors say they're worried about safety, crime and economics if a "troubled" population is planted in government-sponsored housing on the Washington Street site that bridges single-family homes and commercial properties.

"What is it, exactly?" asked Sue Walton, a ReMax real estate agent who knew of a canceled sale contract on a house a block away from the apartments. "People are concerned."



Neighbors learned about the apartments a few weeks ago when a large sign went up at 7540 Washington St., announcing a project of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and owned by reStart Housing Services Inc.

Though it may be a groundbreaking facility for Kansas City, the apartment building mirrors long-standing projects in some other cities.

Ruth White, executive director of the National Center for Housing and Child Welfare, said support is growing around the country for “reasonably sized apartments like this that can provide on-site services to help young people with case management — to make sure they go to school, keep appointments, get to their jobs.”

The goal, White said, is to provide a safe, monitored living arrangement for a period of time until the residents gain more independent living skills as well as income from work “to be able to launch out on their own.”

White said she had researched or visited similar sites and “never found any scandals” related to the former foster care population they served.

“You hear more about fraternities getting into trouble than people in these supervised living arrangements,” White said. “Of course I understand community reaction, so it’s wise to talk about it. I don’t criticize anyone for asking questions about who’s going to live there. If it were my neighborhood, I’d ask questions.”

White suggested holding meetings to let the neighbors meet the residents, to hear their stories, to “find out they’re not pariahs or gang bangers but just young people trying to make ends meet.”

The Waldo development had no pre-construction community meetings yet, partly because no special permitting or zoning change was needed. There have been no homes association or business association meetings about it, either. And it’s too early to have residents assigned to the units.

“Nothing has been done improperly,” said Diane Botwin Alpert, who owned the vacant corner property for years.

Alpert said she was comfortable that reDiscover’s residential services program will screen and monitor residents.

But it’s partly the role of reDiscover, an agency that provides mental health services, that disturbs neighborhood residents. Clients of reDiscover may be suffering bipolar disorders, major depression, schizophrenia and other mental illnesses.

April Schafersman, who works in reDiscover’s Transitional Living Program, won’t be directly involved in placing apartment residents, but she said she’s well aware of the need for such housing options.

“Those leaving foster care oftentimes have experienced simple or complex trauma,” Schafersman said. “They may be chronologically 18 or 21 but emotionally younger. They could live by themselves, but they need the oversight of an adult to give them guidance.”

The apartment’s resident manager will be a 24-7 coach or counselor to help residents “live safely in the community,” she said.

In the long run, advocates say, the apartments — for which residents will pay rent based on their financial abilities — are better for the community than setting former foster youth adrift on their own.

More than 800 youth aged out of the foster care system in Jackson County in 2013, the last full year for which statistics are available. Authorities point out that the apartment under construction can serve only 14 of them at a time.

National statistics indicate that more than one in five young people who age out of foster care will become homeless after age 18. Only 58 percent graduate from high school by age 19. Within two years of being “aged out,” one in four is involved in the criminal justice system. And by age 24, half of the aged-out population is unemployed.

“These young people need adjustments to make it in the adult world. They need assistance,” said Nathan Ross, a youth programs supervisor for the Midwest Foster Care and Adoption Association. “They need continued access to adults who understand their needs, who can help them stay on track to be productive.”

Ross also said the setup had been proven in some cities. “This is really a social good. It’s better for the community as a whole,” he said.

Ross’s grant coordinator colleague at the foster care association, Mike Othic, finds himself in an unusual position concerning the apartments.

“I’m a Waldo resident myself,” Othic said. “It’s interesting to see the weird combination of support and animosity. But I have to ask how the area feels about Gillis — a residential mental health facility — that’s already in the neighborhood. And I have to think the apartments won’t be marginally different from any other small apartment building in the neighborhood. I mean, how much do we know about who’s living in any of them, in any house?”

To reach Diane Stafford, call 816-234-4359 or send email to stafford@kcstar.com. Follow her online at kansascity.com/workplace and [@kcstarstafford](https://twitter.com/kcstarstafford).

Read more here: <http://www.kansascity.com/news/business/article9612272.html#storylink=cpy>

Editorial

Waldo apartment project could be a good community investment in youths

02/11/2015 5:36 PM

Despite causing concerns for some nearby residents, a [small apartment project](#) under construction in Kansas City's Waldo area appears to be a responsible way to help deserving young people.

The facility will assist those who have turned 18 and aged out of the state foster care system. It won't be a halfway house or a crash pad for reckless hooligans. Residents will be screened and selected. A professional counselor will live on site and manage the 14 one-bedroom units.

The worthwhile goal is to create an environment that gives the young residents a good chance to succeed in getting a better education and jobs. They also won't live in the apartments forever; they are supposed to be getting ready for fully independent living.

The unpleasant alternatives for too many youth who have aged out of foster care are low-paying jobs, homelessness or a descent into crime. Supporters of the project make a compelling case that reaching out to assist these youth will help reduce problems for Kansas City, not increase them.

As often happens in housing projects, some residents are wondering how this one might hurt their property values. Partly answering that, Ruth White, executive director of the National Center for Housing and Child Welfare, said she had "never found any scandals" while reviewing similar living situations.

Still, White wisely advised that neighbors who want to know more ask detailed questions, such as when the topic comes up as it's expected to at a neighborhood meeting in March.

Proponents must provide solid answers to advance what looks like a wise investment in the lives of local youth.

Read more here: <http://www.kansascity.com/opinion/editorials/article9762116.html#storylink=cpy>

MO

Congress must act to extend funding for the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) beyond September 30, 2015.



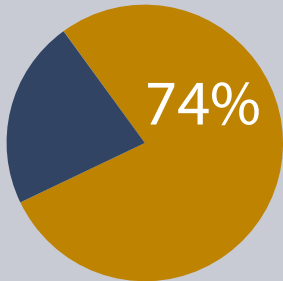
Missouri’s CHIP program, HealthNet for Kids, covers more than **93,000** Missouri children over the course of a year.

If Congress does not act to extend CHIP, what’s at stake for Missouri?

As much as **\$122 million** is at risk in 2016

\$49 million gain
Estimated boost to state budget with FY 2016 increased CHIP match.

\$73 million loss
Estimated FY 2016 loss of CHIP federal funds with current match rate if CHIP funding is not extended.



Percent of funding CHIP provides to HealthNet for Kids.

Missouri Federal Match

FY 2015 Medicaid Match	FY 2015 CHIP Match	FY 2016 Enhanced CHIP Match*
63.45%	74.42%	97.42%

* This estimate is calculated by adding the 23 percentage point bump to the 2015 enhanced FMAP for Missouri. Actual percentage in 2016 may vary slightly given that the FMAP is adjusted annually.

Source: Estimates derived from figures in preliminary unpublished draft memo “CHIP Financing Considerations and State-level Funding and Coverage Loss Estimates,” Georgetown Center for Children and Families and Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, October 2014.

<http://mokidscount.org/stories/povertys-impact-on-missouris-children/>

February 11, 2015

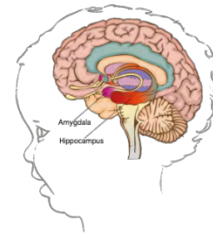
How are government programs helping relieve poverty in MO?

Last week we showed you a snapshot of what poverty looks like in the United States and in Missouri. Poverty is all encompassing, and impacts many areas of a child's life. This week we will take a look at some of the most effective poverty relief programs – programs that shield children from the effects of poverty. For those programs to work, they need to be maintained, supported, and in some cases expanded. The Children's Defense Fund released a report last week, **"Ending Child Poverty Now"** recommending that expanding investments in existing programs and policies that work can shrink overall child poverty by 60%. Some of those programs include Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), expanded child care subsidies, and increasing SNAP benefits.

The Neurological Effects of Poverty

A premier study done at **Washington University in St. Louis, MO** explores the relationship between poverty and brain development in children. Their study findings demonstrate that exposure to poverty during early childhood is associated with smaller white matter, cortical gray matter, and hippocampal and amygdala volumes measured at school age/early adolescence. These are regions of the brain that deal with stress regulation and emotion processing. This study also found that early caregiving and nurturing can mediate the effects of childhood stress and trauma on the brain.

Poverty has been shown to **decrease the size of the Hippocampus and Amygdala** in children.

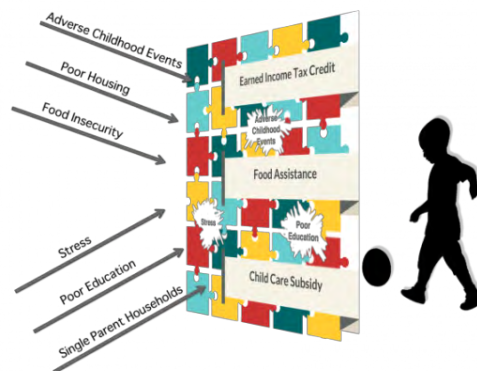


The Hippocampus and Amygdala help regulate stress and emotional processing

Not only does this study demonstrate the importance of poverty reduction, but also that the damaging effects of childhood poverty can be prevented. Supporting and expanding programs that work to reduce the harm of the stressors of poverty on children can help mitigate the potential lifelong consequences of growing up in poverty. No child should fail to thrive because of circumstances that are out of their control.

Children suffer the most from the blows of poverty. They are most affected by stressors such as food insecurity, poor education, lack of quality child care, poor housing and adverse childhood events because they are still developing both cognitively and psychosocially. There are several

federal and state level programs working to protect children against these blows. These effective programs need to be fully funded and expanded to cover all children in need. Here, we highlight three of those programs: the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) and Child Care Subsidy (CCS), but there are many more in place.

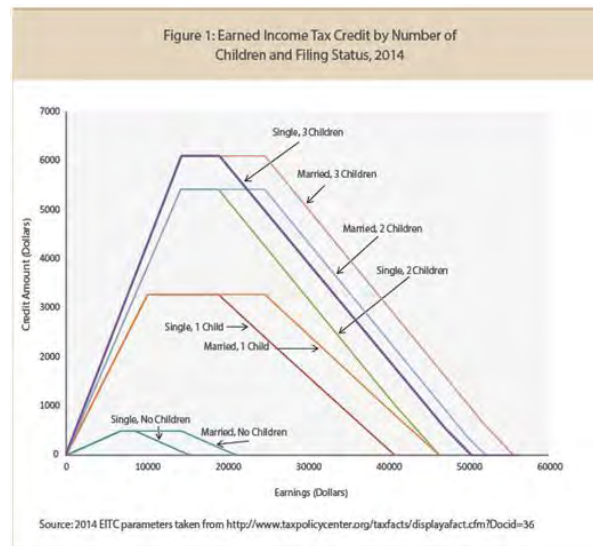


JAMA Pediatrics, December 2013

Earned Income Tax Credit

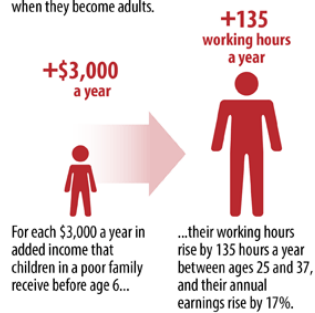
This tax credit has been in place for forty years. EITC provides low-income individuals and families with a yearly tax credit as a percentage of their overall income. According to the **Missouri Budget Project**, EITC keeps millions of families out of poverty every year, helps mitigate housing burden, improves school performance in children, and has been shown to increase lifetime earnings in children that receive it when they are young.

Missouri is one of many states that does not have a state EITC program. Over 500,000 Missouri families receive EITC, but without a state level program this only increases take home pay by roughly \$240.00 per month. A state level program could benefit 60% of Missouri families struggling to afford necessities such as housing, food, and education.



Higher Earned Income Tax Credit or Other Income for Poor Children Expected to Boost Work and Earnings Later in Life

\$3,000 annual increase in income to poor children before age 6 associated with increase in work hours when they become adults.

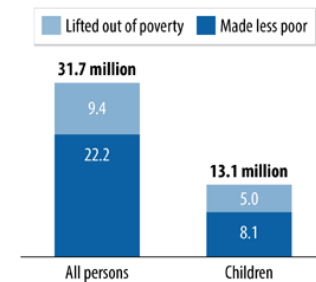


Source: Greg J. Duncan, Kathleen M. Ziol-Guest, and Ariel Kalli, "Early Childhood Poverty and Adult Attainment, Behavior, and Health," *Child Development*, January/February 2010

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities | cbpp.org

Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit Have Powerful Antipoverty Impact

Persons lifted out of poverty or made less poor (using Supplemental Poverty Measure) by EITC and CTC, 2013



Figures may not add due to rounding.

Note: Unlike the Census Bureau's official poverty measure, the SPM counts the effect of government benefit programs and tax credits.

Source: CBPP analysis of Census Bureau's March 2014 Current Population Survey and 2013 SPM public use file.

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities | cbpp.org

Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program

SNAP benefits average less than \$1.40 per person per meal - not enough for low-income families who often lack access to affordable, nutritious food.

Children's Defense Fund, 2014

22 million or 1 in 3 American children receive SNAP Benefits

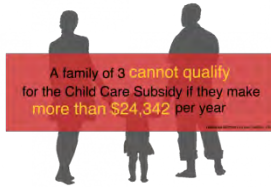


SNAP, also known as food stamps, is another critical program working to reduce poverty. Last week, we showed that Missouri ranks 46th out of 50 in food insecurity, illustrating the SNAP is one of the most important pieces of the hunger safety net for Missouri children. According to a **study done by PolicyLab and First Focus**, food insecurity has been repeatedly shown to result in adverse health outcomes in children. Food insecurity has been linked to poor academic performance and cognitive development, depression, anxiety, chronic illness, hyperactivity, and substance disorders in children.

One in three, or over 22 million American children receive SNAP benefits. According to the latest **MO Kids Count data**, 39% of Missouri households with children participate in the SNAP program.

Child Care Subsidy

The childcare subsidy program helps low income families afford childcare for their children. Missouri has a childcare subsidy program where parents can either receive funds to help pay for childcare, or partial reimbursements for what they pay in child care.



However, according to 2014 study done by the **National Women's Law Center**, the eligibility requirements to receive assistance are extremely high. Families cannot qualify if they make more than 123% of the federal poverty level or an annual income of \$24,342 for a family of three. Furthermore, the reimbursement rate for childcare assistance in Missouri is significantly lower than the recommended federal rate.

Other Programs

This article highlights just three of the many programs working to reduce childhood poverty. Other programs such as the Child Tax Credit, Low Income Housing Tax Credit, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, and the Children's Health Insurance Program are all valuable programs that help Missouri children and families thrive. It is imperative that these programs continue to be renewed and funded to give our children a stronger safety net.

Why It Matters?

Children are worth our investment. Healthy, educated, confident children are a resource. Children who are intellectually, socially, morally starved by poverty will require far more resources as adults, through increased crime, decreased productivity, worse health outcomes, higher rates of substance abuse, and continued generational poverty.

And as a resource, the number of children has been decreasing in Missouri, and in the U.S. Children now make up 23% of the population in Missouri, compared to 27.9% in 1990. As fewer children are born and more adults live longer, the population of the nation is rapidly growing older. The elderly (people age 65 and over) will soon outnumber children under the age of five for the first time in history. In terms of sheer numbers, the elderly population of the United States will more than double in size in only four decades. Neither current levels of immigration nor current birthrates are sufficient to fully compensate for the retirement of the baby boomers. The elderly population is projected to grow far more quickly than the working-age population. The number of working-age adults for every elderly person in the United States declined from 13.6 in 1900 to 7.5 in 1950 to 5.0 in 2000. It will drop to only 2.8 by 2050. This represents an enormous fiscal and economic burden upon taxpayers and workers.

Costs of Child Poverty	
Lost Productivity	\$170 Billion
Increased Crime	\$170 Billion
Worse Health	\$160 Billion
	\$500 Billion

Children's Defense Fund, 2014

And if those taxpayers and workers are poorly educated, unhealthy, and struggling with the long term effects of growing up poor, we all lose.

Looking Ahead

This [report from the Missouri Association for Community Action](http://mediad.publicbroadcasting.net/p/kwmu/files/201401/PovertyInMissouri.pdf) <http://mediad.publicbroadcasting.net/p/kwmu/files/201401/PovertyInMissouri.pdf> provides a glimpse into the current state of poverty in Missouri. Next week we will share stories and perspectives from our Community Partnerships to see how they are working to prevent childhood poverty in Missouri.

MISSOURI — KIDS COUNT —

mokidscount.org



Missouri KIDS COUNT has launched its new website, mokidscount.org, including stories, policy briefs and connections to new and improved data connections.

The website includes Missouri KIDS COUNT data book that highlights indicators and county rankings, a searchable archive of Missouri KIDS COUNT data available since 1993 and data reports and research paper.

Missouri KIDS COUNT is a diverse team of public sector, non-profit and private sector members; together we are the Annie E. Casey (AECF) KIDS COUNT partner in Missouri.

The Family and Community Trust, the AECF KIDS COUNT grantee, is a non-profit corporation with Board members drawn from the top leadership in state government and the private sector to promote and support collaboration and innovation in service delivery for Missouri's children and families through its 20 Community Partnerships around the state.

LINC is the the Kansas City area community partnership.

FACT is joined by its Missouri KIDS COUNT partners, the University of Missouri Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSED) and the Children's Trust Fund (CTF).

