

LINC Commission Meeting

July 17, 2017



LINC Chess University

LINC staff get hands-on experience teaching chess at LINC Chess University. The class is free and available to any adult who wants to learn to teach LINC Chess to students. This summer's class is held at Chouteau Elementary in the North Kansas City School District.



On the web!
kclinc.org/chess



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, July 17, 2017 | 4 – 6 pm
Kauffman Foundation
4801 Rockhill Rd.
Kansas City, Mo. 64110

Agenda

- I. Welcome and Announcements
- II. Approvals
 - a. May minutes (motion)
- III. Superintendent Reports
- IV. LINC Organizational Update
 - a. Finances
 - b. Caring Communities
 - c. Other
- V. Missouri Star Program
 - a. Overview
 - b. Opportunities
- VI. Other reports
 - a. LINC data system
 - b. All America City Award
- VII. Adjournment



THE LOCAL INVESTMENT COMMISSION – MAY 15, 2017

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

Bert Berkley
Sharon Cheers
Tom Davis
Steve Dunn
Mark Flaherty
Herb Freeman
Rob Givens
Anita Gorman

Tom Lewin
Rosemary Lowe
Jaime Masters (for Frank White Jr.)
Mary Kay McPhee
Ken Powell
David Ross
Bailus Tate

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2017, LINC Commission meeting was passed unanimously.

Superintendent Reports

- **John Ruddy**, Asst. Superintendent (Fort Osage School District), reported he will be retiring this summer after 32 years in the district. May 22 is the last day of the regular school year; summer school begins May 25. The district is beginning work on bond projects including construction of playgrounds and expansion of the early childhood center.
- **Dan Clemens**, Superintendent (North Kansas City School District), reported 98% of seniors are graduating this spring, and 99% of graduates have plans to go to four- or two-year college, technical college, or military service. The Washington Post named North Kansas City High School one of the most challenging high schools in the nation, and U.S. News and World Report named Staley High School one of the best high schools in the nation. School board member **Terry Ward** and his wife **Linda Ward** received the 2017 volunteer award from Nonprofit Connect.
- **Yolanda Cargile**, Assoc. Superintendent (Hickman Mills School District), reported the district has been recommended to the AdvancEd Accreditation Commission for the distinction of accreditation by an external review team made up of nine educators from across the United States. Ruskin High School was nominated for a Starlight Theater Blue Star Award for its production of the musical Sister Act. Bond construction is ongoing.
- **Jerry Kitzi**, Director of Early Learning (Kansas City School District), reported superintendent **Mark Bedell** will be announcing his new cabinet soon. The district is engaged in planning with charter schools around issues of increasing student enrollment and achievement.

Bob Bartman, Coordinator (Education Policy Fellowship Program), and **Gayden Carruth**, Executive Director (Cooperating School Districts of Greater Kansas City), gave a report on the Education Policy Fellowship Program, a professional development program focused on leadership, education policy, and networking. The EPFP class of 2016-2017 traveled to Washington, D.C., in April for the Washington Policy Seminar. At this month's meeting the group will discuss wraparound services. A slide show featuring the group's visit to the Washington Policy Seminar was shown. Participants **Deborah Delsemme** (North Kansas City Schools), **Steven Potter** (Mid-Continent Public Library), and **Jeff Hill** (LINC) reported on their experiences in EPFP, as did past participants **Dan Clemens** (North Kansas City Schools), **Sean Akridge** (LINC) and **Janet Miles** (LINC).

Steve Dunn reported that community support has been building around the effort to develop a pipeline for the skilled construction trades. Manual Tech (KCPS) will hold an event on Aug. 10 to provide information to students and families about the availability of well-paying jobs in the construction industry.

David Ross reported the Missouri General Assembly has cut \$1 million in LINC funding in spite of efforts by LINC staff and board members, superintendents, area legislators, and other Missouri community partnerships to have the conference committee restore the funding. LINC has met with superintendents to discuss options for reducing costs, and there is a goal to reach a plan within 10 days.

Gayle Hobbs reported that LINC investments in each district are outlined in the meeting booklet. Reductions will vary from district to district. LINC will continue to work with the state to seek alternative sources of funding.

The meeting was adjourned.

May 19, 2017

Governor Greitens Announces New Department of Social Services Acting Director

Today, Governor Eric Greitens announced that Steve Corsi, current Director of the Wyoming Department of Family Services, will be appointed as Missouri's new Acting Director of Social Services (DSS).

Corsi has a doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology. Prior to public service, Corsi worked in the private sector as CEO of High Country Behavioral Health and worked as a Clinical Director in many other roles. Corsi is an officer in the Army National Guard and spent nearly a decade in active Air Force service.

Under Corsi's tenure, the Department reduced its annual budget by almost \$30 million while improving results for families and children. Corsi's team reduced rules and policies by over 1150 pages and achieved a ranking as one of the top states for child safety for the past three years. Corsi also led Wyoming to be named one of the most improved states in SNAP error rates in 2013 and received bonus awards for SNAP timeliness in 2014 and 2015. Additionally, the Wyoming Child Support program has achieved and sustained the number one ranking nationally since 2013.

Governor Greitens released the following statement, "Steve Corsi is a transformative leader with experience on the front lines in public service, business, and the military. In Wyoming, he cut costs for the taxpayer and got more results for families and children. We are excited to have Steve join our team and produce those same results for the people of Missouri."

Steve Corsi released the following statement, "I share Governor Greitens' passion for transforming the Department of Social Services to provide more safety and security to the most vulnerable in Missouri while also protecting taxpayer dollars. The opportunities for reform are endless. I look forward to serving the citizens of the State of Missouri and am honored and excited to join Governor Greitens and the DSS team."





ERIC R. GREITENS, GOVERNOR • STEVE CORSI, Psy.D., ACTING DIRECTOR

P.O. BOX 1527 • BROADWAY STATE OFFICE BUILDING • JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65102-1527
WWW.DSS.MO.GOV • 573-751-4815 • 573-751-3203 FAX

For Immediate Release
July 7, 2017

Contact: Rebecca Woelfel
573-751-4815

Department of Social Services Reviews Administrative Rules and Seeks Public Input

Jefferson City, MO—Today, in response to Governor Eric Greitens’ [Executive Order 17-03](#) and pursuant to §536.175, RSMo, the Missouri Department of Social Services has launched a review of the department’s administrative rules. Public comments will be received until September 15, 2017.

“We encourage Missourians to comment and attend upcoming public hearings regarding this review,” said Steve Corsi, Psy.D., Acting Director, Department of Social Services. “We are excited to hear the public’s thoughts on how to optimize our operation and performance as a state agency.” Missourians will have an opportunity to comment on each of the rules of the Department of Social Services: Children’s Division, Division of Youth Services, Family Support Division, Family Support Division, MO HealthNet, Missouri Medicaid Audit and Compliance Unit, Division of Finance and Administrative Services, Division of Legal Services, and the Director’s Office.

To review the rules, please visit <https://dssruletracker.mo.gov/dss-proposed-rules>. You can submit comments online, send them by email to Rules.Comment@dss.mo.gov, send them by mail to Rules Comment, PO Box 1527, Jefferson City, MO 65102-1527 or by FAX 573-522-6092. Please reference the rule in your comments.

Public hearings for commenting will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the following dates at these locations:

St. Louis-Thursday, July 20
Wainwright State Office Building
Room 116
111 N.7th Street

Kansas City-Tuesday, August 8
Kauffman Foundation Conference Center
Town Square Room
4801 Rockhill Road

Springfield- Wednesday, August 2
Library Center (TLC)
Auditorium
4653 S. Campbell Avenue

Jefferson City-Monday, August 28
Truman Building
Room 490/492
301 W. High Street

For more information or assistance regarding comment submissions, call 573-526-0414.

###

RELAY MISSOURI
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1-800-735-2466 VOICE • 1-800-735-2966 TEXT PHONE

JAN 10 2017

EXECUTIVE ORDER
17-03SECRETARY OF STATE
COMMISSIONS DIVISION

WHEREAS, Missouri's state government has proposed and codified an excessive amount of regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Missouri Register, a publication that includes proposed and final regulations, has published more than 40,000 pages since 2000; and

WHEREAS, Missourians and Missouri businesses deserve efficient, effective, and necessary regulations; and

WHEREAS, regulations should not reduce jobs, stifle entrepreneurship, limit innovation, or impose costs far in excess of their benefits; and

WHEREAS, regulations that are ineffective, unnecessary, or unduly burdensome must be repealed; and

WHEREAS, removing needless and burdensome regulations will make Missouri more attractive to businesses and encourage job growth.

NOW THEREFORE, I, ERIC R. GREITENS, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Missouri, do hereby order:

1. Every State Agency shall immediately suspend all rulemaking.
 - a. This suspension shall remain in effect until February 28, 2017.
 - b. Any proposed regulation that affects health, safety, or welfare, or is otherwise time sensitive or required by law, should be submitted to the Office of the Governor prior to February 28, 2017.
2. No State Agency shall release proposed regulations for notice and comment, amend existing regulations, or adopt new regulations at any time until approved by the Office of the Governor.
3. Every State Agency shall undertake a review of every regulation under its jurisdiction within the Code of State Regulations.
 - a. As part of its review, every State Agency shall (i) accept written public comments for at least a 60-day period; (ii) hold at least two public hearings to allow citizens and businesses to identify regulations that are ineffective, unnecessary, or unduly burdensome; (iii) solicit and incorporate comments and advice from private citizens, stakeholders, regulated entities, and other interested parties; and (iv) complete the review by May 31, 2018.
 - b. Every State Agency shall designate an individual to oversee the review.
 - c. For each existing regulation, and any future proposed regulation, every State Agency shall affirm in a report submitted to the Office of the Governor by May 31, 2018:
 - i. The regulation is essential to the health, safety, or welfare of Missouri residents;
 - ii. The costs of the regulation do not outweigh their benefits, based on a cost-benefit analysis;
 - iii. A process and schedule exist to measure the effectiveness of the regulation;

- iv. Less restrictive alternatives have been considered and found less desirable than the regulation;
 - v. The regulation is based on sound, reasonably available scientific, technical, economic, and other relevant information; and
 - vi. The regulation does not unduly and adversely affect Missouri citizens or customers of the State, or the competitive environment in Missouri.
- d. By June 30, 2018, every State Agency shall take any action necessary to repeal or to cease rulemaking for any regulation that does not meet any criteria in Section 3(c) of this Order.
4. This Order does not modify any State Agency's obligations under Section 536.175, RSMo. Any State Agency that has already completed the review required by Section 536.175, RSMo. may include any applicable results of that review when responding to this Order. Any State Agency that has not already completed the review required by Section 536.175, RSMo. shall do so in the manner and on the schedule required by statute.
5. "State Agency" shall have the definition provided in Section 536.010(8), RSMo.
6. This Order shall supersede any previous executive order that is inconsistent with the terms contained herein.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, in the City of Jefferson, on this 10th day of January, 2017.

Eric R. Greitens
Governor

John R. Ashcroft
Secretary of State

Kansas City named ‘All-America City’ for its Turn the Page KC reading crusade

By Joe Robertson

Kansas City is back as an All-America City, and this time the children have made it happen with their reading.

The National Civic League challenged member cities to join in a crusade to get all children reading at grade level by the third grade, and Kansas City, with its [Turn the Page KC](#) effort, was one of 15 cities nationwide to win.

“We whooped and hollered,” said Turn the Page KC Executive Director Mike English, describing the moment at the award ceremony in Denver on Friday when Kansas City was the first winner named.

Kansas City has now won All-America City honors five times over the award’s 65 year history. The annual award is given out for cities that promote healthy living and civic innovation.

The number of agencies collaborating in the effort are numerous, including school districts and charter schools, the [Kansas City](#) and [Mid-Continent](#) public libraries, [Lead to Read](#), the [United Way](#), [Literacy Lab](#), the [Local Investment Commission](#) and others that marshaled hundreds of professionals and volunteers to the cause.

“We applaud the big-tent coalitions in these award-winning communities,” Ralph Smith, the managing director of the national [Campaign for Grade-Level Reading](#), said in a written statement. “They put a stake in the ground around third-grade reading and made some big bets to improve the odds for early school success.”

Mayor Sly James and others launching the Turn the Page KC movement did so sharing the belief that the community’s children and their ability to read are a supreme investment in future prosperity.

Friday, the day of the award announcement, “will go down as one of the most important days in the history of Kansas City,” said Bert Berkley, chairman of Tension Envelope Corp., and a longtime promoter of education and health programs.

“There have been minor events such as winning a World Series, but now our town can be known as, “The City that Reads,” he wrote in a celebratory email.

Turn the Page, launched by James in 2011, wanted to help focus the efforts of the many people and programs already invested in helping children read.

[An analysis by The Star](#) found that city children’s performance on Missouri’s third grade reading exam has been growing and narrowing the gap between the average performance statewide.

“Turn the Page is a catalyst, but our community shares this honor,” James said in a written statement.

The city effort focused on preparing children for kindergarten, reducing chronic absenteeism and increasing participation in summer reading programs.

Joe Robertson: [816-234-4789](tel:816-234-4789), [@robertsonkcstar](https://twitter.com/robertsonkcstar)



KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI



The GLR Campaign and National Civic League recognize Kansas City, Missouri, as a 2017 finalist for the All-America City Awards.

The GLR Campaign and National Civic League recognize Kansas City, Missouri, as a 2017 finalist for the All-America City Awards. A five-time winner of the All-America City Award, Kansas City is cited for reporting measurable progress in school attendance, summer learning and overall grade-level reading for children from low-income families, as well as for exemplary efforts in promoting civic engagement and inclusiveness. Working with over 50 partner organizations, Turn the Page KC (Kansas City's locally branded third-grade reading initiative) has dramatically increased public support for early learning. Several key organizations have integrated the initiative's goals into their work, and there has been an increase in the percentage of philanthropic support focused on literacy from birth through age 8. The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, for example, adopted kindergarten readiness as one of its "Big 5 Initiatives." In order to address the school absence issue, Lead to Read KC recruited, trained and placed over 1,000 volunteers to serve as caring adults in the school building. This includes teams of volunteers from more than 25 businesses who read in 48 classrooms and 74 volunteers from the Kansas City Police Department (KCPD) who read with students every week. As a result of its efforts, Kansas City has reduced chronic absence for K–3 students attending Title 1 elementary schools from 15 percent in the 2012–13 school year to 12 percent in the 2015–16 school year. For low-income children ages 5–8, 44 percent increased an average of 23 Lexile points during the summer of 2016, compared with only 7 percent who increased an average of 19 Lexile points during the summer of 2013. Finally, the percentage of students enrolled in Title I schools scoring proficient or above on the third-grade ELA assessment increased from 30 percent in 2012 to 41 percent in 2016.

LINC Caring Communities Sites

Center School District

- **Boone Elementary**
- **Center Elementary**

Fort Osage School District

- Blue Hills Elementary
- Buckner Elementary
- Cler-Mont Elementary
- Elm Grove Elementary
- Indian Trails Elementary

Grandview School District

- **Belvidere Elementary**
- **Butcher-Greene Elementary**
- **Conn-West Elementary**
- **Martin City K-8**
- **Meadowmere Elementary**

Hickman Mills School District

- Ervin Early Learning Center
- Freda Markley Early Childhood Center
- Burke Elementary
- Dobbs Elementary
- Ingels Accelerated Elementary
- Johnson Elementary
- Santa Fe Accelerated Elementary
- Symington Elementary
- Truman Elementary
- Warford Elementary
- **Smith-Hale Middle**
- Hickman Mills Freshman Center

Kansas City Public Schools

- Richardson Early Learning Community School
- Woodland Early Learning Community School
- **African Centered College Preparatory Academy**
- **Banneker Elementary**
- **Border Star Elementary**
- **Carver Elementary**
- **Faxon Elementary**
- **Foreign Language Academy**
- **Garcia Elementary**
- **Garfield Elementary**
- **Gladstone Elementary**
- **Hale Cook Elementary**
- **Hartman Elementary**
- **Holliday Montessori**
- **James Elementary**
- **King Elementary**
- **Longfellow Elementary**
- **Melcher Elementary**
- **Phillips @ Attucks Elementary**
- **Pitcher Elementary**
- **Rogers Elementary**
- **Trailwoods Elementary**
- **Troost Elementary**
- **Wheatley Elementary**
- **Whittier Elementary**

North Kansas City Schools

- **Topping Elementary**

Charter Schools

- Genesis Promise Academy
- **Lee A. Tolbert Charter School**

Sites in blue bold type are Before & After School program locations

Center: 2 (2)

Fort Osage: 5

Grandview: 5 (5)

Hickman Mills: 12 (11)

Kansas City: 25 (23)

North Kansas City: 1 (1)

Charter: 2 (1)

Before & After School Sites: (43)

Total Sites: 52



LINC Caring Communities Sites



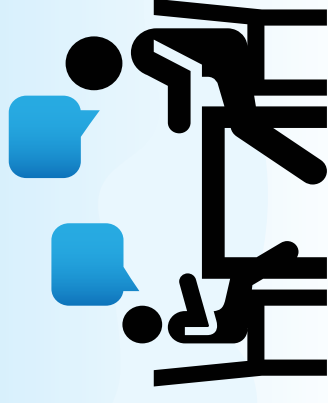


The Missouri Division of Youth Services has formed **Missouri Star School Program** through a partnership with LINC. This blended learning approach provides a personalized educational experience by connecting technology to learning, career, community, and family.

Star School building blocks

- DYS Continuum of Services
- Positive Youth Development
- Invitational Education Model

Learning Coach



- Lives in same community as student, interested in their success, helps keep student goal-oriented
- Learning Coaches visit students regularly

Highly Qualified Teachers



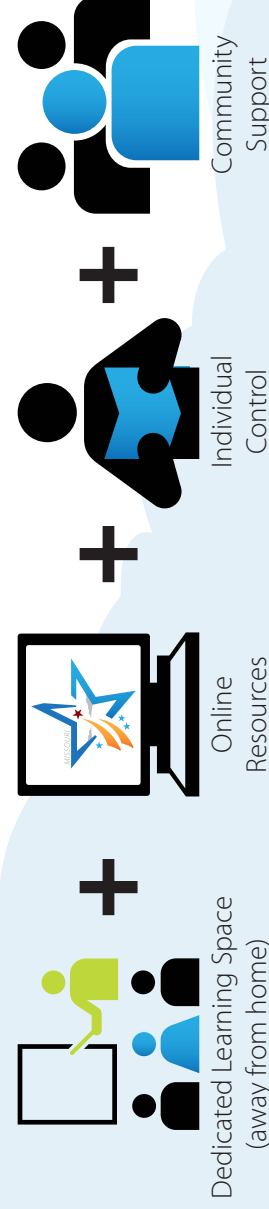
- Develop learning plans, teach new material, check for understanding, assign grades.
- Teachers contact students primarily using online communication tools, text and phone.
- Grade level and content specific teachers for each course

Community Connection



- Partner with local schools, treatment providers, and support services to address student needs.
- Encourage student positive involvement in the community.

Blended Learning



Blended learning is any time a student learns at least in part at a supervised brick-and-mortar location away from home and at least in part through online delivery with some element of student control over time, place, path, and/or pace. *(Innosight Institute)*

Our Results

(Since Inception FY2013)

407 Students Served

58 Earned Diploma or Equivalency

79 Returned to Public School

16 Contracted Teachers

13-21+ Ages Served

4.5 Months Average Length of Enrollment

4 National Board Certified Teachers

 Missouri Star School utilizes G Suite for Education and a variety of other educational tools with a curriculum based on individual students needs.

Students Served and Outcomes

	Students Served	Received Diploma or Equivalency	Return to School
FY2017	110	14	16
FY2016	112	11	23
FY2015	93	14	17
FY2014	92	19	23



What We Provide

Missouri Star School Program is a no-cost program to families and students.

Our courses are taught by grade-level and content area certified teachers.

Teachers communicate regularly with students about their personalized study plans and lessons.

A wide-spectrum curriculum helps students earn credits for a high school diploma, certificate of high school equivalence, and/or National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC).

Volunteer learning coaches provide a human connection through personal support, guidance, encouragement, and sometimes tutoring.

Local organizations, employers and other public settings often provide students with computer access to web-based applications.

Our Students

Missouri Star School Program students are typically high-school aged or about to complete eighth grade.

Education goals of students may be short- or long-term.

Missouri Star School Program provides a way to fulfill secondary education requirements earning credits toward graduation or preparing for the HiSET (equivalence diploma).

Students are permitted to continue in the program after they are discharged from supervision.

Students do not age out of enrollment eligibility as long as they are progressing.

When an IEP student returns to their home district (LEA), Missouri Star School Program can partner with the district's IEP team to provide regular education support.

Other Agency Referrals

The Missouri Star School Program was developed to target the needs of the DYS population.

Other court-involved youth can be a part of the program's service population.

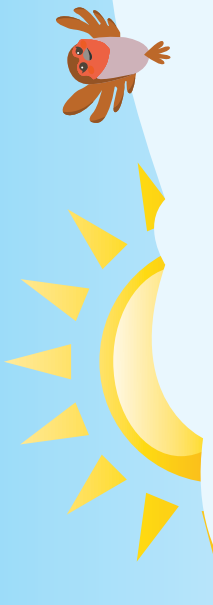
Missouri Star School Program provides a staff, structure, and philosophy that are equipped to address the needs of other court-involved students.

Contact Us

Website: mostarschool.org

Email: info@mostarschool.org

Phone: (855) 501-9664



MISSOURI

STAR SCHOOL

Going the Distance

Our Program

Missouri Star School Program addresses the education needs of court-involved Missouri students who cannot, or do not, return to their home school during or after treatment services due to:

- Safe School violation
- Long-term suspension
- Treatment team decision

In 2011, DYS partnered with the Local Investment Commission (LINC). Until the Missouri Star School Program was established, the only means DYS had for delivering education services to students with limited alternatives was to retain them in a residential or a community resource center.

Missouri Star School Program is recognized as an educational option by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.



Editorial: Hunger and the heartland — needs multiply during summer months

Summer conjures images of sun-filled vacation days, less hectic schedules and plenty of time for picnics and family barbecues.

Except if putting food on the table is a problem. For large swaths of Kansas and Missouri, it is.

Kansas and Missouri ranked in the bottom 10 states in the country in [2016, according to a report on](#) feeding hungry children during the summer. Families that have trouble providing enough food for their children during the school year struggle even more in the summer months.

Hunger rates are higher, there is less philanthropic giving and when school ends, so do the free and reduced-price lunches many children rely on the rest of the year.

Extra food costs can increase a family's budget by more than \$300 a month in June, July and August, according to [Harvesters — The Community Food Network](#), which serves a 26-county region. In fact, the summer equivalent of the National School Lunch Program serves less than 20 percent of those same students during the summer months.

Many portions of rural America, including parts of Kansas and Missouri, have hunger rates equal to or even higher than urban centers. Rural communities often have fewer pantries and more resistance to accepting help, Harvesters reports.

Even in the so-called "breadbasket of the nation," the needs are urgent, and too often children simply go without.

Missouri's Bootheel faces one of the steepest challenges in combating hunger, according to [Map the Meal Gap](#), an annual study. [Pemiscot County](#) has one of the highest food insecurity rates — 24.6 percent — in either Missouri or Kansas.

For comparison, [Jackson County](#) had a 17.9 percent food insecurity rate. [Wyandotte](#) County stood at 16.7 percent. [St. Louis County](#), at 25.7 percent, is struggling mightily.

Food insecurity refers to how the U.S. Department of Agriculture measures hunger, tracking the trouble a family has in providing enough nutrition for all members when balanced against other household bills.

Food insecurity is more prevalent across [Missouri](#), which has higher poverty rates and more people. [Kansas fares better](#) except for the southeast part of the state.

To help the counties they serve, Harvesters has launched multiple summer campaigns. The [Our Community CAN food drive](#) is held in July. And Step Up to the Plate is in August. Summer BackSnack and Kids Cafe, which distributes meals at parks, swimming pools, libraries and community centers, also help.

But the needs remain great. [Donations](#), [volunteers](#) and a broader understanding of [hunger's pervasiveness](#) are essential.



Hunger Doesn't Take a Vacation:

Summer Nutrition Status Report

June 2017 ■ www.FRAC.org



Introduction

Millions of children who rely on free and reduced-price school breakfasts and lunches to keep hunger at bay during the school year lose access to those meals when the school year ends. The federal Summer Nutrition Programs, which include the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), are key resources that provide nutritious meals and snacks to children during the summer months.

In July 2016, the Summer Nutrition Programs served 3 million children. After four consecutive years of growth in participation, 153,000 — or 4.8 percent — fewer children were served compared to the previous summer. As participation in the Summer Nutrition Programs was dropping, school-year participation in NSLP increased by 119,000 low-income children, so the Summer Nutrition Programs met an even smaller share of its need. The summer programs served only 15 children for every 100 low-income children who participated in NSLP during the regular school year, a decrease from 15.8 to 100 the previous year.

Numerous reasons have been driving the low participation in the Summer Nutrition Programs and making it difficult to ensure that children who need summer meals receive them. One of the primary drivers has been the limited number of basic summer programs for low-income children. Summer meals are provided at sites in communities, such as schools, recreation centers, YMCAs, Boys & Girls Clubs, churches, and parks — with the vast majority offering educational and enrichment activities. The activities combined with healthy, federally funded meals provide the basis for strong sites that meet two important needs of low-income children: good nutrition, so they are not going hungry during the summer months, and educational

and enrichment activities that keep them learning, engaged, active, and safe, so they return to school well-nourished and better prepared to return to the classroom.

Limited transportation in rural and more spread-out areas also can reduce participation in the Summer Nutrition Programs as well as the underlying summer program sites. The short duration of the summer also means the schools, local government agencies, and private nonprofit organizations that sponsor the Summer Nutrition Programs, which are often providing programming and services year-round, are in a sprint leading up to summer vacation to develop and launch a six-to-eight week program each year. In the months leading up to summer, the sponsors must apply to the program; attend trainings; identify the source and process for getting the meals to the sites; recruit, sign up, qualify, and train site staff; and promote or work with partners to market their sites to ensure that the families know where their children can get summer meals.

The importance of ensuring access to nutritious meals and summer programming is the reason why so many national youth-serving organizations, including the YMCA of the USA, the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, the Afterschool Alliance, the National Summer Learning Association, and the National Recreation and Park Association, have been working diligently to promote the Summer Nutrition Programs at summer programming sites across the country for many years. Their efforts, combined with the leadership of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the work of national, state, and local anti-hunger and child advocacy organizations, are critical to ensuring that the programs reach the children who are served.

This expansion effort has been critical to the increase in participation that occurred in the summers of 2012 (13,000 additional children), 2013 (161,000 additional children), 2014 (215,000 additional children), and 2015 (11,000 additional children), before the unfortunate loss of ground last summer.

In communities that are not served by the Summer Nutrition Programs, the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer to Children (SEBTC) program is an exciting new approach that is being piloted by USDA to meet the nutritional needs of children during the summer months. By providing an electronic benefit card with resources to purchase food, SEBTC enables families to replace the food that is lost when school meals are not available to their children. It does not ensure that children have access to the educational, enrichment, and other summer programs they need, but it does stave off

hunger and eases the additional financial burden faced by struggling families during the summer months.

The redoubling of efforts is crucial to ensure that many more children have access to summer meals. Many of the strategies that have been undertaken to increase participation, such as promoting the program to sponsors, sites, and families, have resulted in a net gain in participation since 2012, but the Summer Nutrition Programs require continuous nurturing and focus. Investments at the federal, state, and local levels to support more high-quality summer programming for low-income children will make it easier for sponsors to support children year-round and will mean less summer hunger. Continued and greater investments at the federal level to the SEBTC program will ensure low-income children receive the nutrition they need during the summer months, even when Summer Nutrition Programs are out of reach.

About This Summer Food Report

This report measures the reach of the Summer Nutrition Programs in July 2016, nationally and in each state, and with comparisons to the prior summer. This report is based on a variety of metrics and examines the impact of trends and policies on program participation.

First, this report looks at lunch participation in the Summer Nutrition Programs — the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) as used in the summer, among children certified for free and reduced-price meals, combined. It uses free and reduced-price participation in NSLP in the prior regular school year as a benchmark against which to compare summer participation. Because there is broad participation in the regular school-year lunch program by low-income students across the states, that is a useful comparison by which to measure how many students could — and should — be benefiting from the

Summer Nutrition Programs. This report also looks at the number of sponsors and sites operating SFSP, as this is an important indicator of access to the program for low-income children at the state level.

Finally, this report sets an ambitious, but achievable, goal of reaching 40 children with the Summer Nutrition Programs for every 100 participating in school lunch, and calculates the number of unserved children and the federal dollars lost in each state that is not meeting this goal. This report also identifies effective expansion strategies for improving participation in the Summer Nutrition Programs, including making additional investments in summer enrichment and educational programs and state and district-level successes. It also explores the role of the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children (SEBTC) program in improving access to nutrition during the summer.

National Findings for 2016

National participation in the Summer Nutrition Programs decreased in 2016, marking the first drop in participation since 2011. Both the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) saw decreases in average daily participation, but the majority of the decrease was in NSLP.

- On an average day in July 2016, the Summer Nutrition Programs (SFSP and NSLP combined) served lunch to 3.04 million children. The total number of children participating in the Summer Nutrition Programs decreased by more than 153,000 children, or 4.8 percent, from July 2015 to July 2016.
- Participation dropped in both Summer Nutrition Programs, but NSLP contributed the most to the decline, serving nearly 114,000 fewer children, compared to the drop in SFSP of about 39,000 children.
- In July 2016, only 15 children received summer lunch for every 100 low-income students who received lunch in the 2015–2016 school year, reaching only 1 in 7 who rely on free and reduced-price school meals during the school year.
- The ratio dropped from 15.8 to 15 children participating in summer lunch for every 100 participating in school lunch from 2015 to 2016. During school year 2015–2016, an additional 119,000 low-income students participated in NSLP on an average day. The decrease in Summer Nutrition Programs participation, combined with the increased reach of NSLP during the school year, resulted in the Summer Nutrition Programs meeting even less of the summer nutritional need.
- The number of SFSP sponsors and sites saw a slight decrease from July 2015 to July 2016. Nationally, 50 sponsors (a 0.9 percent decrease) and 39 sites (a 0.1 percent decrease) were lost.
- The Summer Nutrition Programs further struggled to feed children because many sites do not operate during the entire summer break. June and July saw a decrease in the number of SFSP lunches served.

However, there was some progress in the month of August, with a 7.8 percent (more than 1 million) increase in the number of SFSP lunches served. This may indicate that summer programs are operating for longer periods.

The Summer Nutrition Programs

The two federal Summer Nutrition Programs — the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Seamless Summer Option and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) — provide funding to serve meals and snacks to children at sites where at least 50 percent of the children in the geographic area are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals; at sites in which at least 50 percent of the children participating in the program are individually determined eligible for free or reduced-price school meals; and at sites that serve primarily migrant children. Once a site is determined eligible, all of the children that come to the site can eat for free. Summer camps also can participate, but they are only reimbursed for the meals served to children who are individually eligible for free or reduced-price school meals. NSLP also reimburses schools for feeding children eligible for free or reduced-price meals who attend summer school.

Public and private nonprofit schools, local government agencies, National Youth Sports Programs, and private nonprofit organizations can participate in SFSP and sponsor one or more sites. Only schools are eligible to participate in NSLP (but the schools can use NSLP to provide meals and snacks at non-school as well as school sites over the summer). A sponsor enters into an agreement with their state agency to run the program and receives reimbursement for each eligible meal and snack served at meal sites. A site is the physical location where children receive meals during the summer. Sites work directly with sponsors.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture provides the funding for these programs through a state agency in each state — usually the state department of education.

State Findings for 2016

Participation rates in the Summer Nutrition Programs in July 2016 varied throughout the country. There also were significant shifts in participation, with 22 states increasing, and 28 states and the District of Columbia dropping in participation.

- Top-performing states reached at least 1 in 4 children with summer lunch in July 2016, when comparing Summer Nutrition Programs participation to regular school-year free and reduced-price lunch participation. The top performers included:
 - District of Columbia (48.8 to 100);
 - New Mexico (35.8 to 100);
 - Vermont (34.9 to 100);
 - New York (29.9 to 100); and
 - Maine (27.4 to 100).
- Four other states reached at least 1 in 5 children with summer lunches:
 - Maryland (23.6 to 100);
 - Connecticut (23.4 to 100);
 - Idaho (21.4 to 100); and
 - Rhode Island (20.1 to 100).
- Eight states saw an increase in the number of students participating by 10 percent or more: Hawaii

(25.1 percent), Nevada (17.8 percent), Kentucky (13.9 percent), Maryland (11.6 percent), Maine (11.3 percent), Florida (10.8 percent), Kansas (10.4 percent), and Montana (10 percent).

- Ten states provided summer lunches to fewer than 1 in 10 children in July 2016: Oklahoma (5.5 to 100), Nebraska (7.8 to 100), Mississippi (8 to 100), Texas (8.1 to 100), Kentucky (8.2 to 100), Colorado (8.8 to 100), Kansas (9.2 to 100), Louisiana (9.4 to 100), West Virginia (9.5 to 100), and Missouri (9.7 to 100).
- While not used in calculations for this report, it is important to note that 24 states had their highest participation during the month of June. Four states served twice as many lunches through SFSP in June as in July — Arizona, Mississippi, Missouri, and Nebraska.
- The month of August is not used in calculations for this report and participation often drops off during this time, leaving a gap in providing meals to children between the time when summer ends and school begins. In 2016, states made efforts to close that gap and served over 1 million more lunches than in August 2015.

Top 10 Performing States		
State	Ratio of Summer Nutrition to NSLP	Rank
District of Columbia	48.8	1
New Mexico	35.8	2
Vermont	34.9	3
New York	29.9	4
Maine	27.4	5
Maryland	23.6	6
Connecticut	23.4	7
Idaho	21.4	8
Rhode Island	20.1	9
South Carolina	19.9	10

Bottom 10 Performing States		
State	Ratio of Summer Nutrition to NSLP	Rank
Missouri	9.7	42
West Virginia	9.5	43
Louisiana	9.4	44
Kansas	9.2	45
Colorado	8.8	46
Kentucky	8.2	47
Texas	8.1	48
Mississippi	8.0	49
Nebraska	7.8	50
Oklahoma	5.5	51

Missed Opportunities

The Summer Nutrition Programs provide federal funding to states so they can offer healthy meals to low-income children. In addition to addressing food insecurity and improving the health and well-being of children, states have the opportunity to bring additional funding to their state by serving more meals. In many communities, the federal reimbursement helps program providers to operate sustainable programs and increase job security among program and food service staff.

The Summer Nutrition Programs have the ability to bring millions of dollars to states. For every lunch that an eligible child does not receive, the state and community miss out on \$3.69 (rounded up to the nearest penny) in federal Summer Food Service Program funding per child. That means millions of dollars are being left on the table by almost every state.

USDA's "One More Challenge" for Summer Sponsors

While expanding participation in the Summer Nutrition Programs requires collaboration and partnership at all levels, the leadership and investment of strong summer sponsors in serving more meals and reaching more children are key components. To encourage further growth in the summer of 2016, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) challenged Summer Nutrition Program sponsors to commit to "One More Challenge." Through this initiative, sponsors were challenged to evaluate their summer meals program and determine how to add "one more" — whether it be a site, meal, activity, or week of service — to expand the reach of their summer operations. By encouraging small, coordinated steps towards serving more meals, USDA supported sponsors focused on growing their program sustainably. For example, the Iowa State Department of Education saw a 4.4 percent increase from summer 2015 to summer 2016 by encouraging the "One More Challenge."



- If every state had reached the Food Research & Action Center's goal of 40 children participating in the Summer Nutrition Programs in July 2016 for every 100 receiving free or reduced-price lunch during the 2015–2016 school year, an additional 5.1 million children would have been fed each day. States would have collected an additional \$373 million in child nutrition funding in July alone (assuming the program operated 20 days).
- The six states that missed out on the most federal funding and failed to feed the most children by the 40 to 100 goal were: Texas (\$56.5 million; 766,383 children); California (\$38.8 million; 526,727 children); Florida (\$22.8 million; 309,330 children); Illinois (\$16.3 million; 221,425 children); Georgia (\$15.5 million; 210,052 children); and Ohio (\$13.9 million; 189,134 children).

Summer Learning Loss and Summer Programs

Summer learning loss, also known as summer slide, is the diminishment of knowledge and skills and the unraveling of academic achievement gained during the school year. This happens over the course of the summer months in the absence of quality summer programming for children. During the summer, most students experience a gap in their education calendar, but how that gap affects students is largely determined by the income level of the family and the availability of summer enrichment programs.¹ Parents with higher incomes often enroll their children in summer academic enrichment programs, send them to camps, or sign them up for athletic activities. Many low-income families cannot take advantage of these opportunities because of enrollment costs and transportation barriers.

The summer nutrition gap and summer slide hit low-income children harder than their higher-income peers, leaving them hungry and struggling to succeed academically when the next school year begins. Low-income students experience negative gains in math and reading scores, sometimes losing 1–3 months of learning.² The effects of summer learning loss are cumulative, meaning with each summer a child does not have access to quality summer programming, he or she falls further behind peers who participate in summer programs. By the end of fifth grade, students who do not participate in summer learning opportunities can fall as far as three grade levels behind their higher-income peers.³ Summer learning loss that happens during children’s elementary school years can adversely affect their educational future. For low-income children who do not have summer enrichment opportunities, there is an increased likelihood that they will not earn a high school diploma or pursue a college education.⁴

Nevada

Nevada saw a 17.8 percent increase in participation in summer lunch served. Clark County School District was the main driver of the state’s growth, increasing the number of sites that served summer meals in Las Vegas and surrounding rural areas from 61 in 2015 to 81 in 2016. In 2015, the school district served 771,000 meals during the summer months, and served over 1 million meals in 2016. The district provided meals to summer school sites as well as community-based sites, such as the Boys & Girls Clubs and YMCAs. Some of the summer activities that took place included athletic practices, Reserve Officers’ Training Corps programs, and Special Olympics camps. Any site that was area-eligible — at least 50 percent of the children in the area were eligible for free or reduced-price meals — was designated as an “open” site, so that all children could participate. The district also kept its schools open longer into August to minimize the gap between the summer and the school year. By doing so, the state increased the number of SFSP lunches served during August by 42 percent.

Expanding summer program opportunities for elementary school-age children can increase high school graduation rates and ensure that more students go to college.

The Afterschool Alliance’s *America After 3 PM Special Report: Afterschool in Communities of Concentrated Poverty* finds that 66 percent of parents want their children to participate in summer learning programs. If programs were available and not out of financial reach, more children would participate.⁵ It is estimated that only 4 percent of low-income children attend

¹ Alexander, K. L., Entwisle, D. R., & Olson, L. S. (2007). Summer learning and its implications: Insights from the Beginning School Study. *New Directions for Youth Development*, 114, 11-32.

² Cooper, H., Nye, B., Charlton, K., Lindsay, J., & Greathouse, S. (1996). The Effect of Summer Vacation on Achievement Test Scores: A narrative & meta-analytic review. *Review of Educational Research*, 66, 227-268.

³ Alexander, K. L., Entwisle, D. R., & Olson, L. S. (2007). Lasting Consequences of the Summer Learning Gap. *American Sociological Review*, 72, 167-180.

⁴ Alexander, K. L., Entwisle, D. R., & Olson, L. S. (2007). Lasting Consequences of the Summer Learning Gap. *American Sociological Review*, 72, 167-180.

⁵ Afterschool Alliance. (2016). *America After 3 PM Special Report: Afterschool in Communities of Concentrated Poverty*. Available at: http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/Concentrated_Poverty.pdf. Accessed on May 12, 2017.

summer camps, while 18 percent of higher-income youth do so.⁶

Summer programs, combined with summer meals, reduce childhood hunger and help ensure children return to school ready to learn. While the extent of the programming for low-income children is limited, schools, YMCAs, Boys & Girls Clubs, parks and recreation agencies, libraries, religious institutions, and many other local entities are providing opportunities for children to engage in academic and physical activities. These places are also safe spaces for children to be while their parents are at work or school. In addition to academic improvements, quality summer programming can have a positive impact on the social and emotional health of students participating in the programs.

Public funding is necessary to provide summer programs for low-income children, and the level of investment needs to be increased to ensure low-income children access programming and summer meals. For example, the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program is the largest federal funding source for summer and afterschool programs; yet, it served only 1.6 million children in fiscal year (FY) 2016, leaving millions unserved. Congress increased funding for 21st Century Community Learning Centers in FY 2017, so an additional 25,000 children can be served.⁷ Still, the current administration has proposed to defund the program entirely in FY 2018.⁸ This would be devastating to students' access to educational and enrichment programming and would eliminate thousands of summer meal sites. Instead of cutting funding, additional resources are needed to meet the academic and nutritional needs of the millions of low-income students who fall further behind each summer.



Hawaii

Hawaii saw an increase of 25 percent in 2016, growing its average daily participation by over 1,000 children during the month of July and continuing the increase in participation that started in July 2015, when the state grew participation by 28 percent. To share information and strategically plan for summer 2016, the state agency convened partners at the beginning of the summer. Strong partnerships were established among the organizations that attended the meeting, including the Kapiolani Community College, which agreed to serve as a vendor for additional sites. Hawaii First Lady Dawn Ige championed the Summer Nutrition Programs and encouraged sites and sponsors to increase participation in areas where there was need. On the Big Island, Kona Pacific Public Charter School doubled its mobile meal program, from five sites in 2015 to 10 in 2016, and meals served from 5,000 to 10,000.

⁶ Wimer, C., Bouffard, S., Caronongan, P., Dearing, E., Simpkins, S., Little, P., & Weiss, H. (2006). What are kids getting into these days? Demographic differences in youth out-of-school time participation. Harvard, MA: Harvard Family Research Project.

⁷ Afterschool Alliance. (2017). Afterschool funding preserved in proposed FY2017 spending bill, still under attack for 2018. Available at: http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/afterschoolSnack/Afterschool-funding-preserved-in-proposed-FY2017-spending-bill_05-01-2017.cfm. Accessed on May 12, 2017.

⁸ Afterschool Alliance. (2017). What does the president's "skinny budget" mean for afterschool and summer learning? Available at: http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/afterschoolSnack/What-does-the-president-s-skinny-budget-mean-for-afterschool_03-20-2017.cfm. Accessed on May 12, 2017

Summer EBT: An Important Strategy to Close the Nutrition Gap

The Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children (SEBTC) program is a relatively new way to support during the summer low-income families who rely on school meals during the school year. It provides families with a debit card (with a fixed amount of funds) that can be used to purchase groceries during the summer months. Participation in SEBTC is not captured in this report's analysis of the reach of the Summer Nutrition Programs, but 250,000 children across eight states and Indian Tribal Organizations were estimated to have participated in summer 2016.⁹

As detailed in the previous section, children need and benefit from both the nutrition and the academic and enrichment activities provided at summer meal sites in order to return to school ready to learn. However, in communities that struggle to provide summer meals due to transportation or other barriers, the SEBTC approach is an important way to ensure children have access to nutrition during the summer, at a time when states with low participation in the Summer Nutrition Programs otherwise have the largest seasonal increases in food insecurity.¹⁰

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has provided SEBTC benefits to children who are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals through its Summer Demonstration Projects since 2011. In the first year, SEBTC reached 12,500 children in Connecticut, Michigan, Missouri, Oregon, and Texas.¹¹ The program was estimated to have grown to serve 250,000 children nationwide in 2016. A 2016 report¹² assessed the different levels of monthly summer benefits provided through the demonstration projects (\$60 and \$30) as

well as the different distribution models: benefits tied to specific food items, similar to the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), versus a specific monetary value available for food purchases, similar to the Supplemental Nutrition

Kansas

Recognizing that there were still a large number of counties in the state without summer meal programs in 2015, the Kansas State Department of Education partnered with Kansas Appleseed to identify gaps in participation and target expansion efforts to underserved areas. They convened partners at regional stakeholder meetings to identify eligible, non-participating areas, identify sponsors to serve those areas, and share strategies to boost participation at existing meal sites. As a result of this collaborative effort, Kansas developed summer meal sites in 16 previously unserved counties. In spring 2016, Kansas was selected as one of three states to participate in Cities Combating Hunger through the Afterschool and Summer Meal Programs (CHAMPS), an initiative led by the National League of Cities and the Food Research & Action Center to encourage city agencies to support and expand year-round participation in the Summer and Afterschool Nutrition Programs. These efforts — along with statewide promotional efforts, such as “Lunch Across Kansas Week,” which drew media coverage to the summer meal sites — helped the state to increase participation by 10.4 percent and put in place important building blocks to help Kansas continue to grow its summer meal programs.

⁹ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service. (2016). USDA Announces Awardees of Summer EBT Grants, Extends Benefits to Flint, Michigan and Other High-Need Areas. [Press release]. Available at: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/pressrelease/2016/008716>. Accessed on May 12, 2017.

¹⁰ Nord, M. & Romig, K. (2006). Hunger in the summer: seasonal food insecurity and the National School Lunch and Summer Food Service programs. *Journal of Children and Poverty*, 12(2), 141-158.

¹¹ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service. (2017). Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer for Children (SEBTC). Available at: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/ops/summer-electronic-benefit-transfer-children-sebtc>. Accessed on May 12, 2017.

¹² Abt Associates. (2016). *Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer for Children (SEBTC) Demonstration: Summary Report*. Available at: <https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/ops/sebtcfinalreport.pdf>. Accessed on May 12, 2017.

Assistance Program (SNAP). Both approaches resulted in numerous benefits, but the WIC model had a higher administrative cost. The report found that the SEBTC program has accomplished a number of important objectives:

- **Reduced food insecurity:** By providing low-income households with a \$30 or \$60 benefit per month per child, the most severe type of food insecurity (very low food security) was reduced by one-third, and food insecurity was reduced by one-fifth.
- **Improved nutrition:** Both the \$30 and \$60 monthly benefit levels led to an improvement in children's summertime nutritional intake, but children in households that received the \$60 benefit ate slightly more nutritious foods (fruits, vegetables, and whole grains) than those in the \$30 group.
- **Contributed to high participation rates:** Throughout the duration of the demonstration projects, more than 75 percent of households redeemed some or all of their benefits. While both models were efficient in reaching families, those who participated in the SNAP model redeemed benefits at higher rates than those in the WIC model (95 percent versus 83 percent). This is likely due to the more limited availability of WIC retailers and the fact that WIC participants had a more limited set of eligible foods to choose from. Additionally, unused benefits in the WIC model expired at the end of the month, while unused benefits in the SNAP model were available until the end of summer.

Recognizing the impact that SEBTC has on reducing food insecurity, Congress has continued to invest in and expand its reach through the annual appropriations process. Over the last few years, there have been a number of proposals and legislative bills introduced that would have made even larger investments to SEBTC, including the Stop Summer Hunger Child Nutrition Act of 2015 (S. 1539/H.R. 2715), introduced by Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) and Representative Susan Davis (D-CA).

As too many children continue to miss out on summer meals, it is crucial to invest in and expand this successful approach to reducing food insecurity.

Maine

To ensure more children have access to nutritious meals and to close the summer learning gap, the Preble Street Maine Hunger Initiative worked with partners across the state to advocate for, and ultimately enact state legislation requiring high-poverty schools (those in which at least 50 percent of students qualify for free or reduced-price meals) that operate summer programming to provide meals through the Summer Nutrition Programs. The state's average daily participation grew by 28 percent, from 12,613 children served in 2014 — prior to the passage of the legislation — to 16,157 children served in 2016.

Providing additional nutritional support to families in underserved and hard-to-reach areas through the SEBTC program, while simultaneously strengthening the Summer Nutrition Programs to ensure that low-income children have access to the food and programming they need over the summer, will ensure more children return to school healthy, nourished, and ready to learn.



Conclusion

The Summer Nutrition Programs help meet two critical summer needs for low-income children: access to nutritious meals to keep hunger at bay and access to summer programming to reduce summer learning loss. In July 2016, the Summer Nutrition Programs served 3 million children, a decrease of 4.8 percent from July 2015. Greater investments are needed in summer programs to increase participation and ensure that low-income communities have the program platforms for building summer meal sites to reduce both hunger and the summer learning slide.

When the Summer Nutrition Programs are not available, SEBTC provides resources to meet children’s nutritional needs during the summer months. This approach has been shown to reduce food insecurity and should be expanded to increase its reach and help more children access nutritious food in the summer months.

While many states saw decreases in participation from July 2015 to July 2016, 22 states grew participation, with eight growing by 10 percent or more. Some of their successful strategies include conducting outreach, developing creative partnerships, increasing mobile meal sites, and passing state legislation that fosters more sponsors and sites. These efforts provide important examples for other states to emulate to increase participation. The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s continuing leadership and investment in the nutrition programs, such as through its “One More Challenge” initiative, also will be critical to increasing the reach of the Summer Nutrition Programs.

Kentucky

In Kentucky, addressing transportation barriers and supporting sponsors were keys to expanding the Summer Nutrition Programs. The state grew program participation by 13.9 percent from 2015 to 2016. Kentucky — a very rural state — continues to see growth in various mobile summer meal initiatives, ranging from retrofitted school buses to library bookmobiles. Making the meals “mobile” allows sponsors to more easily connect with children in underserved, hard-to-reach communities — especially in rural areas. Kentucky also has seen huge success in providing sponsors the opportunity to learn from each other. In late winter, the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) hosted a series of “best practices share sessions,” which were an opportunity for sponsors to learn from their peers about successful efforts to provide summer meals across the state. KDE surveyed its sponsors at the end of summer to determine successes, challenges, and how resources and technical assistance can impact and inform the state’s plans for increasing participation moving forward.

African-American homeownership suffered most in recession — and still hasn't recovered

By Steve Vockrodt and Kelsey Ryan

Michelle Coleman has never owned a home.

Ideally, she'd like a small house with a yard for gardening and room for her children and grandchildren to visit.

She lives in a four-plex in Kansas City for \$600 a month, and hers is the only one that doesn't have a working air conditioner — a big problem in July. She doesn't want to spend her own money to fix the air conditioner, and of course her landlord still expects her to pay her rent even though it has not been fixed.

"I'm just tired of renting," Coleman said.

"Any extra I get, I want to put into a home, not lining someone else's pockets."

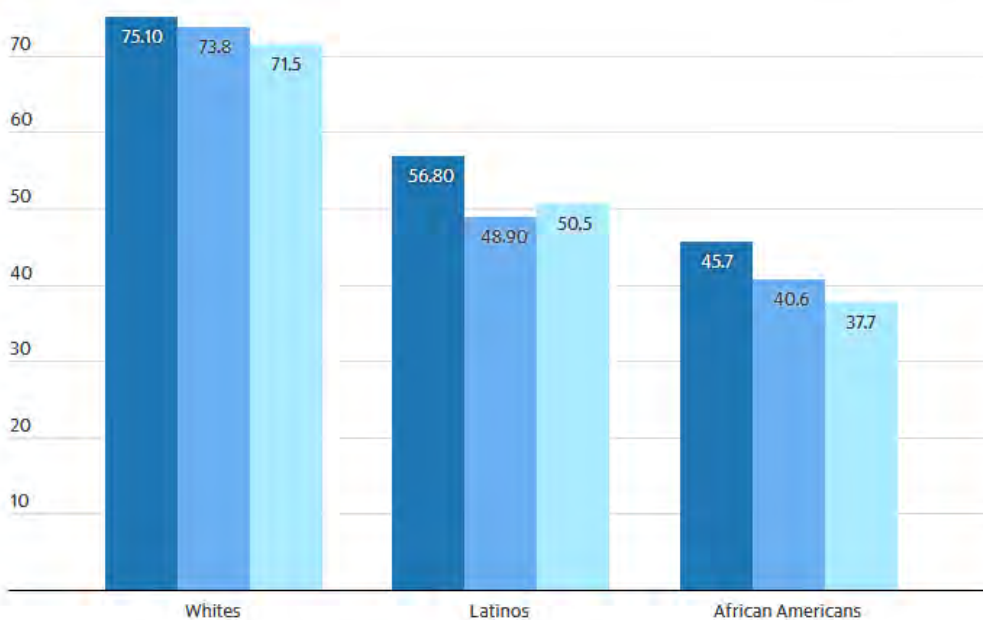
She's one of a growing number of African-Americans in Kansas City — and the nation — who don't own a home.

Across the U.S., homeownership rates appear to be stabilizing as people rebound from the 2007 recession that left millions unemployed and home values underwater, according to a report by Harvard University's Joint Center for Housing Studies.

KANSAS CITY HOMEOWNERSHIP RATE ESTIMATES BY RACE, 2005-2015

Estimates of homeownership show that African Americans have lost the most of all groups since 2005.

■ 2005 ■ 2010 ■ 2015



Source: Associated Press, American Community Survey • [Get the data](#)

But the report found African-Americans aren't sharing in the recovery, even as whites, Asian-Americans and Latinos slowly see gains in home-buying. The center said the disparity between whites and blacks is at its highest in 70-plus years of data.

Experts say reasons for the lower homeownership rate range from historic underemployment and low wages to a recession-related foreclosure crisis that hit black communities particularly hard.

Homeownership rates among African-Americans in the Kansas City metro area slipped from an estimated 45.7 percent to an estimated 37.7 percent from 2005 to 2015, according to American Community Survey data analyzed by the Associated Press.

The data show that Kansas City is among the metros with the largest decreases in African-American homeownership percentages nationwide in areas with more than 25,000 African-American households.

In 2004, the pinnacle of U.S. homeownership, three-quarters of whites and nearly half of blacks in the country owned homes, according to the Harvard report.

By 2016, the national African-American homeowner rate had fallen to 42.2 percent and lagged 29.7 percentage points behind whites, nearly a percentage point higher than in 2015.

Now, a lack of affordable housing and stricter lending are making it harder for first-time buyers to obtain what traditionally has been considered an essential part of the American dream and a way to build wealth.

"It has always been historically and systemically harder for blacks, and we were seeing there a little bit of progress, and now we're back at square one," said Alanna McCargo, co-director of the Housing Finance Policy Center at the Urban Institute, a think tank focused on urban issues that published a similar report.

Low inventory is adding to the problem. The Star reported earlier this year that the country is seeing the [biggest housing inventory crunch in 20 years](#), according to data gathered by Trulia, a real estate listing site. Kansas City had 55.4 percent fewer homes available from 2012 to 2017.

Darryl McKenzie said he's always rented, but he would like to own a house.

"To me, a house is the best thing to have," he said. "But there just don't seem to be any houses available ... and a lot of people just don't have money to buy."

Local housing experts point to after effects of the housing market crash that helped trigger the Great Recession in 2008, which left some racial minorities with poor credit and others wary of buying a house because of adjustable rate mortgages and other risky subprime loan products.

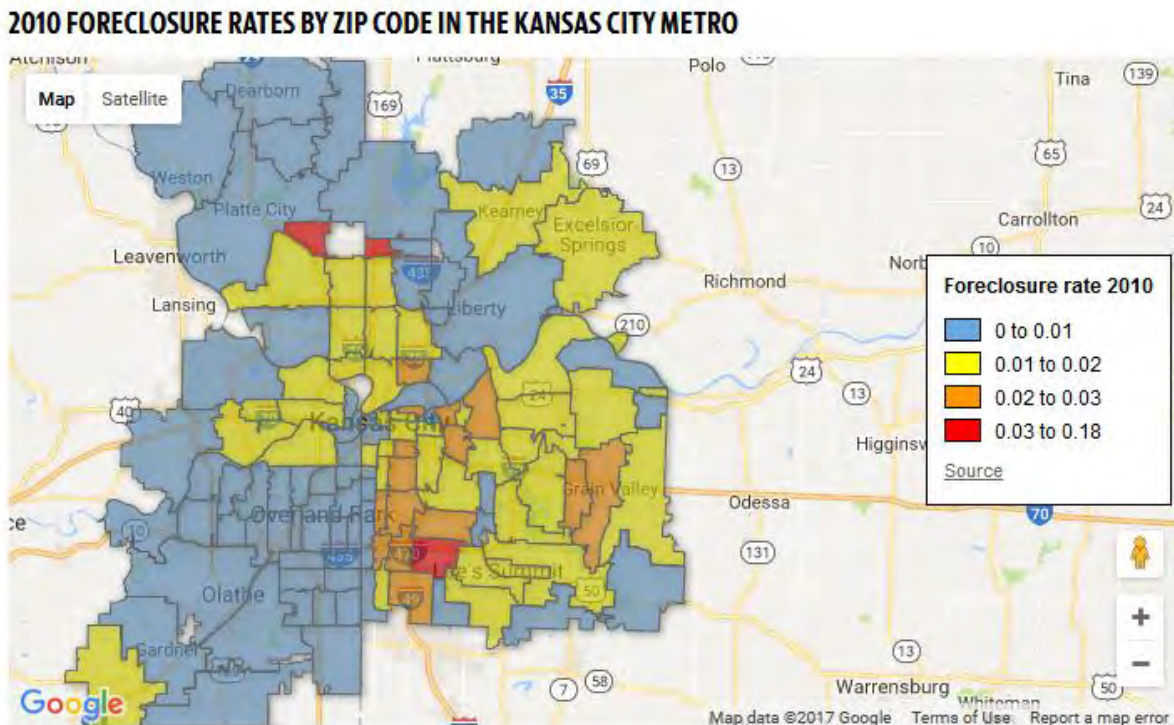
"A lot of minorities got into loans that were not good," said Patricia Gilmore-Wilkins, executive director of the Greater Kansas City Housing Information Center. "They had bad loans, so a lot of them are still upside down."

According to data from RealtyTrac, a real estate information company, pre-recession foreclosure rates were highest in the more diverse neighborhoods of Kansas City, but were still not as bad as during the recession. In 2010, the foreclosure rates in those diverse areas increased even higher, data show.

"The older I get, I keep thinking about leaving something behind for my kids," said 46-year-old Willie Hill, an African-American Kansas Citian who said he's always rented.

But putting together a downpayment for a house is difficult, he said.

2010 FORECLOSURE RATES BY ZIP CODE IN THE KANSAS CITY METRO



Some experts say potential African-American buyers have reservations about entering the housing market because of questions and doubts about the process.

Research by the Federal National Mortgage Association, the government-sponsored mortgage securitization company better known as Freddie Mac, indicates few potential homebuyers know about pre-qualification education programs.

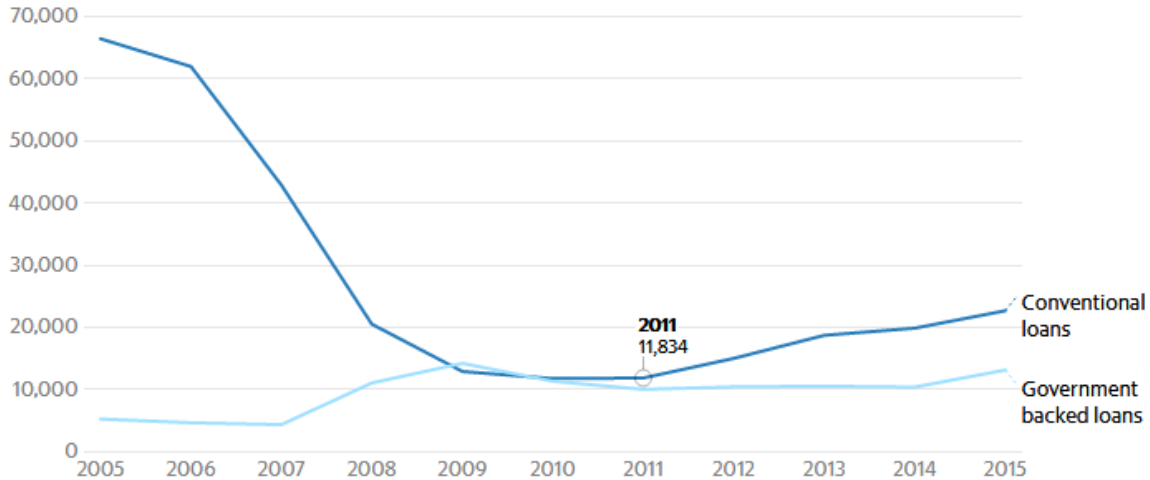
“One of the whys is education. Being educated on real estate: how to buy a home, how to take care of a home, what you need for credit, what counts for credit,” said Victor Frederick, president of the Kansas City chapter of the National Association of Black Real Estate Brokers.

“The other thing is people were just scared off from trying to buy a home, and they can’t qualify. A lot of people couldn’t qualify after they raised the lending standards.

“Between the high unemployment, the skepticism and then the ruthless practices of some of the mortgage companies around here, those things combined cut down on the application levels, spoken from a realtor’s point of view.”

The total number of home loan applications in Kansas City fell between 2005 and 2015: by 80 percent for blacks, 52 percent for Hispanics, and 46 percent for whites, according to [Home Mortgage Disclosure Act data](#).

HOME LOAN APPLICATIONS IN THE KANSAS CITY METRO, 2005-2015



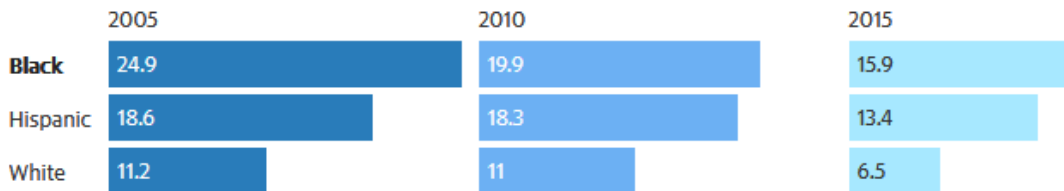
The number of home loan applications by type among black, white and Hispanic applicants in the Kansas City metro area.

Source: Home Mortgage Disclosure Act • [Get the data](#)

“African-Americans don’t apply for mortgages at the same rates that whites do. Part of it is because of confidence, navigating the system, lack of information,” said Turner Pettway, president and chief executive of Neighborhood Housing Services of Kansas City Inc.

“If you don’t know a lot about the system, it’s very hard to learn by experience. It can be expensive.”

And when minorities do apply for home loans in Kansas City, there’s a history of being denied at higher rates than whites.



Home purchase loans involve conventional home loans and loans that carry government guarantees.

Source: Home Mortgage Disclosure Act • [Get the data](#)

Income disparity among whites and minorities alone does not account for the gap between homeownership rates.

Data from the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act for Kansas City show that blacks who made 120 percent or more of the metro median income were still denied at rates twice that of whites.

Lenders say loans are not made solely on income, but also credit histories, debt burdens and net worth of applicants.

Cardelia Walker isn’t surprised to hear statistics describing lower homeownership rates among minorities. Walker, a licensed real estate agent in Kansas and Missouri, often works with clients in predominantly black communities.

She deals with clients who don't often know the intricacies of applying for a mortgage. She stresses the merits of homebuyer education, while also acknowledging that the Great Recession has turned people off from the prospects of owning a home.

"It's a lack of information, it's a lack of knowledge, it's a feeling that it's so intimidating," Walker said. "And it's partly people who went through the crash who lost their homes. They're the naysayers. They say you don't want to go through that."

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Editorial: Absentee landlords are a drag on Kansas City neighborhoods. A new law could help.

The Missouri General Assembly and Gov. Eric Greitens have taken an important step to make Kansas City a better, safer place to live.

The governor signed a bill this week dealing with [municipal borrowing, public administrators, even funeral services](#). But embedded in the text is an amendment that should help hold some absentee landlords in Kansas City to a higher standard of property maintenance.

[Under the new law](#), limited liability corporations that own property must provide a street address and the name of a “natural person” with management control and responsibility for the rental or unoccupied property.

If that person changes, the LLC has 30 days to update the filing. If the owner fails to file the proper paperwork, the tenant — or the city — can take the company to circuit court.

Kansas City has sought the legislation for years. City officials think the changes will make it harder for out-of-town property owners to dodge complaints for dilapidated homes and vacant properties.

It’s a massive problem. One study for the Federal Reserve found almost [11,000 vacant residential structures in Kansas City](#) at the start of the decade, most of them in the urban core.

That was more than double the national average. And absentee ownership, the study found, was a reason for the elevated numbers.

Absentee ownership can lead to reduced property values, higher insurance premiums and a poorer quality of life for homeowners and renters who can’t or won’t move. Fires and crime are more likely.

Kansas City has taken steps on its own to address the absentee landlord problem. In 2007, it enacted an ordinance requiring owners to [annually register their rental properties](#). In 2009, it added [vacant properties](#) to the registration requirement.

But city officials say it is still more difficult than it should be to find someone responsible when a renter’s home needs repair, or an abandoned property sprouts weeds. Wednesday, city data showed 1,986 open [cases of vacant property owners who had failed to register](#).

The new law, the city says, will allow state court jurisdiction to help address the the problem.

The law applies just in Kansas City and Independence, Mo., where absentee ownership is also a challenge.

As The Star [reported this week](#), nearly half of Kansas City’s housing stock consists of rental properties. Roughly three out of every five African-American households are rental homes.

Leasing a home or apartment is an important option for many residents. Home ownership doesn’t cure every problem or guarantee stable neighborhoods.

But landlords who ignore property issues, or neglect required maintenance, or fail to respond to tenant requests can contribute to problem neighborhoods. Any tool that holds them to account is welcome.

Interestingly, Greitens on Wednesday announced a new website where governments and [citizens can register complaints](#) about allegedly unneeded regulations. “Government red tape is out of control,” he said.

Some landlords will undoubtedly claim the new law is exactly the kind of “red tape” Greitens is worried about. He properly ignored that potential criticism and signed the bill.

Greitens provided our city with a much-needed tool that could help make this area safer. Kansas Citians should applaud his decision.

The Kansas City Star – July 10, 2017

Editorial: What can Kansas City do to encourage home ownership? Follow James B. Nutter's lead

James B. Nutter, Sr. was many things — a philanthropist, a liberal Democrat, a behind-the-scenes political activist with lots of money to give.

Mostly, though, he was a mortgage lender. He made his fortune helping people buy homes.

[And he worked to make sure those loans would be available to qualified buyers, regardless of skin color.](#) The company loaned money for homes in older, poorer neighborhoods years before the Fair Housing Act became law.

He made sure company-owned apartments were open to all renters, white or black. In 2012, he was honored by the Kansas City chapter of the [NAACP for his work on civil rights.](#)

[So we can guess that Nutter would have been saddened and distressed by the news](#) — published just days after his death — that home ownership among African-Americans has plummeted in Kansas City over the past 10 years.

In 2015, only 37.7 percent of African-Americans in Kansas City owned their homes. Whites in Kansas City own homes at nearly twice that rate.

Nationally, the disparity between whites and blacks owning homes has reached its largest gap in 70 years.

There are many reasons for the slump in African-American home ownership. Higher unemployment and lower wages are two factors. Low credit ratings and a lack of assets for many families are also problems.

Down payments are hard to assemble. Affordable housing stock is hard to find.

But lending is also an issue. Not only do African-Americans apply for fewer home loans than whites in Kansas City, but banks and lenders deny those loans twice as often as they do for white applicants.

Worse, “there are no current efforts in the region to address these disparate rates of loan denials,” [a study from the Mid-America Regional Council concluded.](#)

The results are clear: Low-income Kansas Citians are renting their homes, not buying. In a 2015 report, the [Census Bureau said 47 percent of Kansas City's housing stock is renter-occupied.](#) The national average is 36 percent.

[Studies show nearly 59 percent of black households in Kansas City rent.](#) Only 28 percent of whites live in rented homes.

Renting is an important option for younger workers and their families, and for those truly unable to afford a mortgage payment. Leasing a residence is popular with Kansas Citians who move frequently.

But neighborhoods formed around aging rental homes, [often maintained by absentee landlords, can lead to vacancies and unsafe conditions.](#)

[Conversely, some studies suggest,](#) home ownership can lead to better schools and healthier residents. It can help families build wealth.

Home ownership isn't for everyone. But we believe Kansas City should do much more to encourage home ownership in older neighborhoods, including offering tax incentives. It must steer public banking business to [institutions that promise to fund urban mortgages.](#)

A city that spends millions on hotels and streetcars can do more to help African-Americans own their homes. We're confident James B. Nutter Sr. would agree.

MISSOURI

#36*

In **Missouri**, the Fair Market Rent (FMR) for a two-bedroom apartment is **\$815**. In order to afford this level of rent and utilities — without paying more than 30% of income on housing — a household must earn **\$2,716** monthly or **\$32,588** annually. Assuming a 40-hour work week, 52 weeks per year, this level of income translates into an hourly Housing Wage of:

\$15.67
PER HOUR
STATE HOUSING
WAGE

FACTS ABOUT MISSOURI:

STATE FACTS	
Minimum Wage	\$7.70
Average Renter Wage	\$13.65
2-Bedroom Housing Wage	\$15.67
Number of Renter Households	774,668
Percent Renters	33%

81

Work Hours Per Week At
Minimum Wage To Afford a
2-Bedroom Rental Home (at FMR)

64

Work Hours Per Week At
Minimum Wage To Afford a
1-Bedroom Rental Home (at FMR)

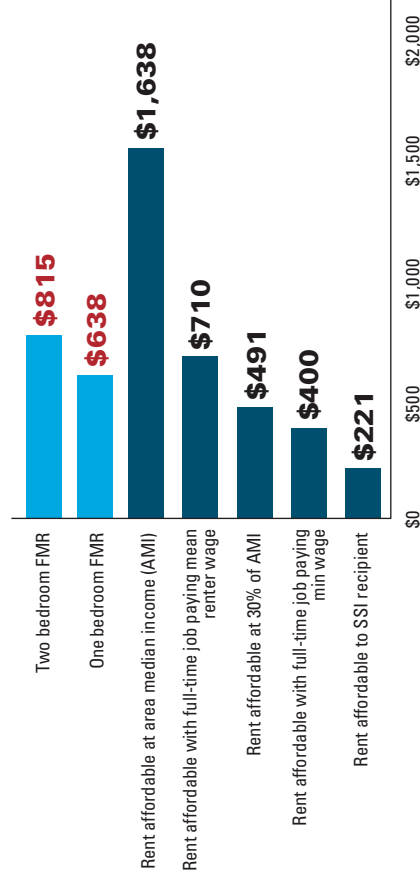
2

Number of Full-Time Jobs At
Minimum Wage To Afford a
2-Bedroom Rental Home (at FMR)

1.6

Number of Full-Time Jobs At
Minimum Wage To Afford a
1-Bedroom Rental Home (at FMR)

MOST EXPENSIVE AREAS	HOUSING WAGE
Kansas City HMFA	\$18.19
St. Louis HMFA	\$17.23
Pulaski County	\$16.06
Columbia MSA	\$14.85
Stone County	\$14.65



* Ranked from Highest to Lowest 2-Bedroom Housing Wage



LINC students from Smith-Hale Middle School in the Hickman Mills School District learn to make their own screen prints at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art.





Kansas City consistently ranks among the nation's most literate cities, per an annual study by Central Connecticut State University, in no small part because of the quality and contributions of its libraries. The coveted National Medal for Museum and Library Service has gone to three area systems: the Johnson County Library (in 2005), Kansas City Public Library (2008), and Mid-Continent Public Library (2014).

Filmmaker and documentarian **Michael Price** celebrates their work, and that of the Kansas City, Kansas Public Library, in a collection of short films, produced for **KCPT-TV's Flatland** website.

The Library and KCPT premiere the four shorts, each five to six minutes long and focusing in turn on building community/combating loneliness, literacy, bridging the digital divide, and entrepreneurship. The heads of the four library systems – Johnson County's **Sean Casserly**, KCK's **Carol Levers**, Mid-Continent's **Steve Potter**, and KCPL's **Crosby Kemper III** – join KCPT's **Nick Haines** in a series of brief discussions following each screening.

LIBRARIES OUT LOUD

Tuesday, July 18, 2017

Reception: 6 p.m. | Program: 6:30 p.m.

Plaza Branch, 4801 Main St.

[RSVP for this event](#)

THE KANSAS CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Join Kansas City Public Library Director **Crosby Kemper III**
and Kansas City Councilman **Quinton Lucas**
for a special reception at which the Library
will be formally presented with

The LibraryAware Community Award.

Monday, July 17, 2017

4:30-5:30 p.m.

**Central Library, 14 W. 10th St.
Helzberg Auditorium, 5th Floor
Kansas City, Missouri, 64105**

The Kansas City Public Library is one of three libraries nationwide to earn the LibraryAware Award for their value to their respective communities. The reception features an open bar, light hors d'oeuvres, and live music. The award – presented by *Library Journal* – lauds the Kansas City Public Library's efforts to close the digital divide, promote health and wellness, provide services to refugees and immigrants, and deliver a broad range of exceptional programming to the city and region.

Kansas City Councilman Quinton Lucas accepts the award on the Library's behalf.

RSVP

libraryawarekpl.eventbrite.com

or call 816.701.3702

