

LINC Commission Meeting

May 23, 2022

Caring Communities Day!

Learn more: kclinc.org/caringcommunitiesday



Sat., June 11 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Lots of Food, Family Fun, Games, Music and more!

at Morning Star Church Youth and Family Life Center

2525 E. 27th Street, Kansas City, MO 64109



MORNINGSTAR'S

Development Company, Inc.



LINCSM

Local Investment Commission

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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.



THE LOCAL INVESTMENT COMMISSION – APRIL 18, 2022

The Local Investment Commission met via Zoom. Cochair **Ken Powell** presided. Commissioners attending were:

Bob Bartman
Bert Berkley
Sharon Cheers
Tom Davis
David Disney

Rob Givens
Tom Lewin
Marge Randle
David Ross
Marj Williams

Powell welcomed the attendees.

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2022, LINC Commission meeting was approved unanimously.

Powell reported LINC has been using meetings with Mo. Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education staff to share the story of LINC. A video highlighting LINC's role as a Community Partnership was shown.

President **Gayle Hobbs** gave an overview of state funding streams supporting LINC's school-based services for children and families. Caring Communities was started to allow Community Partnerships flexibility in spending state funding. DESE may propose that part of that funding — \$5.3 million in Out of School Time funding — be put up for bid.

Executive Vice President **Janet Miles-Bartee** reported she and Deputy Director **Brent Schondelmeyer** met with Commissioner of Education **Margie Vandeven's** staff in February to discuss LINC's partnerships with area school districts, and in April with DESE Office of Childhood Director **Pam Thomas** and staff to discuss the Caring Communities model and difficulties with the 21st Century Community Learning Centers. LINC shared concerns that if OST funding goes out for bid, it will be very disruptive to area families.

Discussion followed.

Superintendents Reports

- **Yolanda Cargile**, Superintendent (Center School District), reported graduation will be held May 19 at Church of the Resurrection. The Center, Grandview, and Hickman Mills school districts delivered a presentation to the Missouri School Board Association on their collaboration on a real-world learning initiative. The initial sessions on the district's new racial equity initiative have been held.
- **Kenny Rodriquez**, Superintendent (Grandview School District), reported the administration is continuing hold community conversations about the district and will hold one this Saturday at Grandview High School. Voters approved a \$45 million bond issue this month; in July the district will begin 18-20 months of bond-funded construction projects.
- **Mark Bedell**, Superintendent (Kansas City Public Schools), reported the district is responding to families affected by the fatal stabbing of a child at Northeast Middle School. The district will present a community update on Blueprint 2030 at the next board meeting. The district is getting

ready for commencement ceremonies to be held at UMKC Swinney Recreation Center in the third week of May.

- **Kevin Foster**, Executive Director (Genesis School), reported the school's Family Summit has been rescheduled for May 13 and renamed the Family and Jobs Fair. Graduation will be held May 27, and then the school will transition into summer school.

Miles-Bartee reported LINC is getting ready to provide Before & After School programs at 18 summer school locations.

Missouri Family and Community Trust (FACT) Director **Bill Dent** reported on Community Partnership Day, April 5, in Jefferson City. About 80 people representing Community Partnerships across the state used the event as an opportunity to connect with local legislators.

The meeting was adjourned.



Monday, May 23, 2022 | 4 – 5:30 pm
Kauffman Foundation
4801 Rockhill Rd., KCMO 64111

Agenda

- I. Welcome and Announcements**
- II. Approvals**
 - a. April 2022 minutes (motion)**
- III. Superintendent Reports**
- IV. LINC Financial Update**
 - a. Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education**
- V. Caring Communities Update**
 - a. Summer School**
 - b. Caring Communities Day in KC**
 - c. Internet services for families**
- VI. Other**
 - a. Flaherty Memorial Service**
 - b. Other**
- VII. Adjournment**

Summer blast! Get ready for the LINC Morning Star Caring Communities Fair

May 16, 2022

By Joe Robertson/LINC Writer



Here's how Caring Communities throw a city-wide party.

Great food, treats, music, games, plus utility bill assistance and home improvement kits . . .

That's just the start of the list of fun and services at LINC's inaugural Caring Communities Day in Kansas City, coming June 11 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Morning Star Church Youth and Family Life Center, 2525 E. 27th Street.

There'll be a deejay, fire trucks, waves of blue balloons, ice cream, outdoor grills, free take-home children's books and discounted internet service sign-ups . . .

For sure, the summery celebration aims to both entertain and serve.

"It's going to be family-fun-driven," said LINC Morning Star Caring Communities Coordinator Danisha Clarkson. And at the same time, she said, "we want to make the community aware of resources."

The host site, Morning Star, is LINC's newest Caring Communities location and embodies the more than two decades of neighborhood-empowering work achieved by LINC Caring Communities sites across the Kansas City area.

Since LINC and Morning Star Church joined forces prior to the pandemic, the program anchored at 27th and Pro-

Caring Communities Day in Kansas City
at Morning Star Church Youth & Family Life Center
June 11 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
2525 E. 27th Street
kclinc.org/caringcommunitiesday

spect Avenue has become [a widely praised wellspring of public service](#).

The fair will celebrate and carry on the Caring Communities support that many of Kansas City and Missouri's highest officials have witnessed and applauded — including Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas, U.S. Rep. Emanuel Cleaver II, U.S. Sen. Roy Blunt, and Missouri Gov. Mike Parson.

The LINC Morning Star site has forged multiple partnerships in its ever-evolving mission that since 2020 has distributed 25,685 Covid vaccinations, 2.7 million pounds of food and \$1.7 million of processed utility bill and rental assistance impacting thousands of families.

Those partners include the Missouri National Guard, University Health (formerly Truman Medical Center), the Kansas City Fire Department, Evergy, Spire, Kansas City Water Services, Harvester's, Kanbe's Markets and the Community Action Agency.

Many will be back on site for the fair, joining in the celebration and continuing their services, along with many other partners that have long been part of LINC's shared mission with its communities to build stronger, safer and more prosperous neighborhoods.

For fun, LINC will be providing free hot dogs and burgers cooked on outdoor grills. A food truck and an ice cream truck will add to the flavor.

Balloons, games, prizes, deejay tunes, fitness dancing and more offerings will fill the carnival atmosphere.

The fire department will be showing off trucks and an ambulance, plus giving away free smoke detectors.

Evergy will be providing energy-saving kits.

Spire will team up with Community Action Agency to sign families up for free money-saving home weatherization programs for home owners and for renters (*documentation will be required for several services, see below*).

And KC Digital Drive will team with LINC to help households apply for \$30 a month savings in internet costs.

There are a lot of federal funds in pandemic relief and other services that many families don't know are available to them, Clarkson said. And there is joy with the coming of summer in gathering neighbors together.

"We want everyone to get excited," she said, "and have a fun day."



Interested in seeking home-weatherization services or other utility and rental help? Read this:

Teams will be on hand at the LINC Morning Star Caring Communities Fair June 11 to help households apply for aid programs. Certain documents are required to be able to complete most applications.

Bring the following documents:

- Social security card
- Current gas and electric bills
- Proof of income for all wage earners in the home, with **one or more** of the following:
 - Consecutive pay stubs
 - Current Social Security Award letter
 - Current pension statement
 - Unemployment letter
 - Current 1040 Income Tax Return for self-employed individuals
- Proof of home ownership for homeowners OR
- Landlord Agreement form for renters



Children at Young Professor's Preschool in Raymore find hidden toy spiders and scorpions in a bin of cotton balls and tease their teacher who says she's scared of spiders.

Building better childcare:

LINC's training helps kid programs soar

Spiders! Scorpions! Centipedes!

The moment a couple of the pre-schoolers discovered the surprises buried in bins of cotton balls, a stampede of kids came swarming. Just like that, the science center at the Young Professor's Preschool in Raymore was overrun.

So many of the ideas preached by LINC's Infant Toddler Specialist Network were in motion.

The space was open, not quartered by walls and cubicles. Games and toys lay across tables and shelves like a scrumptious learning buffet for each child's curious choosing.

And when the children scrambled after the same treasures of hidden plastic spiders and insects, they crowded joyfully, nothing but "soft touches," happy and safe.

“It really gave us a new enlightenment of how to teach,” Young Professor’s co-owner Paula Smith said of LINC’s training and consultation program for Missouri’s Infant Toddler Specialist Network. “The children get to pick where they go. It just flows so much easier.”



Children play at Mercy Child Care Center in Kansas City, where the ITSN lessons on embracing diverse cultures are highly prized.

That’s just part of a comprehensive strategy and redesign of childcare spaces that the state offers for free to participating centers throughout the state.

LINC’s team of specialists have been working with 18 childcare centers across seven counties in and around Kansas City — and getting positive results.

For seven centers that have completed both a pre and post evaluation by the state measuring on the Infant/

Toddler Environment Rating Scale (ITERS), the average score on a seven-point scale has risen from 2.8 to 4.3 after training with LINC — a 53.8% increase.

“The program offered by LINC was very, very successful and very helpful,” said Shamshad Frazier, director of Mercy Child Care Center in south Kansas City.

She particularly liked the cultural emphasis — getting early childhood teachers to be attuned to “the cultural diversity we have,” Frazier said. That includes reaching out to the families, encouraging the children to bring some of that culture from home to the school. It means delighting in different languages and working to bridge the differences from both directions.

Typically, members of LINC’s team looks for opportunities to redesign spaces, recommend removing unnecessary barriers or walls, setting up inviting learning centers, helping the teachers with ideas for new supplies, or stocking the centers with games and toys from LINC’s storage room.



Individualized child care is one of the ITSN lessons applied at Kingdom Academy in south Kansas City.

The program also offers a series of training sessions. All of it funded by the state.

“I love the trainings,” said Angelica Lehman, director of Kingdom Academy in Kansas City. “They’re really extensive, really broken down where you can understand.”

She especially appreciates LINC’s approach to individualizing the care to each child.

“(The training) talked about building relationships with children,” Lehman said, “and getting to know the child, really understand their needs in the moment of their learning.”

The goal, said LINC’s program director Lauren Walls, is to strengthen the Kansas City area’s field of child care centers so more children are entering kindergarten ready to learn, including children whose homes and families may not have as



Lauren Walls, far right, the director of LINC's ITSN team joins a coloring activity at Mercy Child Care Center in Kansas City.

many resources as others.

“We want to level the playing field,” Walls said, “(and) make sure all children are receiving the education they deserve.”

Paula Smith at Young Professors is all in. When her center saw a chance to get a second round of LINC’s ITSN training for new staff, she said, “I was, like, ‘Oh yes! Come again!’ When I can get somebody in here that knows exactly what they’re doing and what it should look like, it’s utopia. It will be fabulous.”

The benefits, she said, extend to her staff and through the children into their and their community’s future prosperity.

“This is the beginning of their education,” Smith said. “This is where it all starts.”

By Joe Robertson/LINC Writer

Guardianship court win highlights 'Justice in the Schools' work in Hickman Mills, Center

May 10, 2022

By Joe Robertson/LINC Writer



Vaolele Satele holds a picture of her four grandchildren — including the three youngest who she successfully took under legal guardianship with the help of the Justice in the Schools program.

Vaolele Satele’s three grandchildren had been through too much already.

She needed help.

She’d come all the way from California when she learned that her daughter and son-in-law were overwhelmed by substance abuse addiction, living out of a van and neglecting to get the children to school.

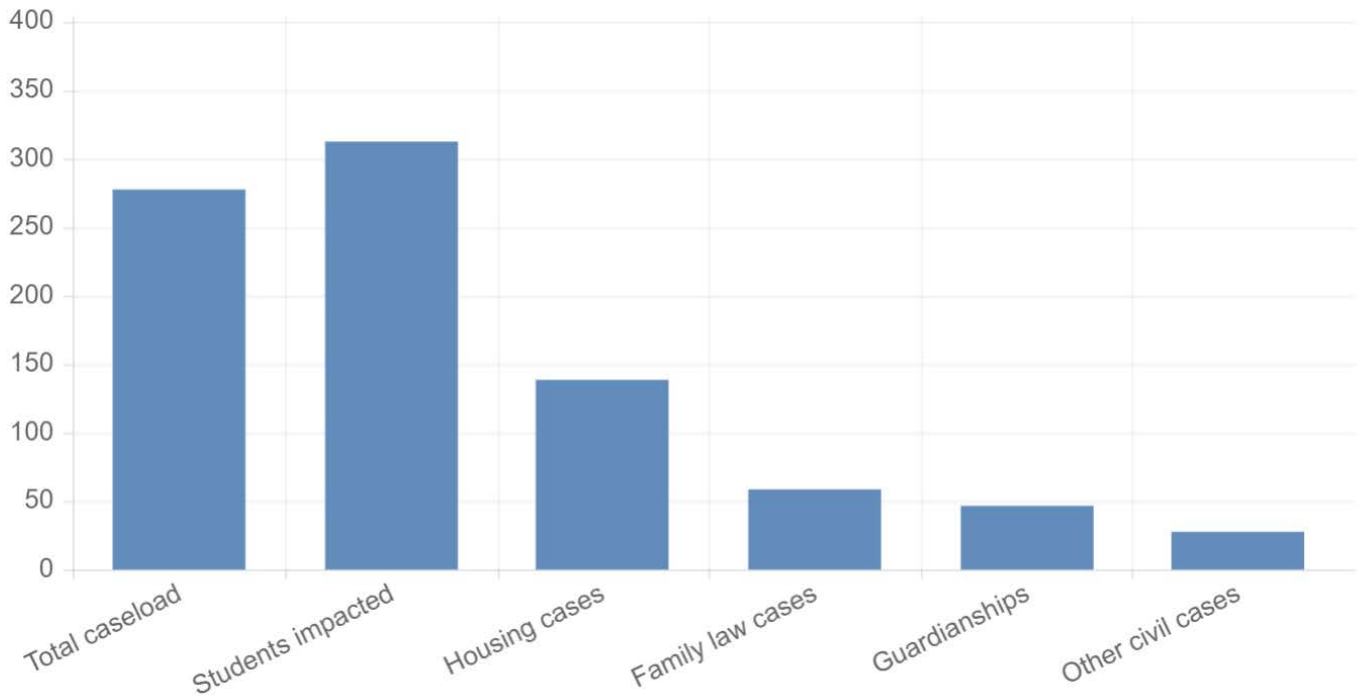
Satele and her husband moved to Kansas City, acquired a home and took her daughter’s family in. But then her daughter suffered fatal injuries in a car crash, and her son-in-law — who was driving the car and allegedly admitted to police he’d been drinking — was blocking Satele’s effort to take guardianship of the children.

She needed a lawyer.

For her relief, the Hickman Mills School District in South Kansas City — where her grandchildren went to school — offers the LINC-funded Justice in the Schools program through Legal Aid of Western Missouri.

Attorney Garrett Christensen took on Satele’s guardianship petition as one of the 279 civil court cases that Justice in the Schools has pursued since January 2020 for families and staff in the Hickman Mills and Center school districts.

Justice in the Schools, Hickman Mills and Center, 2020-2022



In all, 140 of the cases have addressed housing crises including defense against evictions, 60 involved divorce, child support and other family law issues, 14 handled consumer issues, 15 involved public financial benefits or other miscellaneous matters — and 48 tackled guardianships.

Satele’s case was complicated because the father of her grandchildren contested giving up guardianship.

The mission of Justice in the Schools is to help families get stabilized — providing children comfort, reliable home environments and safety that keeps them in school and gives them the chance to thrive. Christensen, the Legal Aid attorney, believed Satele was right that her grandchildren’s best opportunities going forward would be in their grandmother’s legal care.

First, Justice in the Schools raised concerns with the father’s background that prompted the court to appoint a Guardian ad Litem for the children. Next, the Guardian ad Litem recommended Satele should be granted guardianship, but the father opposed it and got a court date.

So Justice in the Schools prepared for trial. It also worked with Satele and her family to keep pressure on the local police and prosecutor’s office to bring criminal charges against the father for his role in the fatal car crash.

The family’s advocacy was successful in seeing the criminal case referred for charges. And the police officer who made the referral was one of several witnesses Justice in the Schools lined up to testify in the guardianship case.

The father did not appear in court, and the judge granted guardianship of all three grandchildren to Satele. The judge commended her and her husband for their dedication and the extreme efforts they took to help and protect their grandchildren.

Report: Aid for rent, utilities served low-income households; LINC knows 'It was no accident'

May 6, 2022

By Joe Robertson/LINC Writer



Members of LINC's team process applications for utility bill assistance in June 2021.

It started slowly, but once federal pandemic aid for rent and utilities began reaching Americans in need, more than 80% went as designed to low-income households, according to the U.S. Treasury Department.

The new data is available for only 67% of the recipients, but the numbers [reported by The Washington Post](#) Feb. 24 provided a snapshot of who has been benefiting from the fund's \$46.5 billion in relief.

LINC [played a key role](#) in the Kansas City area, training staff and building a digital system to help qualifying residents complete the complicated process of uploading documents and completing the government application.

Nationwide, the Post's report showed, 42% of the primary applicants identified as Black and 20% identified as Hispanic or Latino. Most of the applicants — more than 65% — were women.

LINC's efforts operated from the Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church Youth and Family Life Center at 27th Street and Prospect Avenue, where LINC focused on reaching out to households in neighborhoods that were most impacted by the pandemic and at risk of being disconnected from relief campaigns.

The nationwide data is encouraging, Noel Poyo, the Treasury's deputy assistant secretary for community economic development, told The Post. There were some operating costs nationwide in distributing the funds,

and some recipients could qualify for aid without being low-income if they suffered significant financial losses because of Covid. The 80% rate of direct aid to low-income households is an important achievement.

“You don’t reach very low-income people and communities of color by accident,” Poyo said, “because it’s actually harder to reach people who have been most impacted by the pandemic and that tend to face the most barriers to access.”

Some applicants with income above poverty lines could qualify for relief funds if they suffered a significant loss in income because of the pandemic.

The Treasury Department set guidelines to direct the relief to households in need, and non-profit agencies like LINC adopted the practices.

LINC’s team processed more than \$1.6 million in utility and rental assistance, reaching more than a thousand households.

Other Kansas City area agencies and non-profits processed applications, including the Mid-America Assistance Coalition, the Community Services League, the United Way of Greater Kansas City, Metro Lutheran Ministries, the Community Assistance Council, the Guadalupe Centers and others.

Nationwide, the Post reported, 3.8 million payments were made to households in 2021, totaling \$20.6 billion. The remaining funds of the \$46.5 billion have already been obligated to cover pending payments to landlords or utility companies, or to be distributed to local jurisdictions to cover pledged payments.

The fund, named the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, was passed in two packages by Congress in December 2020 and March 2021. For several months the fund was going mostly untapped as jurisdictions struggled to find ways to connect it to households in need.

LINC and Morning Star set up its clinic in the spring in 2021, setting up a digital process and bringing in representatives from Evergy, Spire and Kansas City Water Services to help qualify customers for the aid.

Later that summer, the City of Kansas City [created similar clinics](#) to speed the process and by October 2021 had distributed more than 80% of the \$25 million in relief allotted to Kansas City.



Workers at Kansas City's emergency rental assistance center help customers in September 2021.

National Campaign for Grade Level Reading honors the 'indefatigable" Bert Berkley

April 28, 2022

By Joe Robertson/LINC Writer



LINC Founder and former Chairman Bert Berkley

As Kansas City is being recognized for its citywide crusade for reading, the national director of the Campaign for Grade Level Reading took a moment recently to honor one of the movement’s “fiercest and most relentless champions” — LINC Founder and former Chairman, Bert Berkley.

At the same time that Berkley is nearing his 99th birthday, Kansas City has been named [a finalist for All-America City](#) by the Campaign for Grade Level Reading and the National Civic League.

So Managing Director Ralph Smith took the occasion in his [recent director’s letter](#) to pay homage to the “indefatigable” Berkley.

“Not one mutual friend or acquaintance can recall being in a room with Bert without hearing him decry the abomination that illiteracy represents,” Smith wrote, “and make explicit what he regards as the major contributor to the school-to-prison pipeline — failure to read on grade level by the end of the third grade.”

In his letter, Smith also lauded the work of Lillian M. Lowery, the former chief state education officer of Maryland, former president of The Council of Chief State School Officers and former vice president of EdTrust who died earlier this month.

These “inspiring” champions of reading helped lead the nationwide campaign, Smith said, and Berkley is continuing his crusade to make early elementary instruction of phonics an intense and prevailing practice in schools.

“Bert is an undaunted and unabashed proponent of phonics as the only research-based method proven to successfully teach reading,” Smith said.

Smith praised Berkley’s recent investment to invigorate the cause.

Berkley and his family foundation — the Joan and Bert Berkley Blue Heron Foundation — has teamed with the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Education to endow an Award for Excellence in Early Childhood Literacy.

The award, Berkley told Smith, will support an educator who successfully uses phonics and will hopefully inspire more educators to sharpen their classroom instruction.

Smith’s letter included a video, shared by Berkley, of Berkley [describing the vision of the award](#).

Berkley hopes that other foundations will take up the cause and reach their own endowment agreements with schools of education.

Berkley, the chairman of Tension Envelope Corp. in Kansas City, founded LINC in 1992 as a state-chartered entity that launched the Caring Communities initiative to help the state localize resources, reform welfare, give communities control of the services they need and improve social service systems.

The Campaign for Grade Level Reading unites foundations, nonprofit partners, business leaders, government agencies, states and communities across the nation in the mission to ensure that more children in low-income families succeed in school and graduate prepared for college, a career, and active citizenship.

Kansas City is one of 20 cities vying to be one of the 10 cities honored annually by the All America City Award. This year the award will honor cities that leverage community resources and civic engagement to give more children an equitable chance of life success.



Ralph Smith, Managing Director, the Campaign for Grade Level Reading

Remembering LINC commissioner and Health Forward Foundation attorney Mark Flaherty

May 6, 2022

By Joe Robertson/LINC Writer

Mark G. Flaherty, a LINC commissioner, lawyer and founding member of the Health Forward Foundation, died peacefully at his Kansas City home April 27. He was 72.

Flaherty's long service in his community shined in many ways, perhaps most notably for his key role in the legal struggle that ultimately compelled the Hospital Corporation of America (HCA) to fulfill its obligation to make capital improvements and maintain charitable care after the corporation's purchase of publicly funded Health Midwest.

The action against HCA, which was also championed by LINC Chairman Landon Rowland, [resulted in a \\$188 million judgment in 2017 that provided additional funding for the \[Health Forward Foundation\]\(#\).](#)

Flaherty was appointed by then-Gov. Jay Nixon to the Foundation's board, which was created in 2003 and later served as its general counsel. The health care foundation was created from the sale of Health Midwest to HCA.

Flaherty shared LINC's concerns that extraordinary effort was needed to make sure that the sale of the hospital system would not harm the health care and support of underserved communities. He talked about that and his close friend Landon Rowland when school children recognized Rowland as a community hero in 2016.

Flaherty's obituary said he was most proud of his role in the Health Forward Foundation.

A Kansas native, Flaherty would serve in Vietnam with the U.S. Army 173rd Airborne Unit where he was wounded twice and awarded the Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts.

He graduated from the University of Kansas Law School, and after building his career with several Kansas City law firms he established his own law practice in health, medical, labor and employment law in Missouri, Kansas and New York.

Numerous public projects in Kansas City, Jackson County and Missouri sought Flaherty's consultation and legal advice, and he served on many boards, marking a career that his obituary described as that of a "dedicated lawyer who had genuine care and concern for his clients, coworkers and community."



Mark Flaherty at a LINC Commission meeting

BRIEFING ROOM

FACT SHEET: President Biden and Vice President Harris Reduce High-Speed Internet Costs for Millions of Americans

MAY 09, 2022 • STATEMENTS AND RELEASES

Biden-Harris Administration Secures Commitments from 20 Internet Providers to Cut Prices and Increase Speeds

High-speed internet service is no longer a luxury—it's a necessity. But too many families go without high-speed internet because of the cost or have to cut back on other essentials to make their monthly internet service payments. Lowering prices—including the cost of high-speed internet service—is President Biden's top priority. Today, President Biden and Vice President Harris are announcing that they have secured private sector commitments that will lower high-speed internet costs for millions of American families.

As part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the President and Vice President worked with Democrats and Republicans to create the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), which allows tens of millions of American households to reduce their internet service costs by up to \$30/month (or \$75/month on Tribal lands). To ensure the most efficient use of those public dollars and to deliver maximum cost savings to families, the Biden-Harris Administration has secured commitments from 20 leading internet providers—covering more than 80% of the U.S. population across urban, suburban, and rural areas—to either increase speeds or cut prices, making sure they all offer ACP-eligible households high-speed, high-quality internet plans for no more than \$30/month.

From large providers like AT&T, Comcast, and Verizon serving dozens of states, to smaller providers serving rural areas like Jackson Energy Authority in Tennessee and Comporium in North Carolina, the commitments will allow tens of millions of ACP-eligible households to receive high-speed internet at no cost.

The Biden-Harris Administration is also launching a comprehensive effort to make sure as many ACP-eligible households as possible take advantage of this new program by:

- **Launching GetInternet.gov:** [GetInternet.gov](https://www.getinternet.gov) is a simple, easy-to-use website with details on how Americans can sign up for ACP and find participating internet providers in their area.
- **Reaching out to eligible households through federal agencies:** Households qualify for ACP based on their income or through their participation in one of several other federal programs, like Pell Grants, Medicaid, or Supplemental Security Income. Agencies that manage these programs will be coordinating an effort to reach out to households that qualify for ACP through programs they help administer. For example, the Social Security Administration will email all 1.6 million Supplemental Security Income recipients who have a “My Social Security” account, letting them know that they are eligible for the Affordable Connectivity Program.
- **Partnering with states and cities:** The Administration is partnering with states and cities to spread the word as well. For example, Michigan, Massachusetts, Philadelphia, Mesa, Arizona, and New York City will text millions of eligible households.
- **Collaborating with public interest organizations:** Public interest organizations, including the United Way, Goodwill, Catholic Charities USA, and UnidosUS, will train their national networks to conduct direct enrollment and outreach. And Propel, a mission-driven financial technology company, will provide information via the Providers app to connect more than 5 million low-income families with the program.

Today’s announcement is just one part of the President’s strategy for lowering the cost of high-speed internet for all Americans. [New grant programs providing tens of billions of dollars for broadband infrastructure construction](#) will require providers to offer affordable internet options. New rules will soon require providers to display a “[Broadband Nutrition Label](#)” that will make it easier to comparison shop for the best deal on internet. The FCC has adopted rules to ban sweetheart deals between internet providers and landlords that restrict the internet options available to millions of Americans who live in [apartment buildings](#). And the President’s [competition agenda](#) is focused on providing Americans with more good options for internet service where they live—driving down prices and increasing the quality of service.

THE AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM (ACP)

President Biden and Vice President Harris worked with Democrats and Republicans to create the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)—the largest high-speed internet affordability program in our nation’s history. Experts estimate that [48 million households](#)—or nearly 40% of households in the country—qualify for the ACP either because their income is at or below

200% of the Federal Poverty Level, or because a member of the household meets one of the other criteria below:

- Participates in one of the following programs:
 - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as Food Stamps
 - Medicaid
 - Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
 - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
 - Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
 - Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit
 - Free and Reduced-Price School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program, including at U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Community Eligibility Provision schools
 - Federal Pell Grant (received in the current award year)
 - Lifeline
 - Certain Tribal assistance programs, including Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Head Start (only households meeting the income qualifying standard), Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (Tribal TANF), and Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating broadband provider's existing low-income internet program.

Under the terms of the ACP, an eligible household that signs up for the program will receive a discount of up to \$30/month on any internet service plan a participating provider offers. Households on Tribal Lands are eligible for a discount of up to \$75/month. As of now, more than 1,300 internet service providers participate in the program, and more than 11.5 million households have signed up to receive the ACP benefit.

NEW PRIVATE SECTOR COMMITMENTS

To make the most of this program, the Biden-Harris Administration asked participating internet service providers to either reduce prices and or raise speeds to offer ACP-eligible households a high-speed internet plan for no more than \$30/month. For these purposes, the



2022 Summer Programs

District	Location	Before & After Summer School	Summer Clubs
Center	Boone Elem.	June 6–24	
Fort Osage	Cler-Mont Elem.		May 31–June 30
	Elm Grove Elem.		
	Indian Trails Elem.		
Grandview	Belvidere Elem.	June 7–28 7–9am & 4–6pm	
	Conn-West Elem.		
Hickman Mills	Ervin Elem.	June 6–July 1 7–9am & 3–6pm	
	Ingels Elem.		
	Smith-Hale Middle		
Kansas City	Garcia Elem.	June 6–30 7–9:30am & 3:30–6pm	
	Rogers Elem.		
	Phillips Elem.		
	Faxon Elem.		
	Hale Cook Elem.		
	King Elem.		
	Carver Elem.		
North Kansas City	Topping Elem.	June 6–30 (Mon-Thur.) 7–9:30am & 3:30–6pm	
Charter	Lee A. Tolbert Academy	June 6–July 8 7–8am & 3:30–6pm	

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