

LINC Commission Meeting

January 25, 2021



I Sing Their Names

by Glenn North

Glenn North, Executive Director of the Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center & Poet Laureate of the 18th and Vine Historic Jazz District performs “I Sing Their Names.” The poem was written as part of Kansas City Black History 2021, a 44 page book about African American history in the Kansas City area.

Watch the performance and request a free book at kclinc.org/blackhistory



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, Jan. 25, 2021 | 4 – 5:30 pm
Online Meeting

Agenda

- I. Welcome and Announcements**
- II. Approvals**
 - a. November 2020 minutes (motion)**
- III. Superintendent Reports**
- IV. LINC in Photos**
- V. Caring Communities Update**
 - a. Food Distribution**
 - b. Toys for Tots**
 - c. Other**
- VI. Other**
- VII. Adjournment**



THE LOCAL INVESTMENT COMMISSION – NOVEMBER 16, 2020

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

Bert Berkley
Sharon Cheers
Tom Davis
Aaron Deacon
David Disney
Mark Flaherty

SuEllen Fried
Tom Lewin
Ken Powell
Marge Randle
David Ross

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2020, LINC Commission meeting was approved unanimously.

Superintendents Reports

- **Steve Morgan**, Assistant Superintendent (Fort Osage) reported the district is offering classes in person five days a week for grades K-4, hybrid for grades 5-12, and is planning phase in return of students in the second semester. The Covid-19 dashboard is updated every Thursday. The district will begin administering 15-minute antigen test for symptomatic students and staff in December. There have been very few cancellations of fall activities. The district is seeking community input on building a new high school gym at, new central office, and other bond projects.
- **Yolanda Cargile**, Superintendent (Center School District), reported the district will be returning to Phase 1 (all-virtual) of its reopening plan; athletic events will return to no-spectators, and the number of tournaments will be reduced. The district's Covid dashboard shares the number of active cases. Revised athletics – no spectators. LINC staff provided support for food distributions. The district initiative to help homeless families provided housing for a family. Construction on the new Indian Creek Elementary is progressing.
- **Joana King**, Assistant Superintendent (Grandview School District) reported the district is providing a hybrid program for grades K-8; in-person classes are offered for pre-K students and high school students with multiple Fs. The high school football team won district; the theater department is doing a virtual production. Finding substitutes is a challenge.
- **Dan Clemens**, Superintendent (North Kansas City School District) reported the district has a high exposure rate to positive Covid cases. The kindergarten population is down 200, which raises questions about how to help those children when they return next year. Keeping students motivated for virtual learning is a challenge. Phase one of the opening of the early childhood center is close; the center should be ready to open fully in August.
- **Kevin Foster**, Executive Director (Genesis School) reported grades K-4 have been attending school in person since August; there have been zero cases of students with Covid and three cases of staff. Genesis provided vaccinations for students, staff and community.
- **Vivian Roper**, Superintendent (Tolbert Academy) reported students have been learning online since October except for pre-K students, who are attending Operation Breakthrough. Boys and Girls Clubs have been providing care for children of teachers. Tolbert is piloting a math program with LEANLAB and providing meals to families.

Treasurer **David Ross** introduced **Alissa Klein** of BKD, LLP, who reported on the FY2019-2020 financial audit of LINC. She reported LINC received an unqualified opinion. Ross reported LINC's IRS form 990 has been made available to Commissioners.

Human Resources Director **Trent DeVreugd** reported LINC has closely monitored the spread of Covid-19 in the community and developed strategies in response such as a contact tracing protocol for cases of infection among LINC staff.

President **Gayle Hobbs** introduced a discussion of the ways LINC is supporting families who are facing increased challenges due to Covid. LINCWorks Director **Dawn Patterson** reported Caring Communities site coordinators and LINCWorks case managers have been reaching out to families to determine their needs and connect them to resources. Caring Communities Supervisor **Jeff Hill** reported site coordinators have been serving as a bridge between families and area institutions and nonprofits; he gave examples of families with insecure housing who had multiple needs. Discussion followed.

Deputy Director **Brent Schondelmeyer** and assistant superintendent **Carl Skinner** reported on the student attendance initiative in the Hickman Mills School District in partnership with United Way of Greater Kansas City and AttendanceWorks. Attendance teams reached out to families to identify needs and obstacles preventing moderately chronic absent students from coming to school. The work resulted in improved attendance according to LINC's evaluation of student attendance provided by the school district.

Aaron Deacon reported on an initiative to provide families with internet access through funding provided by the CARES act. **Terry Ward** reported on LEANLAB's efforts to identify families' needs and was able to greatly reduce the number of students lacking home internet access.

Hobbs reported she will be communicating with Commissioners about board leadership.

Marge Randle requested information about Covid-19 testing. Discussion followed.

The meeting was adjourned.

Covid-19 vaccinations are coming; Here's how to get in line

Photo from Jackson County Health Department web page

The coronavirus cruelly spread heavier doses of pain over under-served communities already suffering from inequities in health care and social opportunity.

The vaccines and their promise of recovery can't leave these same communities behind.

Coronavirus vaccination information

Click on the health department jurisdictions below to see updates on Covid-19 vaccine opportunities

- [Jackson County Health Department](#)
- [Kansas City Health Department](#)
- [Clay County Public Health Center](#)
- [State of Missouri Vaccination Plan](#)

Watch for updates at:

- kclinc.org/coronavirus-testing-and-screening

"We've seen the disproportionate impact of the virus," said Qiana Thomason, president and CEO of the Health Forward Foundation, in a virtual town hall Tuesday. "We know where the hot spots are . . . We know the ZIP Codes. We need to make sure that the people who need that vaccine the most get it."

Vaccines are becoming available in Missouri as the national rollout is under way and the Jackson County Health Department has created [an online survey](#) that essentially allows county residents to get in line. Anyone who lives or works in Jackson County can sign in.

The state of Missouri has published a [Covid-19 Vaccination Plan](#) that is guiding local health jurisdictions on how to prioritize the distribution of the vaccines. Missouri is in Phase 1A — providing vaccines to long-term care facility residents and staff, and healthcare workers.

The survey will help align county residents into the various tiers that identify who is next in line for the vaccine.

"Once the vaccine is made available for your tier," the survey introduction says, "the Jackson County Health Department will use your information from the survey . . . to contact you with further instructions on how to schedule an appointment to receive your vaccination."

The number of Covid-19 cases and deaths have ranged higher in communities of color and in ZIP Code areas with higher poverty rates and more prevalent health conditions like asthma and diabetes that make residents more vulnerable to the virus.

Outreach will be particularly important in these communities, Thomason said, to make sure residents can get the vaccine as soon as they qualify under the tiered system.

Phase 1B of the Missouri vaccination plan will distribute vaccines to people with health conditions that put them at high-risk, plus everyone over 65. This tier will also include first responders as well as categories of essential workers, including childcare workers, teachers, water and sewer service workers, critical manufacturing workers and food and agriculture workers.

Phase 2 will reach people in high-risk situations such as prison inmates and people who are homeless. Phase 3 will open vaccines up to the rest of the population.

The Kansas City Health Department is also [preparing to be able to dispense vaccinations](#), though its website says it is still in an enrollment process with the state.

By Joe Robertson/LINC Writer

Published on [January 05, 2021](#)

Love adds up: Four days, a thousand families, 78,998 pounds of food

January 07, 2021

By Joe Robertson/LINC Writer



At times the wind came whipping cold. Other times a chilling drizzle coated the workers' parkas and vests.

But a partnership between Church of the Resurrection and LINC to deliver meals and other support to Kansas City families carried on regardless of sunshine or winter gloom because the needs of the people lining up in their cars did not change with the weather.

In four food distributions during the last two weeks of December, this first-time collaboration between the Leawood-based Church of the Resurrection and LINC's community services served a total of 4,594 individuals in 1,146 families, loading their vehicles with 78,998 pounds of food.

Harvesters and Kanbe's Markets provided much of the food, including meat, fresh fruit, vegetables and snacks. LINC also provided grocery gift cards, children's books and resource information.

Rockhurst University, Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church and Kansas City Public Schools' East High School provided the distribution sites.

And the Church of the Resurrection and LINC marshaled the workers to load the goods into vehicle after vehicle.

The partnership created the "opportunity . . . to meet the needs of families," said LINC Caring Communities Administrator Sean Akridge. "We want to show families we appreciate them, we're looking out for them and we want them to have a great holiday."

Many supporters of the Church of the Resurrection’s outreach helped make the food drive possible, said the church’s Liz Campbell.

“We’ve had a lot of donations for this to happen and we are thankful for that,” she said. “We are also really blessed to have people come through and give them the opportunity to get some extra food in this difficult time.”

The four distributions were targeted to help families from Troost, Wendell Phillips, Wheatley and J.A Rogers elementary schools — schools that the Church of the Resurrection has adopted to give support as part of its community outreach. But the broader community came as well as word of the distributions spread, many families joining the car line when they saw the sign-waving invitations out on the street.

The regular school breakfast and lunch meal services by the Kansas City Public Schools that many families rely on was going to be unavailable while schools were out, and Church of the Resurrection, LINC and their partners wanted to help support families through the holiday break.

“Participating in drive-through events like this has been very impactful and powerful,” said Carmen Hatten, Kanbe's Markets Development Manager.

Kanbe’s is a non-profit that helps local stores provide fresh and healthy food in neighborhoods that lack traditional grocery stores. But its role has grown during the pandemic to be part of an “emergency response” that is especially important in 2020, Hatten said, “with so much emergent need.”

Jackson County Executive Frank White, a longtime member of Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church, came out in support of the second of two distributions in his church’s parking lot.

He grew up in the Morning Star church neighborhood near 27th Street and Prospect Avenue and said it was a “great honor” to see his church teamed with the wealth of partners in this mission of goodwill.

“It’s a great job they’re doing in feeding our community,” he said.

Rockhurst University, just a few blocks from Troost Elementary School, was eager to join in the collaboration



and host the first distribution, said Alicia Douglas, the university's director of community relations and outreach.

"A lot of folks have felt all different kinds of ups and downs," she said. "It's great for us to be able to spread some love right now."

Tiffany Relves said her family is dealing with hardships this holiday season and was relieved and grateful to see the LINC staffer waving down passersby on Troost Avenue who might need food and other help.

"This means everything to my family," she said. "When you've got so many different things going on in your life and it's really hard, you get just one person who's willing to stop and say, 'Hey, I understand that this could be me.' I thank you guys so much."

LINC reinforcements help U.S. Marines in 'Toys for Tots' overload

December 18, 2020

By Joe Robertson/LINC Writer



Troost Site Coordinator Augustus Zuo delivers toys directly to families.

As LINC's Carl Wade was picking up a load of gifts from the U.S. Marines Toys for Tots warehouse, he saw a problem.

The days to Christmas were counting down. It looked like a mountainous proportion of the some 40,000 toys the Marines in Kansas City collect each year was still piled on the vast floor.

And Wade saw just three Marines "and me," he said. He heard them talking about their dilemma.

Wade asked: "Do you need volunteers?"

Within the hour LINC had summoned a fleet of its site coordinators, and groups of them would work shifts through the rest of the week sorting and bagging toys to go out to households throughout the Kansas City area.

"This is what we do," said Wade, LINC Program Specialist. "I said, 'Let's make it happen.' It's a lot of work blessing families, and we're going full-steam ahead."

While LINC’s team was helping the Marines get toys staged to go area-wide, some of those big red bags went to LINC site coordinators who are working with their partner schools to deliver gifts to families in LINC’s neighborhoods.

Some began going door-to-door in teams, calling ahead and meeting families on their front stoops.

Some held drive-through giveaways.

Some spread out in events indoors with masks, like LINC’s Caring Communities at Conn-West in Grandview. There families enjoyed a combination of Toys for Tots and food baskets in partnership with the Conn-West PTA, Grandview Church of the Nazarene and Palestine Baptist Church.

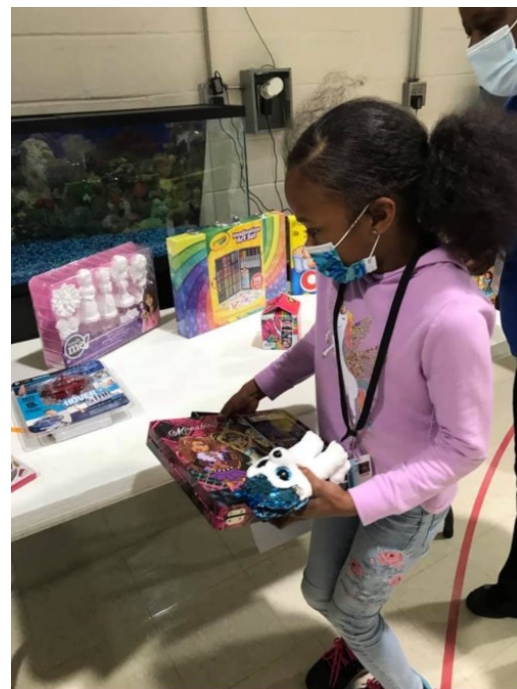
“We were able to serve over 40 families,” LINC Site Coordinator Shaniece Garlington said. She echoed other LINC staff and partners when she added, the work is “a blessing.”

LINC’s Caring Communities site at Longfellow Elementary School was one of several programs where site coordinators went door-to-door with gift bags.

“I could see the relief in each parent and kid’s face upon receiving the bags,” Longfellow Site Coordinator Torran Sayles said. “This year has been so tough and many providers weren’t able to afford gifts this year. I’m so happy to have been able to help these families.”

By Joe Robertson/LINC Writer

Photos: Top, a child picks toys at Conn-West Elementary School. Right, LINC’s team prepares family baskets at Conn-West. Right, a parent receives Toys for Tots gifts from LINC’s Longfellow Caring Communities. Bottom, Hale Cook Site Coordinator Qiana McGee (middle) and a school family stand with Toys for Tots bags to distribute.



We 'chant their names almost as if holy'

December 14, 2020

By Joe Robertson/LINC Writer



Bruce R. Watkins, shown leading a march during protests following the assassination of Martin King Jr. in 1968, is one of more than 70 historical Kansas City figures profiled in the 2021 Kansas City Black History Project. Photo: LaBudde Special Collections, UMKC University Libraries

Story by story, name by name, the annual Kansas City Black History Project seemed destined to meet this auspicious moment in history.

The determined and reverent collection of biographies, now a decade in the making, was already preparing to stake its ground in the commemoration of the Missouri Bicentennial in 2021.

Then came the racial reckoning of the Black Lives Matter movement and the uprising against persistent injustice. Now new voices echoed the hallowed deeds and struggles of the Black men and women who fought for their place in Kansas City and American history across two centuries.

“I sing their names . . .,” writes Kansas City poet Glenn North.

His words are one of several contemporary voices joined in a new, 44-page book that collects the more than 70 biographies that the Kansas City Black History Project team has researched and shared with the Kansas City community since 2010.

“I sing of... Langston and Parker, Ms. Bluford and Mary Lou, Old Buck, Leon Jordan, Horace and Bruce . . .”

Every year, the project told the stories behind seven or eight of the so many names hidden by time. It gathered them in booklets and posters that were given to schools, libraries and other public spaces — used by teachers, librarians, mentors and parents to raise up a neglected history.

The audience grew by the thousands, spreading deep into the Kansas City area and nationwide into multiple states — and even internationally to Nova Scotia, Canada.

Now this joint effort by the Kansas City Public Library, the Black Archives of Mid-America and the Local Investment Commission has produced a book, is planning special events and is building a website that will be offering curriculum to educators over the next year.

“If we don’t save this history, educate people about this history and share this history, it is lost,” said Black Archives of Mid-America Executive Director Carmaletta M. Williams.

“And there was too much blood, sweat and tears that went into this community to let it be lost.”

Williams is another of today’s writers who speak in the book. Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas, who wrote the introduction, is another, along with Negro Leagues Baseball Museum President Bob Kendrick and Justice T. Horn, a young community leader and social justice activist.

“It all came together,” said Jeremy Drouin, the manager of Missouri Valley Special Collections at the Kansas City Public Library, reflecting on the history project’s critical moment.

“As a city, as a nation, we are looking at more closely examining racial issues,” he said. “Looking at our past is an important part of that . . . (as) we’re seeing history repeating itself.”

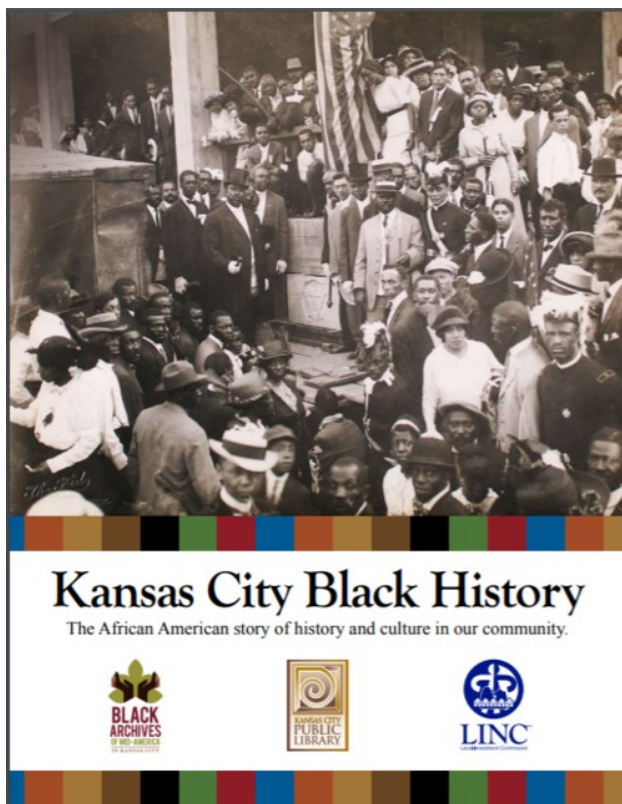
The faces of Kansas City’s civil rights leaders and barrier-breakers throughout the book reflect back the pain Kansas City still bears today, like the crowd in a photo with Bruce R. Watkins marching during the shocking days after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968.

The injustices they marched against — “police violence, segregated schools, lack of affordable housing for the African American community — we’re seeing these issues rise again,” Drouin said.

The book, he said, will strengthen the community with wisdom on “what’s going on nationally and the conversations we’re having, plus the lessons we can learn from the biographies.”

The project gathers biographies of heroes who have passed. While many of the men and women profiled are well known — like Charlie Parker and Satchel Paige — many more tell of the heroic lives of people whose bold achievements were fading from Kansas City’s history.

The stories are as old as that of Hiram Young, born in 1812 into slavery, who built wagons for Westward pioneers and started a school for Black children in Independence.



Download the book at www.kclinc.org/blackhistory

And the stories are as close as two newly profiled heroes who passed away in 2020 — Bailus Tate Jr. and Rosemary Smith Lowe.

The project historians have drawn from at least 28 archival resources in the past decade to build the collection of stories and pictures. They mined the depths of multiple historical societies and library collections, both near and as far as Wisconsin and New York. They searched newspaper clippings and numerous university records.

“The project is always revelatory,” said Local Investment Commission Deputy Director Brent Schondelmeyer. “You learn stories of people you didn’t know — people you wish you knew. You learn of the contributions they made and, regrettably, the obstacles they had to overcome, often not of their own making.”

In looking back at their stories, Williams said, the book is “forward-thinking” in what builds into a powerful arc toward the future.

These men and women shaped Kansas City and the nation as educators, activists, entrepreneurs, entertainers and athletes.

“Look at how they made so many advances with all the structures that stood against them,” Williams said. “Missouri was a slave state. Racism was rooted here. Here is the positive: How Black people overcame that racism.”

While the Missouri Bicentennial can revel in a remarkable history of achievement and generosity, it’s also true that statehood came bargained with the dedication of a slave-holding state — a concession to our nation’s supreme racial injustice.

That’s why Kansas City’s Black history must “reclaim our narrative,” North, the poet, writes, and tell their stories:

“. . . Sarah Rector, Junius Groves, Tom Bass and Anna Jones. Count Basie, Chester Franklin, Bernard Powell and D. A. Holmes . . .

“I chant their names, almost as if holy.”



Principal Anna H. Jones (standing, left) leads a class at Douglass School in Kansas City, circa 1911. Photo: The Black Archives of Mid-America.



Missouri families' pandemic pain demands urgent response, new study says

December 15, 2020

By Joe Robertson/LINC Writer

Thousands of Missouri children are not getting enough to eat. Thousands live in fear of eviction. Many have no health insurance. And all across the state a mental health emergency is growing.

This is the heavy toll of Covid-19 on Missouri families, says a new report from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and it demands an urgent local and national response.

“America’s children are in crisis,” said Annie E. Casey Foundation President and CEO Lisa Hamilton about the foundation’s report: Kids, Families and COVID-19.

“All across the country, families with children are struggling to overcome an unprecedented convergence of emergencies,” she said. “We need immediate and decisive action from policymakers that prioritizes equitable solutions to help families survive this catastrophe.”

The 50-state report shows that throughout the nation children and families are experiencing widespread disruption in the economic storm set off by the global health crisis.

The study identified four pain points afflicting Missouri households in a survey of families’ food security, their ability to make rent or mortgage payments, health insurance status and mental health concerns.

- One in seven U.S. and Missouri families with children (14%) said that in the most recent week, there was sometimes or always not enough to eat in their household.
- Nearly one in five U.S. households with kids (18%) and one in six Missouri households with kids said they had only slight confidence or no confidence at all that they would be able to make their next rent or mortgage payment on time.
- One in eight families with children (12%) in both Missouri and the U.S. overall lack health insurance, a figure which has been worsening over the past four years. More than a third of people with children in the household (34%) in the U.S. reported that they had delayed getting medical care in the previous month.
- A fifth of U.S. respondents with children in their households (21%) reported that they had felt down, depressed or hopeless in the previous week, indicating a widespread need for access to mental health care. In Missouri this 22% of respondents reported these mental health care needs.

In Kansas City, school districts and social service agencies have mobilized with the resources they have to



Photo by Allison Shelley for American Education: Images of Teachers and Students in Action

support households during the pandemic.

LINC's Caring Communities site coordinators have been contacting families in need across the neighborhoods of LINC's partner school districts, making phone calls and often knocking on doors, reaching out to provide help to families who have been lost or disconnected.

Many heroic individuals and community organizations are playing essential roles and they need help, said William Dent, Executive Director of the Missouri Family and Community Trust (FACT), home to the Missouri KIDS COUNT coalition that works to improve the lives of Missouri's children.

"Missouri's family and child-serving providers have stepped up to work together to protect and provide for our kids," Dent said. "In our communities, parents, schools, churches, health care and mental health clinicians, public health workers, businesses, and other social service providers have collaborated in unprecedented ways to ameliorate the health and financial impacts of this pandemic.

Federal, state and local policy makers must take action to help children and families, said Leslie Boissiere, Vice President of External Affairs at the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which earlier this year provided \$1.8 trillion in support of families, businesses and local governments, needs to be revived with a new round of aid for communities in pain, she said.

The nation's leaders need to "mount a response . . . that enables America's children and families to weather this crisis and yields more equitable outcomes," Boissiere said.

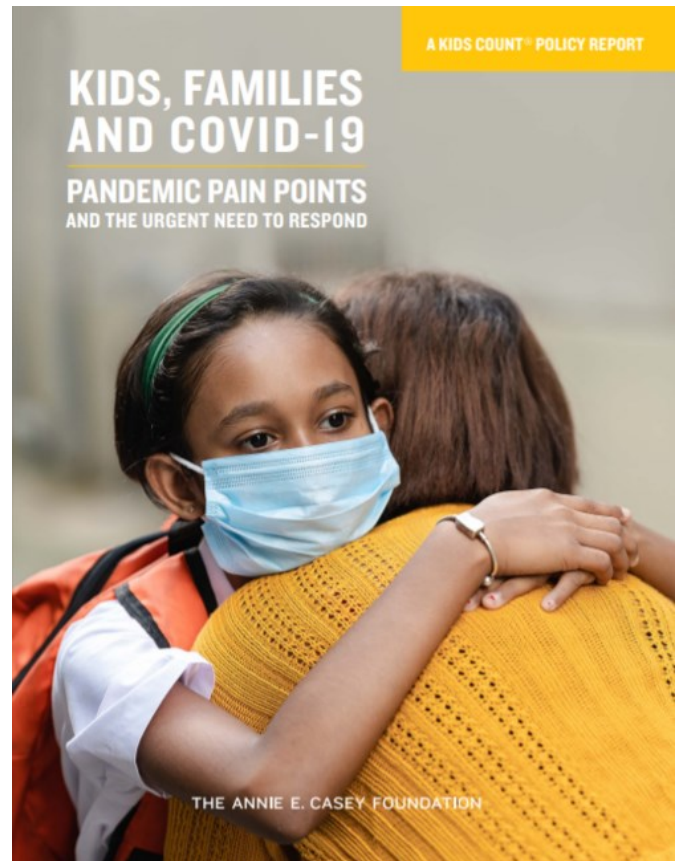
Ten days before Christmas, Congress remained in a struggle to find a bipartisan agreement on a second CARES Act relief package. A \$908 billion proposal was on the table as lawmakers had until the end of the week to reach an agreement that could be tied to longer-term spending legislation.

Hope also arrived the same week as the first vaccines were distributed into communities nationwide.

But without economic aid, families are still facing months of pain going into the new year as unemployment benefits, a moratorium on evictions and other relief measures are scheduled to expire.

As many as 40% of Missouri households with children are reporting that they are struggling to pay for typical household expenses, said Tracy Greever-Rice, the Missouri KIDS COUNT program director, and that need is only likely to grow through the winter.

"As Missourians," she said, "we will continue to support our children, families, and communities."



Download the full report at:

www.aecf.org/resources/kids-families-and-covid-19



LINC Support of School Districts During COVID19

LINC is supporting our school district partners during COVID19 in a variety of ways which are outlined below.

Academic and School Support

LINC site coordinators are mentoring students who they have worked with at the LINC Caring Communities sites providing extra support for the children and families. The site coordinators are helping children with their virtual learning and school assignments they may not understand. This includes bilingual support for non-English speaking households. We have also been involved in book distributions to children at events, outdoor library boxes and front porch book deliveries. We also have assisted with distribution of printed work packets. LINC site coordinators also have worked with school principals to clean, pack and prepare dedicated LINC building space for custodial cleaning.

Lesson Plans

Several LINC Caring Communities sites are funded by 21st Century Community Learning Center federal funds. This funding source significantly reduces the school direct costs for the LINC Caring Communities programs, but it also involves significant compliance activities including providing documentation of weekly activities and lessons plan tied to state standards. LINC has used this time to develop a library of nearly 1,000 lesson plans as a requirement of the grant but which can support quality programming when out-of-school time programming resumes. The lesson plans are being developed for all LINC sites.

Technology

LINC site coordinators have supported children and families with technology needs and challenges. This includes delivery of computers, hot spots and connecting families to school district resources. We are providing support for virtual learning.

Connecting with Children and Families

LINC site coordinators are maintaining contact with children and families with social media posts, notes and letters to students. These include Facebook Live streaming events, videos and activity links for students and parents. LINC has shared opportunities to stay involved with LINC after-school programs previously available including virtual chess, Read-Alouds, arts and crafts, math, Scouting (boys and girls), Girls on the Run, Harmony Project KC, Bike Walk and other opportunities.

Food Distribution and Emergency Assistance

LINC site coordinators have gone to families' homes and delivered meals, diapers, milk and many other necessities. They also supported school district food distribution efforts. These efforts have included working with Harvesters and faith-based organizations. Household contact has included welfare checks and connecting families with supportive services and emergency assistance including utility assistance.

Part-Time Staff Furlough

In mid-March, LINC had a part-time staff working in the LINC Caring Communities program of approximately 475 employees. LINC paid its part-time staff for approximately eight weeks at an organizational cost of \$800,000 to provide the part-time staff some ongoing financial support given the abrupt closure of schools. LINC part-time staff were furloughed on May 1. LINC filed a "mass claim" unemployment filing to make it easier for furloughed staff to obtain unemployment insurance including the opportunity for the \$600 Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) benefit. Many of the part-time staff furloughed live, or have children, in the school district.



In four food distributions during the last two weeks of December, LINC and Church of the Resurrection served a total of 4,594 individuals from 1,146 families, loading their vehicles with 78,998 pounds of food. LINC also provided backpacks for children and gift cards for families.

