



Seize the *Opportunity* with the Missouri Budget Project!

As Missouri and the nation prepare for new political leadership in 2009, the Missouri Budget Project is poised to seize on new opportunities to advance **REAL** economic solutions that benefit Missouri families and our communities, while creating a **better economy** for everyone in our state. At this time of economic struggle, when many of Missouri's families are facing increased need, it is all the *more critical* to support public policy that creates effective, **long-term economic opportunity** for all Missourians.

What we know ;V the need is significant:

- ⊕ The **Unemployment rate in Missouri reached 6.4 percent in September**, an increase of more than 1 percent in the last year alone, and more than two points higher than the last economic downturn in 2001.
- ⊕ Missouri families had less income last year than they did prior to the last economic downturn: **The median income in Missouri was \$45,924 in 2007 ;V approximately \$5,000 lower than it was in 2001 (when adjusted for inflation), representing the second highest decline in state median income in the nation.**
- ⊕ 742,000 Missourians lived in **poverty in 2007**, up from 659,000 in 2006, an increase of **12 percent** in one year.

What we know ;V Solutions Exist:

Like you, the Missouri Budget Project believes that in times of economic hardship, the **assistance provided by our state to working families must be strengthened.** We are working everyday to develop and to advocate for sound economic policies that will provide *lasting* opportunities for all Missourians, including public policy that strengthens access to affordable health care, quality education and training opportunities, and sustained employment. **Now, more than ever, Missouri must invest in these services and in its infrastructure to ensure economic opportunities for all.**

So far this year, the Missouri Budget Project has worked with YOU to:

- ⊕ Pass an extension of unemployment insurance for families *most* impacted by the economic crisis;
- ⊕ Support an enhanced federal rate for Medicaid and state fiscal relief to help Missouri provide critical economic supports for our families; and

- ⊕ Increase awareness of the need for access to health care in Missouri, keeping health care a central public policy issue.

Critical work remains to be done on these issues.

As we prepare for a new Legislative Session in 2009, the Missouri Budget Project will be conducting three **regional ;§State of the State Budget Summits;” in December** to connect the newly elected state legislators and policy makers with civic, business and nonprofit leaders to discuss the critical funding needs for health care, education, transportation and infrastructure.

We invite you to Partner with the MBP to build policy solutions that create a prosperous Missouri and a better tomorrow. Invest in the work of the MBP as we enter a new time of opportunity. You can be confident that your gift is a wise investment in the future of all Missourians.

Thank you in advance for your support of our mission to advance public policies that improve opportunities for all Missourians - particularly low- and middle-income families - by providing reliable and objective research, public education and advocacy.

Please help the Missouri Budget Project continue our work for REAL, Lasting, SOLUTIONS for all Missourians.

We are funded 100% by individuals and foundations.
Your tax-deductible donation is greatly appreciated!

To make a secure online donation:

Visit: www.mobudget.org or

Mail the form below

Yes- I want to Partner with the MBP to create Lasting Solutions!

Enclosed is my contribution payable to the Missouri Budget Project:

___ \$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$100 ___ \$250 ___ \$ 500 ___ \$1,000 ___ other

Mail to: Missouri Budget Project, 4130 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

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Sign me up for the Missouri Budget Project E-Mail Alert Network to receive timely updates about legislation and information regarding budget and fiscal policy.

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