

# MBP



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## MISSOURI BUDGET PROJECT



**All Missourians want the best for our families.** A bright future for our children, security for our seniors, and an economic environment where working hard means you can get ahead. But this environment doesn't just happen. **For our state to be a place where Missouri families, small businesses, and a strong middle-class can thrive, and where everyone has the best possible chance at a brighter tomorrow, we need to invest in Missourians, and invest in the services that provide the foundation for all to succeed.**

**With your support, the Missouri Budget Project (MBP) works hard every day to make that vision a reality by advancing public policies that improve the lives of Missourians.**

**Because facts matter,** we've informed the public debate on policies through objective research and analyses.

**Because public engagement drives change,** we've taken that research into the community. Through collaboration with civic and business leaders across the state, and conversations with thousands of Missourians that reflect the diversity of our great state, we promote awareness of and involvement in critical policy issues, creating impact.





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MOBudget



@MissouriBudget

## WHAT WE DO

By providing unique, objective, timely and rigorous analysis of policy issues; strategic communications and outreach to educate and engage community members in policy advocacy; and by fostering the development of critical issue coalitions that help lawmakers across the state understand the impact of the choices they make, the MBP advances public policies that benefit all Missourians.

### Invest in Missouri

Through MBP's Invest in Missouri Reports, released in October 2015, the MBP evaluated the impact of a series of state tax policy decisions on declined investments in public services; and specifically examined the impact on access to early education, quality K-12 and higher education, public health and mental health services. Through the reports, the MBP also proposed a road map detailing how Missouri could begin to make up for lost ground, bettering Missouri's quality of life and making our economy stronger.



### Coalition for Missouri's Future

MBP provides leadership in the Coalition for Missouri's Future (CMF). Comprised of more than 50 diverse organizations across the state, the coalition partners share a common goal of advancing support for sound tax policy and a state budget that positively impacts the future of Missouri citizens. Through the diversity of organizations that comprise it, the coalition is able to reach hundreds of thousands of Missourians regularly, building awareness of and engagement in critical budget and tax issues. MBP works with its partners in the coalition to conduct comprehensive outreach throughout Missouri to advance the public dialogue around investments in public services, and to facilitate broader public awareness of the interconnected nature of public services and taxes in advancing positive health, social and economic outcomes.



## HONORS



In 2005, the Missouri Budget Project was named an official member of the State Priorities Partnership, a network of more than 40 state-based, independent, nonprofit research and policy organizations that share a commitment to using evidence and analysis to advance policies that give more people the opportunity to prosper.

In 2012, the St. Louis Business Journal named MBP's founder and executive director, Amy Blouin, one of the "Most Influential St. Louisans."

## HOW YOU CAN HELP BUILD A STRONGER MISSOURI

You can help ensure that all Missourians have the best possible chance at a brighter tomorrow by supporting the Missouri Budget Project today.

The Missouri Budget Project works to improve the quality of life for all Missourians by informing public policy decisions through objective research and analysis of state budget, tax, and economic issues.

Our ability to keep our nonpartisan information in the public arena and promote informed, responsible public decisionmaking depends on the support we receive from individual supporters like you.

**The Missouri Budget Project is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and all contributions are fully tax deductible.**

You can support the Missouri Budget Project several ways:

- Make a secure online donation at our website [www.mobudget.org/donate](http://www.mobudget.org/donate)
- Mail a check to our office address listed on the opposite page
- Host a friend- or fundraiser by contacting Amy Blouin, Executive Director of the Missouri Budget Project.

## OUTCOMES 2014 -2015

Over the last two years, MBP produced 28 unique analyses of policy issues, which serve to generate awareness of the impact of issues and often serve as the backbone of MBP's coalition work. MBP also provides a comprehensive strategic communications program, which resulted in presentations at 113 community forums, 334 media stories and 58 editorials on critical issues. Further, MBP provides an array of electronic tools to inform and engage Missourians in issue debates.

Moreover, through the coalition partnerships that MBP fosters, the organization has proven effective at leveraging bipartisan, statewide support for public policy issues that have a critical influence on the lives of all Missourians.



**Why I Support the Missouri Budget Project**  
**Charlie O'Reilly**  
Retired, Vice Chairman, O'Reilly Auto Parts

"The Missouri Budget Project's work serves as a guidepost for public policies that support a stable and competitive Missouri economy and ensure opportunities for all Missourians. MBP's research and analysis help shape the public debate about state budget and tax issues. Their work demonstrates how investing in the needs of Missourians not only improves quality of life for us all, but builds an economy that works for everyone."

## ADVANCING SUPPORT FOR TAX POLICY THAT INVESTS IN MISSOURIANS

### STREAMLINED SALES TAX

It's never been easier than it is today to buy things without leaving home. You can go online and purchase almost anything.

But few people realize that when they buy online, they often deprive their communities the resources needed for schools, transportation, safe communities, and other building blocks of a strong economy. So what's the connection?

Few online purchases made by Missourians include sales tax. That's not because the tax isn't owed; it's because no tax is collected.

By passing the Streamlined Sales Tax Agreement at both the state and national levels, Missouri can begin to recoup lost revenue for schools and other services. The agreement would also level the playing field for homegrown bricks and mortar businesses that find

themselves at a disadvantage because of the different tax treatment.

MBP is fostering a coalition to build support for state and federal legislation, known as the Streamlined Sales Tax Agreement, which would close this loophole in Missouri's existing sales tax structure.

This involves no new taxes. The Streamlined Agreement simply puts in place a mechanism for automatically capturing state and local sales tax that is due, but rarely collected, for online retail purchases. Once approved, the legislation will allow Missouri to recover as much as \$384 million per year in state and local sales tax that is currently due but uncollected. Missouri can then use this revenue to invest in the services that build the foundation for all Missourians to succeed, including quality education, public safety and a strong safety net.

For more information visit:  
[www.mobudget.org/sst/](http://www.mobudget.org/sst/)

## REDUCING POVERTY, BOOSTING LOCAL ECONOMIES, AND ENCOURAGING WORK

### EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT

With your support, the MBP has long defended Missouri taxpayers from tax schemes that would cut resources from public investments like schools, public safety and health care, and shift responsibility to working families. Now, you can join with us to advance a strategic initiative aimed at creating a state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) in Missouri, giving a much needed boost to hardworking Missouri families that are struggling to get by on modest wages.

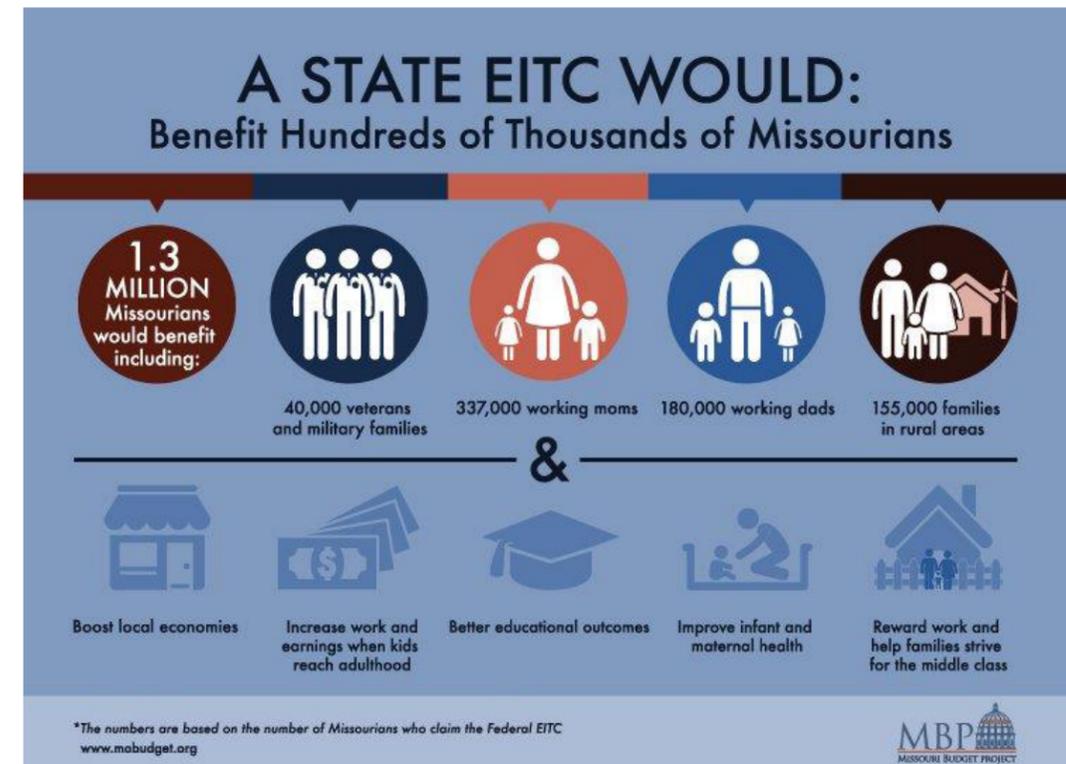
Now, you can help MBP – and working families – go on the offense. Your investment in MBP will advance a strategic initiative to create a state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) in Missouri, giving a much needed boost to hundreds of thousands of hardworking

Missouri families struggling to get by on modest wages.

A state EITC would pave the way for hundreds of thousands of Missourians striving to be in or stay in the middle class. It would:

- Improve the health, education, and economic well-being of Missouri families.
- Increase long-term educational outcomes and earnings, and
- Boost local economies around the state.

MBP is fostering a coalition to advance bipartisan support for a new Missouri EITC.



For more information visit:  
[www.mobudget.org/eitc](http://www.mobudget.org/eitc)

Missouri Budget Project | [mobudget.org](http://mobudget.org)

## CLOSING THE HEALTH CARE COVERAGE GAP FOR 300,000 MISSOURIANS

MBP continues its fight for taxpayers and uninsured Missourians by debunking myths and misinformation about Medicaid expansion.

Not only would expansion close the health care coverage gap for 300,000 Missourians, it would provide significant economic and fiscal benefits to our state.

In addition to increased jobs and economic activity, through expansion Missouri would realize more than \$100 million in state general revenue savings and new tax revenue every year.

Missouri currently funds 100 percent of many health services, including for some pregnant women and Missourians with disabilities or mental health needs, with state dollars. Expanding Medicaid to 138

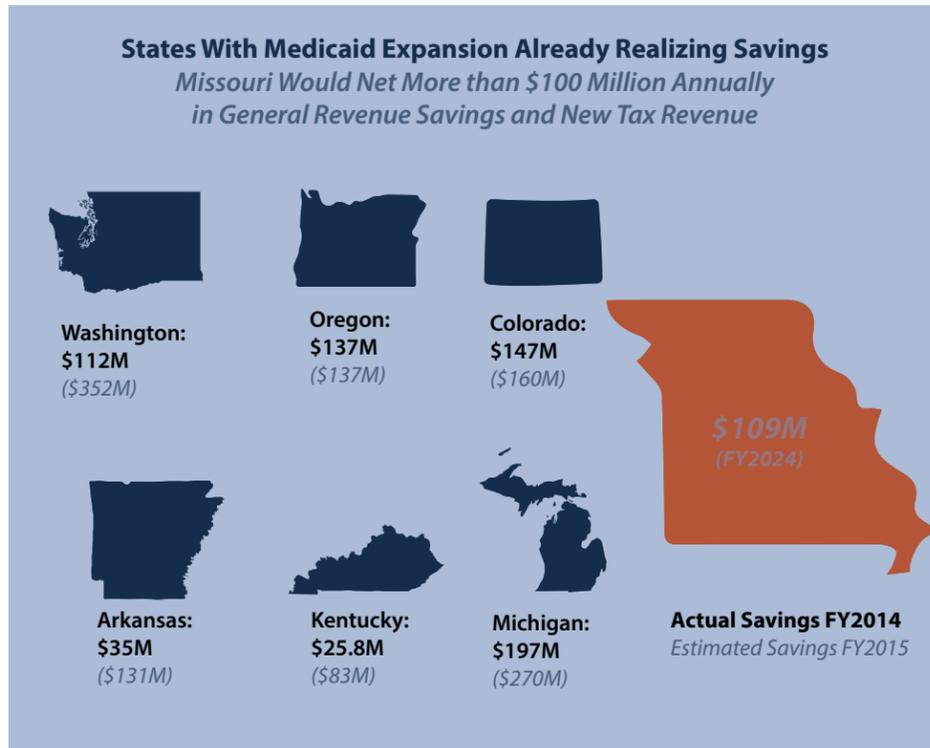
percent of the federal poverty level would allow those Missourians to be covered through a mostly federally funded Medicaid expansion.

Other states are already seeing these savings. A recent analysis of eleven states that expanded Medicaid estimated that in 2015 alone – just the second year into expansion – these states would have experienced savings and revenue increases of more than \$3 billion.

Similarly, Missouri would save significant state revenue by expanding Medicaid. By moving people from existing state-funded services into the federally-funded Medicaid expansion, Missouri would save state general revenue dollars each year. The savings is net of new state general revenue costs for the expanded coverage. These are real dollars that could

contribute to education, infrastructure, or mental health needs in the Show-Me State.

Missouri can't afford to wait any longer to expand Medicaid and close the coverage gap. MBP is working with partners in the Missouri Medicaid Coalition and other health advocates to foster diverse support for expanding Medicaid in Missouri.



## POLICY IMPACT: MORE THAN A DECADE OF RESULTS

Through its work the MBP has had a profound impact on the outcome of policy decisions that impact all Missourians. The following provides just a few examples of MBP's success over the last decade, which preserved more than \$1 billion in critical investments in public services:

In 2016, MBP fostered significant support for the EITC, **which passed the Missouri House by a vote of 115-35, setting the stage for success in 2017.**

In 2015, MBP worked with partners to generate bipartisan opposition that successfully stopped a block-grant style budget proposal **which would have cut health & mental health services by \$183 million.**

Although lawmakers did approve a more modest tax cut measure in 2014, MBP and its partners in the Coalition for Missouri's Future were successful in building bipartisan opposition to a number of additional tax cuts **which would have reduced state revenue by an additional \$1.1 billion** – nearly the equivalent of Missouri's state general revenue investment in Medicaid, or one-third of state funding for local schools.

In 2013, state lawmakers proposed eliminating the **Circuit Breaker Property Tax Credit** for more than 105,000 low-income seniors and people with disabilities, and pitted funding for the credit against funding for the First Steps early intervention program for young children with special needs. MBP stepped in and leveraged policy solutions that saved funding for all of these services, **benefiting 105,000 low-income seniors and people with disabilities and 13,000 Missouri children each year.**

In 2012, the MBP worked with partners in the Coalition for Missouri's Future to prevent passage of the **"Almost Everything Tax,"** a tax scheme which would have significantly increased Missouri's sales tax and eliminated the income tax. The measure would have increased state taxes paid by low-income families substantially while reducing state taxes paid by very wealthy Missourians and required steep cuts to public services.

In 2010, the MBP successfully advocated for **extended unemployment benefits for 30,000 Missourians**, including those most impacted by job loss during the Recession.

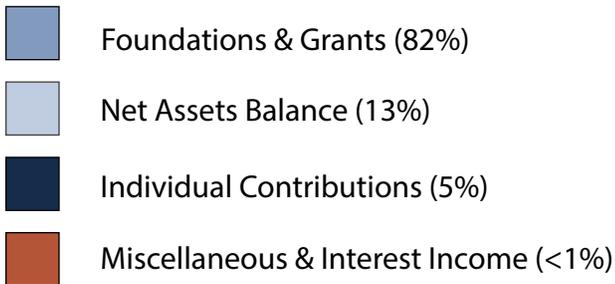
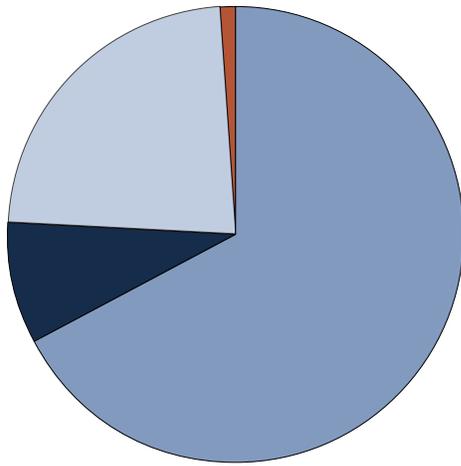
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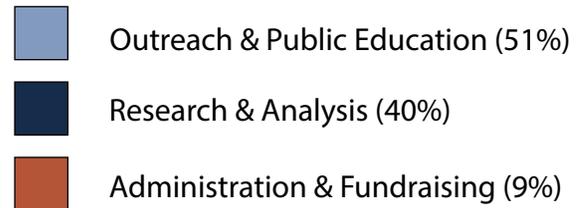
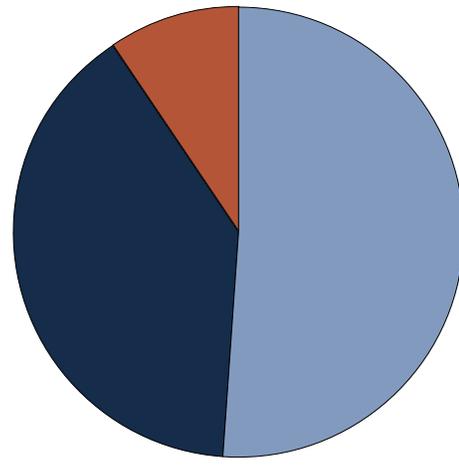
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# MISSOURI BUDGET PROJECT FUNDING

**2015 Income (Audited): \$628,156**



**2015 Expenses (Audited): \$551,442**



The Missouri Budget Project thanks the many individuals, community organizations, and foundations who generously support our work. We enjoy major support from the following foundations:

- Annie E. Casey Foundation**
- Deaconess Foundation**
- Ford Foundation**
- Francis Family Foundation**
- Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City**
- Joseph H. and Florence A. Roblee Foundation**
- Missouri Foundation for Health**
- REACH Healthcare Foundation**