



Build a Strong Economy by Investing in Human Capital

Missourians want to provide for their families – to put a roof over their heads and a warm supper on the table, and to offer comfort for their parents as they age and a better future for their kids.

Although by several measures Missouri’s economy has improved, many Missouri families feel left out of the economic recovery.

To build the middle class and attract quality jobs that allow working families to make ends meet, Missouri must invest in its people. Developing our human capital strengthens families, communities, and the economy - to the benefit of us all.

SENIOR SERVICES EARLY EDUCATION
 QUALITY OF LIFE ELEMENTARY EDUCATION
 SECONDARY EDUCATION MODERN SERVICES
 LOWER UTILITY BILLS LIBRARIES
 SAFE BRIDGES DISABILITY SERVICES
 SERVICES FOR THE BLIND SERVICES FOR THE DEAF
 SAFE COMMUNITIES FIRE PROTECTION
 SAFE WORKING CONDITIONS STATE PARKS
 CLEAN WATER POLICE PROTECTION GOOD
 COMMUNITY COLLEGES WORKER TRAINING
 SAFE FOOD AFFORDABLE PRESCRIPTIONS
 AFFORDABLE TRANSPORTATION SAFE STREETS
 CHILD SAFETY FAMILY PROTECTION TRAIL
 MATERNITY SERVICES LOWER COLLEGE TUITION
 AFFORDABLE HOUSING PUBLIC SAFETY SAFE BRIDGES
 NATURAL RESOURCES GOOD ROADS LIBRARIES
 SENIOR SERVICES EARLY EDUCATION SAFE COMMUNITIES
 QUALITY OF LIFE ELEMENTARY EDUCATION STATE PARKS
 MODERN SERVICES SECONDARY EDUCATION LOWER UTILITY BILLS
 LIBRARIES SAFE BRIDGES DISABILITY SERVICES CLEAN WATER
 SERVICES FOR THE BLIND SERVICES FOR THE DEAF
 PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITIES

- **Quality public education** offers all Missouri kids the tools they need today to become the creators, leaders, and entrepreneurs of tomorrow.

Fulfilling the state’s promised school funding will get all our kids off to a good start, no matter what their zip code.

- **Access to quality, affordable child care** gives parents the stability they need to be successful at work, while preparing the next generation to enter school ready to learn.

Continuing to strengthen income eligibility guidelines for child care assistance and improving Missouri’s

payment structure for child care providers will bolster access to quality early education and boost the ability of families to succeed.

- **A strong public health infrastructure and access to health and mental health care** keeps Missourians healthier throughout their lives, and more productive at work and school.

Rebuilding the state’s public health infrastructure and protecting health insurance are critical to the state’s growth.

- **Workforce training and development** give workers the tools they need to adapt their skills to rapidly changing technology and economic environments.

The Bottom Line: Investing in human capital through quality education, access to child care, public health infrastructure and health insurance, and workforce training and development will pave the way to better jobs and a stronger economy.



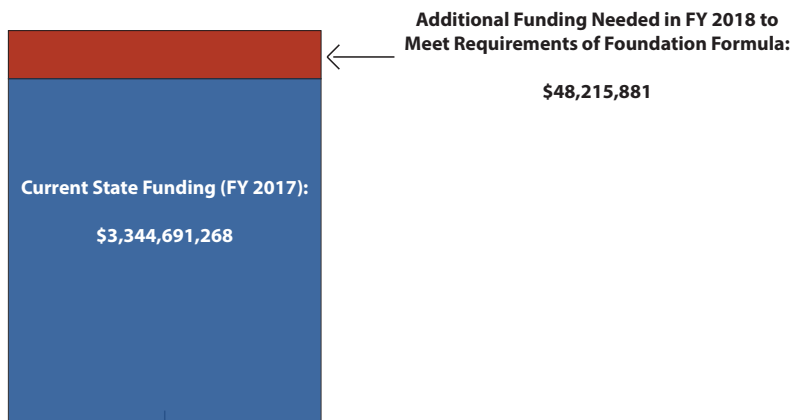
Quality K-12 Education

Education provides kids a path to a better future, and quality public schools are the bedrock of successful communities.

Unfortunately, Missouri hasn't lived up to its promised funding for our schools for years. As a result, local governments are shouldering more of the responsibility for school funding, setting the stage for enhanced disparities in educational opportunity between school districts.¹

Fulfill state promises for school funding so kids from across the state can be prepared for success throughout their lives, no matter their zip code.

Fulfilling State's Promised Education Funding Attainable in FY 2018



- In 2016, the legislature passed changes to the formula used to determine state funding for school districts (known as the “foundation formula”).
- As a result of these changes, for the first time since 2010, it's within reach for the state to provide the promised level of school funding.
- What's more, fully funding Missouri's school funding formula would trigger a much needed expansion of school-based preschools – better preparing young children to enter kindergarten.²

The Bottom Line: Fully funding our public schools will make good on our state's fundamental obligations to provide for public education and allow all kids an opportunity for a better tomorrow, whether they live in a town of 500 or 500,000.

Notes

1. “Investing in Our Students: K-12 Education,” Missouri Budget Project, October 2015, available at: <http://www.mobudget.org/investing-students/>

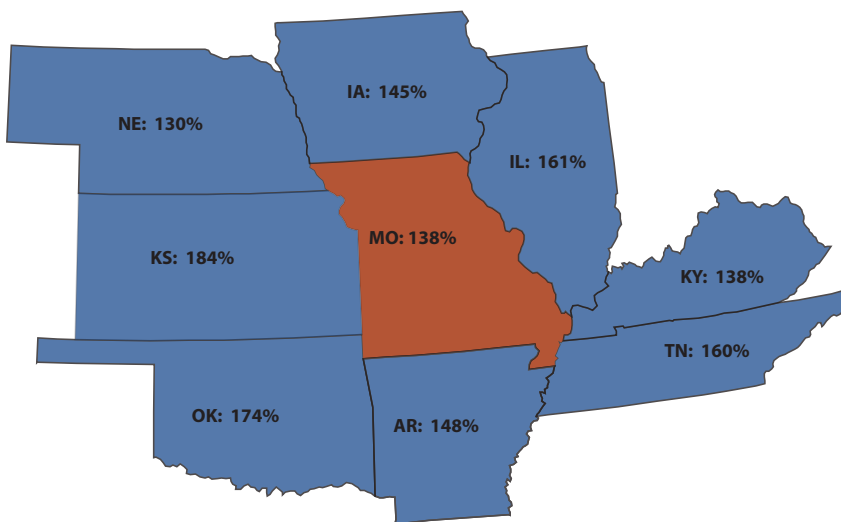
2. Missouri House Bill 1689, approved in the 2014 legislative session and implemented in the 2015-2016 school year, allowed funding for school-based preschools to be included in the calculation of the Foundation Formula to serve children in school districts that were unaccredited or provisionally accredited. The bill also included a provision to extend that preschool funding to all school districts in the year after the Foundation Formula reaches full funding levels. As a result, meeting the required level of funding for the Foundation Formula in the 2018 budget will not only provide full state aid to local school districts for the first time since 2010, it will trigger a much needed expansion of funding for preschool.

Children who receive quality early education do better in school, and as adults have higher incomes and better health outcomes than their peers. But high child care costs put quality affordable child care out of reach for many families struggling to make ends meet. In 2015 the average annual cost of full-time care for an infant in a Missouri child care center was nearly 40% of a single parent family’s income.¹

In order to help parents work and to provide children with safe, quality child care, Missouri provides child care assistance to qualifying families based on income. However, Missouri’s child care assistance is more restrictive than other states, making it difficult for working families to receive the help they need.

Continue to strengthen income eligibility levels for child care assistance and make improvements to Missouri’s payment structure for child care providers to help families offset high child care costs, and ensure kids are ready to learn when they start school

- Public investments in preschool and other early learning initiatives provide a significant return to taxpayers, resulting in as much as a \$7 return for every \$1 invested due to decreased public expense for remedial education, criminal justice and social services.²
- Missouri’s eligibility for child care assistance is well below the national average and most neighboring states, ranking 43rd nationally in 2016.³



- It is also very difficult for eligible families to find child care providers to serve their children.

- Reimbursement rates for providers who care for Missouri children through the subsidized child care program are well below market rates, averaging just 68 percent of the cost of care.⁴ Due to the low payment rates, many child care providers limit the number of children they serve through the child care assistance program, and

some centers altogether refuse to participate in the program, compromising access to quality early care for low-income families.

The Bottom Line: Improving Missouri’s payment structure for child care providers, and continuing to strengthen the income eligibility level for child care assistance, would bolster access to quality early education and boost the ability of families to succeed.

Notes

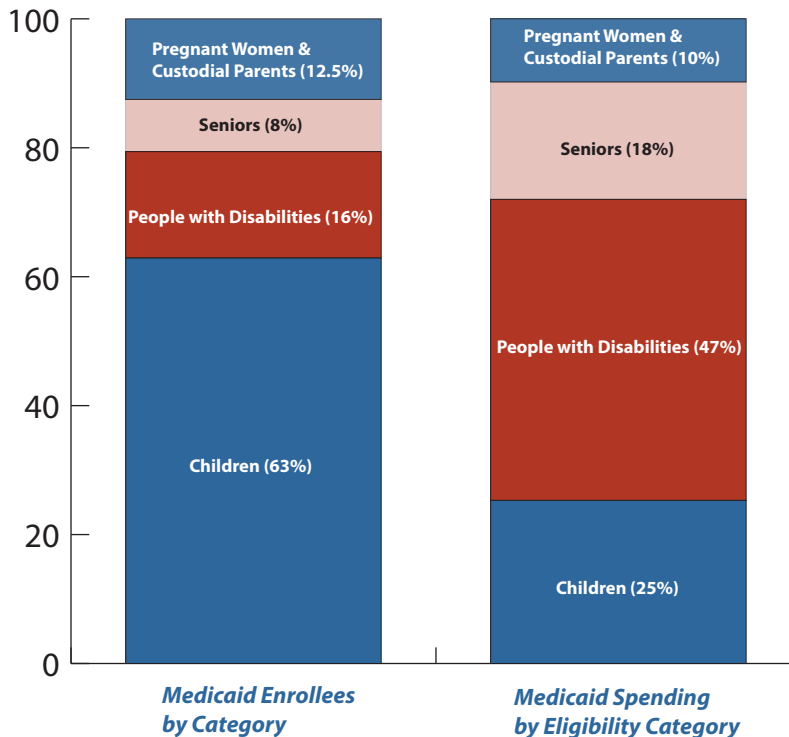
1. Child Care Aware of America, “Parents and the High Cost of Child Care,” 2016
 2. “Invest in Early Childhood Development: Reduce Deficits, Strengthen the Economy,” and “Four Big Benefits of Investing in Early Childhood Development,” by James J. Heckman, University of Chicago. www.heckmanequation.org, retrieved 9/27/2015
 3. National Women’s Law Center, “Red Light Green Light, State Child Care Assistance Policies 2016,” October 25, 2016. In Missouri, eligibility for full assistance ends at an income of 138% of the federal poverty level, or an income of just \$2,318 per month for a family of three.
 4. Missouri Department of Social Services
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Healthy Missourians are happier and more productive at school and work, keeping our state economy churning. When Missourians can access the health care they need, chronic illnesses like diabetes, mental illness, and heart disease can be kept in check, keeping people well and active.

The health of Missourians is fundamental to building a prosperous economy and good quality of life. But decreased public health investments and threats to the integrity of health insurance programs could compromise the health care infrastructure that serves all Missourians.

Invest in our public health infrastructure and insurance now to prevent increased illness – and associated costs – in the long run.

Missouri Medicaid Enrollment & Spending by Population FY 2016



- Missouri’s investments in critical public health care services have fallen well behind other states,¹ leaving nearly one in ten Missourians without access to health insurance.²
- Proposals at both the state and federal level threaten to make deep cuts to Medicaid & Medicare, which would increase the number of uninsured Missourians and compromise the health care infrastructure that serves us all.³
- Less than 18% of Missouri’s Medicaid costs are paid for by state general revenue – making it a really good deal for Missouri taxpayers.⁴
- Medicaid provides seniors, people with disabilities, young children & pregnant women, very poor single moms, and people with mental illness access to quality, preventive care. The majority of Medicaid funding pays for services for seniors & people with disabilities.

The Bottom Line: Investing in and strengthening public health and Medicaid would protect Missouri’s health care infrastructure, be fiscally prudent for the state, and save money in the long run.

Notes

1. Investing in Healthy Families,” Missouri Budget Project, October 2015, available at: <http://www.mobudget.org/investing-healthy/>
 2. Kaiser Family Foundation, State Health Facts, available at: <http://kff.org/statedata/>
 3. “Medicaid Block Grant Would Slash Federal Funding, Shift Costs to States, and Leave Millions More Uninsured,” Center on Budget & Policy Priorities, November 2016, available at: <http://www.cbpp.org/research/health/medicaid-block-grant-would-slash-federal-funding-shift-costs-to-states-and-leave>
 4. Missouri Department of Social Services, Fiscal Year 2017 MO HealthNet Budget by Funding Source
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