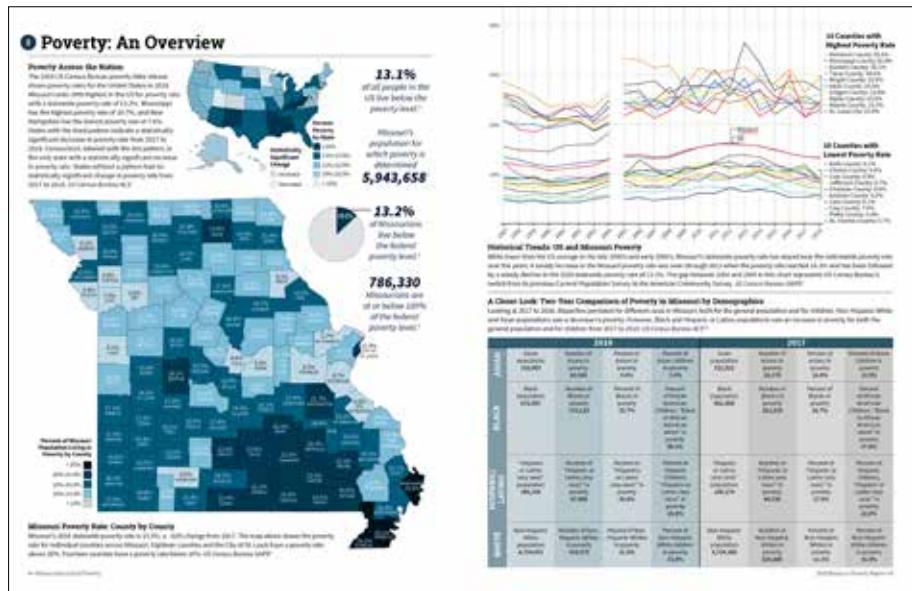


2020 Missouri CAN Report



Community Action Partnership
2020 Annual Convention
Region VII Caucus
Virtual Convention



2020 Missouri Poverty Report Release

» The 2020 Missouri Poverty Report is Available Now

In partnership with our coalition, Missourians to End Poverty, Missouri CAN produces a poverty report every two years. Throughout the past fall and winter, our team conducted secondary research to create the 2020 poverty report, which was released in May. Given the impact of COVID-19 on our communities, this report provides a baseline of poverty-related issues prior to the coronavirus spread. The pandemic magnifies the challenges average Missourians face.

The poverty report is organized by the five elements of poverty—economic and family security, education, food and nutrition, health, and housing and

energy, which are all interconnected. Income and wages impact a family's overall economic security. Lack of education could impact earning potential and unemployment. Food insecurity can impact children's ability to learn and workers' ability to focus on their jobs. Lack of health insurance could leave someone with insurmountable medical debt. Substandard housing could lead to drastically high heating bills during cold Missouri winters.

These are only a few ways the five elements of poverty are interconnected. As shown in the report, the issues are more complex and interwoven. The report also explores disparities across

different demographics such as gender, race, and ethnicity plus differences in rural and urban poverty. Finally, you'll find an illustration of the data in the form of an average family: Rob and Stacy.

Although poverty data can be overwhelming, there are many programs actively helping individuals and families. The report highlights safety net programs that work, and it proposes evidenced-based solutions for addressing poverty. In addition to Missouri-specific data, the report features national data including state rankings for food insecurity, high school graduation rates, and housing affordability. Download the full report at MissouriPovertyReport.org.

COVID-19

» How Community Action is Responding

Community Action Agencies have been on the frontline during the pandemic addressing needs in their communities as well as managing operations for the safety of staff. At Missouri CAN, we've maintained a hub of news, information and resources relevant to COVID-19, safety net programs, and health and safety

guidelines on our website for easy access by CAAs.

Additionally, Missouri CAN has been collecting information and stories about how agencies have pivoted during the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes major needs our Missouri CAAs first saw across their communities and how that has changed over time.

Major themes noted from this data include: job loss due to COVID-19 and an increased need in food, rent and utility assistance, as well as unique needs specific to agency service areas. Many

Missouri CAAs creatively utilized existing resources to modify their programs such as holding anger management and drug and alcohol classes via digital platforms, or moving food bank operations to a drive-through format due to health and safety guidelines.

Missouri CAN is assembling this information as a story packet featuring each Community Action Agency in Missouri to share with legislators, advocacy groups, and other partners who are working to secure COVID-19 relief for our state and nation.



State Legislative Recap: 2020

» The 2020 Legislative Session of the Missouri General Assembly was by far the most unusual session on record. With the General Assembly mostly absent from mid-March to the end of April due to COVID-19, there was a flurry of activity to pass the budget and salvage what could be addressed in the shortened timeframe.

The process was difficult for effective participation, and the online resources provided for hearings and debate were stretched past their limits. Despite all these challenges, the state budget was passed, and several omnibus bills were drafted, including all manner of other bills. A special session was later called by Missouri Governor Parson with the specific subject of violent crime, and a veto session in mid-September is also possible.

A major win for the Missouri Community Action Network in 2020 is the anticipated reinstatement of the state Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC). During the past year, Missouri CAN served on a statewide coalition dedicated to reinstating this key tax credit. After months of advocacy, the Missouri Housing Development Commission in August announced a restoration of the tax credit, pending public comment. If approved, LIHTC will be reinstated at 70% of the federal cap—roughly \$110 million of awards for the 9% program and \$30 million for the 4% program.

State Legislation Closely Followed Second Regular Session of the 100th Missouri General Assembly

- *Opposed* / House Bill 1315: Modifies the timeframe to appeal landlord-tenant actions
- *Supported* / House Bill 1378: Modifies the timeframe to appeal landlord-tenant actions
- *Opposed* / House Bill 1708: Modifies TANF and SNAP provisions
- *Opposed* / House Bill 1785: Mandates work requirements for SNAP recipients
- *Supported* / House Bill 1960: Mandates simplification of benefit forms
- *Followed* / House Bill 2006: Department of Natural Resources Budget
- *Followed* / House Bill 2011: Department of Social Services Budget
- *Opposed* / House Joint Resolution 106: Mandates work requirements for Medicaid recipients
- *Supported* / Senate Bill 549: Reinstates the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC)
- *Supported* / Senate Bill 584: Addresses the cliff effect by allowing transitional child care benefits
- *Supported* / Senate Bill 607: Prohibits the use of an employee or prospective employee's credit score as a condition of employment
- *Opposed* / Senate Joint Resolution 60: Mandates work requirements for Medicaid recipients

Federal Level Advocacy

» Missouri CAN has also worked on advocacy efforts at the federal level, particularly legislative initiatives regarding COVID-19 relief.

COVID-19 Stimulus Package

Since passage of the CARES Act in March 2020, Missouri CAN has collaborated with state and national partners to advocate for a strong package of additional supports to complement the CARES Act. These supports include a 15% increase to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefit, an extended moratorium on rental evictions, and an expansion of both the federal Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit.

H.R. 7328

The CSBG Enhancement Act

Missouri CAN has also worked with the state's congressional delegation to encourage co-sponsorship of House Resolution 7328 since its introduction, which addresses three major areas of CSBG funding in the CARES Act.

Medicaid Expansion Passes in Missouri

After securing nearly twice the amount of required signatures, a ballot initiative for Medicaid expansion made it to the polls. In partnership with our coalition, Missourians to End Poverty, Missouri CAN shared information about the positive health and economic impacts of Medicaid expansion in Missouri during the weeks leading to the statewide vote.

On August 4, Missourians voted to expand Medicaid throughout the state, with 53% of voters supporting Amendment 2. This makes Missouri the 38th state to expand Medicaid and allows adults between ages 19 and 65 with income at or below 138% of the federal poverty level to qualify for coverage. In 2020, that amounts to \$17,608 for an individual and \$36,156 for a household of four.

Overall, the passage of Amendment 2 is outstanding news for many low-income Missourians, including customers served by Community Action Agencies.

NETWORK CAPACITY



CNA Series

» Community Needs Assessment Training

The Community Needs Assessment process is extensive and highly involved throughout the better part of the fiscal year. For the first time, Missouri's state CSBG office required CNAs to be submitted in a format standardized for all 19 CAAs. To help agencies navigate the new report structure, Missouri CAN took a more hands-on approach than in years past through a CNA training series.

Missouri CAN Training and Programs staff outlined the training series to follow each phase of the CNA process. Early trainings were held in person, and later trainings pivoted to virtual workshops and webinars due to COVID-19. The training series included:

- Community Needs Assessment Kick-Off
- Toolkit Introduction and Q&A Session
- Survey Question and Focus Group Design Workshop
- Strategies for Analyzing Data
- Strategies for Data Presentation
- CNA Check-In and Coffee Klatch
- Strategies for Prioritizing Data
- Data Prioritization and COVID-19
- Performance Management and Linking the CNA
- Designing and Marketing Your CNA
- Linking the Organizational Standards to the CNA

Virtual Trainings

» Pivoting CAA Trainings During COVID-19

Many agencies used the remote work opportunity for staff training previously not possible due to other priorities. Missouri CAN pivoted its training efforts and offered virtual training due to the inability to host in-person sessions. This circumstance provided the opportunity for people who hadn't received training from Missouri CAN before to access training. We are impressed with the number of people participating in virtual trainings.

Although we were unable to conduct the 2020 Missouri CAN Annual Conference, we honored the topics previously considered for the event and turned to those topics for virtual training. Many topics are high-interest and hit capacity limits in physical training rooms. Virtual trainings allowed more people to attend high-interest workshops.

In addition, we are aware and respectful of what people are experiencing and added COVID-19 thinking to training content. Trauma-informed and Motivational Interviewing trainings addressed COVID-19 in course examples.

To reach specific audiences within our Network, we also chunked sessions into smaller segments and shorter virtual trainings. We feel like we have a brand new audience. Agencies often send the same staff to Missouri CAN in-person trainings; the virtual training format has opened the access to trainings because CAAs don't have the added travel costs associated with in-person events. People who have never engaged in Missouri CAN trainings are learning who we are as an association and what we offer to agencies.

A New Initiative

» CAAs Begin HCCT Work

After announcement of Human Capacity and Community Transformation by OCS, Dawn Fogarty joined the HCCT task force along with CAA staff from Missouri to develop parameters for the initiative. Missouri CAN hosted a webinar for CAAs on August 4 to share the rationale behind and components of HCCT. Agencies are now self-identifying projects to be considered for this exciting new initiative.

BY THE NUMBERS

Training & Technical Assistance »

7 Network-wide virtual trainings with all 19 CAAs represented

5 CAAs received technical assistance on the following topics:

Organizational Leadership
Intro to ROMA
Coaching for Success
Case Management 201
MIS Set-up and CBSG Work Plan

Professional Development »

12 Professional Alliance meetings

6 Newly Certified Community Action Professionals

SkillUP »

Missouri CAN is working with local CAAs across Missouri to implement the SkillUP program—helping SNAP and TANF recipients obtain education and employment.

715 Participants Enrolled | 246 Participants in Training

247 Participants Employed