



MISSOURI'S TAX FOR CHILDREN: AN INVESTMENT THAT COUNTS

For almost 25 years, the Family and Community Trust (FACT), working closely with 20 Community Partnerships across the state, has had communities as the focal point of efforts to improve the quality of life for Missouri families and children. Each year, FACT (with funding from the Annie E. Casey Foundation) supports KIDS COUNT in Missouri to disseminate information on the well-being of children in our state. In the most recent release of the Missouri KIDS COUNT Data Book (2016), a narrative on [“Why Community Matters”](#) drew attention to the various challenges that children in Missouri face in their surroundings and social environment. This is why FACT and Missouri KIDS COUNT support the communities that have implemented the Missouri Community Children’s Services tax, a legislatively created, voter-approved effort to respond to the behavioral health needs of children, thereby strengthening families and the communities in which they live.

Brief History

In 1993, during the 87th General Assembly of the Missouri legislature, former Senator Harold Caskey sponsored two state laws (RSMo 210.[860-861](#)) that were passed to establish what would come to be called the Community Children’s Services Tax. These laws presented an opportunity for all Missouri counties and the City of St. Louis¹ for a voter-approved property tax to support children 18 years of age and younger. The laws passed with only one nay vote.²

In 2000, the General Assembly expanded this opportunity by passing an additional law (RSMo [67.1775.1](#)) to include a voter-approved sales tax to establish a Community Children’s Services

¹ The City of St. Louis is not a part of any county, and in fact operates as its own county. State law commonly refers to the City of St. Louis as a “city not within a county”.

² This special voter-approved tax law was not the first of its kind in Missouri. In 1969 a state law passed authorizing a voter-approved tax for a Community Mental Health Fund (RSMo 205.977) and in 1989 a state law was passed authorizing a voter-approved tax for Senior Citizens’ Services (RSMo 67.990.1). Of the counties that have passed the Community Children’s Services tax, three counties have the Mental Health tax: Jackson, Jefferson, and the City of St. Louis. Only the City of St. Louis has the Senior Tax. The City of St. Louis is the only community that has all three taxes.

Fund. This law passed without any nay votes, expanding the type of levy and coverage to children 19 years of age and younger.

These taxes, after approval by a majority of voters, are specifically designated to fund services to protect the well-being and safety of children, to strengthen families, and to promote healthy lifestyles among children and youth, with a focus on behavioral health.³

These statutes together prescribe basic requirements but also allow for local control. Local governmental authorities, whether it be the County Commission, or through a local ordinance, prescribes the makeup of the governing board and its responsibilities, in accordance with the statute. For the property tax, the governing board is responsible for administering and expending all funds. In this case, the funds are maintained by the locale's county treasurer. For the sales tax, the funds are managed by the Missouri Director of Revenue and held in a special fund by the Missouri State Treasurer.

In November 2016, Jackson County was the latest to pass a Community Children's Services Tax. There are now nine counties (i.e., St. Charles, Lincoln, Boone, Franklin, St. Louis County, Lafayette, Jefferson, Jackson and the City of St. Louis) that have passed either a sales or property tax levy on behalf of children and youth.

The citizens of these communities have made an explicit commitment to improving the lives of children through what is often an unpopular ask for voters—a tax. Missouri KIDS COUNT and FACT applaud these communities of voters whose collective voices on behalf of children are manifest through this tax and what it does. The following section includes brief summaries of each of the eight communities that have implemented the tax along with inspiring stories illustrating how the tax is changing the lives of children.

Significance

The establishment of the Community Children's Services Fund has fundamentally changed the way in which children's behavioral health is addressed in Missouri. Although there are some restrictions regarding the services that can be provided with the fund,⁴ in general, local administrative entities have the autonomy to decide which services are provided in their county. Each county is responsible for identifying needs and gaps, monitoring utilization, and assessing the impact of the services provided.

Before the Community Children's Services Fund, the services available to address children's behavioral health were limited and fragmented. Thanks to the fund, collaborations among service providers, agencies, organizations, and schools have emerged, creating more efficient systems of care. Instead of competing for resources, people are working together to find solutions. The fund has fostered collaborations that are systematically reducing previous barriers to care.

³ The authorizing legislation for the property tax includes the following uses [RSMo 210.861.4]: (1) Up to thirty days of temporary shelter for abused, neglected, runaway, homeless or emotionally disturbed youth; respite care services; and services to unwed mothers; (2) Outpatient chemical dependency and psychiatric treatment programs; counseling and related services as a part of transitional living programs; home-based and community-based family intervention programs; unmarried parent services; crisis intervention services, inclusive of telephone hotlines; and prevention programs which promote healthy lifestyles among children and youth and strengthen families; (3) Individual, group, or family professional counseling and therapy services; psychological evaluations; and mental health screenings.

⁴ The tax cannot be used for transportation or for inpatient medical, psychiatric or chemical dependency services.

Behavioral health is an essential component of overall well-being. It can dictate whether a child can become a productive adult that contributes to his or her community. The counties that have established the Children’s Services Fund understand that investing in child behavioral health is investing in the future of their communities. If you are interested in learning more about why it is important to invest in children’s behavioral health, we have included links to resources at the end of this article.



Conclusion

“Local dollars, local kids, local oversight” are six words that capture the unique value of the Community Children’s Services Tax. All decisions, from voter approval to fund allocation, are made at the local-level. The tax is unique in that it gives each county the ability to customize how funds are used depending on the particular needs of the community. The Community Children’s Services Tax is not intended to supplant or to diminish the critical role that state dollars and agencies must contribute to our children’s health. The needs are countless and the resources are limited for children’s behavioral health—even in communities with dedicated revenue. The communities that have implemented this tax are fully aware that it cannot solve all the social distress, but rather see it as the starting point to begin developing systems of care that are effective, cross-cutting and contextualized.

To the leadership in these counties that put the Community Children’s Services Tax on the ballot, to the voters who approved this tax, and to the executive directors and boards who manage and fund services, Missouri KIDS COUNT celebrates your commitment to children. To any counties considering a Community Children’s Services Tax, there are eight outstanding directors and boards from which to learn. Even without the tax in place, we encourage counties to contact fund leaders to learn about best practices and effective interventions and preventions.

We want to personally thank the leaders of each tax entity—Bruce Sowatsky, Jama Dodson, Ghada Sultani-Hoffman, Tiffany Dehn, Cheri Winchester, Annie Foncannon, Connie

Cunningham, and Kelly Wallis—for their efforts in helping us write and edit this article, and for serving as an example to other communities for how to collaborate, address shared challenges and build effective systems of care for children.

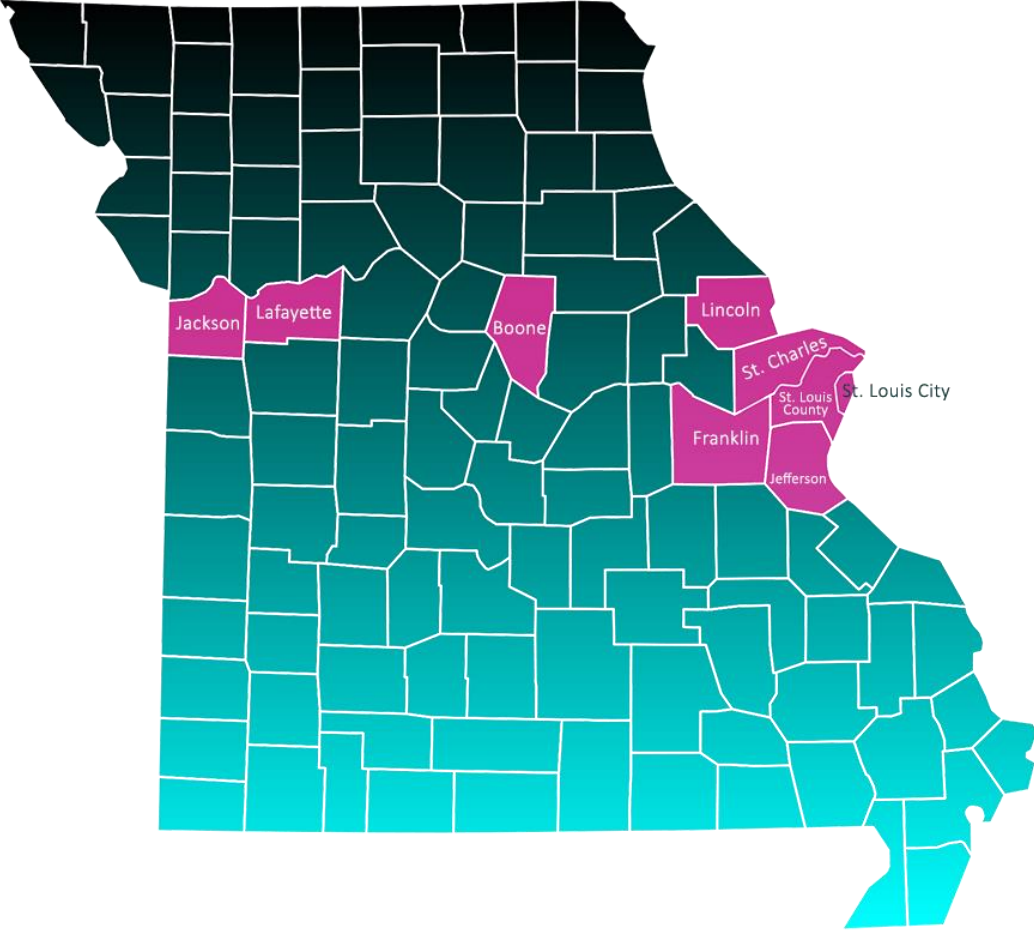
Finally, we want to acknowledge the foresight of the Missouri legislature. In 1993, when this law was passed, the legislature understood the power of community support in children’s lives, but likely did not anticipate all of the benefits flowing to children and their communities from this tax. It serves as an effective gateway to individual children, to providers, to families and to the community at large, offering training, education, collaboration, expertise and connectedness. We thank the Missouri legislature on behalf of Missouri’s children for their ongoing support for this local tax opportunity.

Resources

Learn more about the impact of children’s behavioral health by visiting the websites and reading recent Missouri research below:

- Center for Disease Control and Prevention—[Children’s Mental Health Report](#)
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration—[Caring for Every Child’s Mental Health](#)
- American Academy of Pediatrics—[Promoting Children’s Mental Health](#)
- HIDI Health Stats, Missouri Hospital Industry Data Institute—[Building Resilience Around Trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences: Identifying High-Risk Communities in Missouri and Kansas](#)
- Washington University—[Nurturing During Preschool Years Boosts Children’s Brain Growth](#)
- Washington University—[Poverty Linked to Childhood Depression](#)

The following map highlights areas in Missouri that have implemented a tax to support children. Click on the county or City of St. Louis to see important tax facts for the 9 counties with the tax, and to read inspiring stories about how the tax is improving the lives of children in each of the counties that have implemented the tax.



County Summaries

CITY OF ST. LOUIS	
Amount and Source:	\$0.19 on each \$100 assessed valuation (Property tax)
Total Amount Collected in 2015:	\$7,815,172
⁵County Population in 2014:	317,419
⁶Missouri Kids Count Composite Rank:	115

Tax Approval

- **Date Passed:** November 2004
- **Tally in Favor:** 56.34% of votes

Tax Administration

- **Name of Administrative Entity:** St. Louis Mental Health Board (MHB)
- **MHB Webpage:** www.stlmhb.com
- **MHB Executive Director:** Jama Dodson
- **Other Staff:** For a complete list, visit the MHB website (see [About Us](#) section).

Board of Directors (Trustees)

- **Selection:** Nominations are received and made by the Office of the Mayor of the City of St. Louis and approved by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis.
- **Term Length:** Trustee terms are for three years with no term limits.
- **Current members:** Visit the MHB website to learn more about current board members (see [Board of Trustees](#) section).
- **Meetings:** The Board meets on the third Thursday of each month, except in December and July. Visit the MHB website for specific meeting dates.

Application Process and Funding

- **Applying for Funds:** Funding is announced through a community meeting and issuance of a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA). In addition, ads are placed in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and St. Louis American newspapers. The MHB uses a competitive grant application process, which includes both a pre-application submission (either a concept paper or letter of intent) and a full application submission. Access to the NOFA pre-application and full application is available through the MHB's website (see Community Investments section).

⁵ Missouri Kids Count Data Book (2016)

⁶ Missouri Kids Count Data Book (2016) County Pages

- **Review Process:** Pre-application submissions undergo a multi-level staff review process with written recommendations submitted for consideration by the Trustees. Sub-Committees, comprised of Trustees and community residents, review all applications and submit recommendations to the full Board, which makes all funding decisions. Consumers with lived experience and their families participate in the review process.
- **Funding Period:** Community Children’s Services Fund competitive grants are approved for a three-year cycle and renewed annually contingent on satisfactory performance in years 2 and 3 of the cycle. Contracts are awarded one fiscal year at a time. Some funding is made available for emerging needs or in collaboration with other funders to address critical community issues. This funding support is non-competitive and must be approved annually.



Current Programs Funded:

A complete list of agencies funded is available on the MHB website (see [Community Investments](#) section).

- **Working with Other Funds:** MHB also administers the City’s Community Mental Health Fund, established by a property tax levy approved in November 1992, more than 10 years prior to the passage of the Community Children’s Services Fund in November 2004. In addition, MHB actively seeks to leverage its tax funds with other sources. Consistent with its vision to strengthen service delivery systems and improve access, it currently manages two U.S. Department of Health and Human Services federal grants: (1) Administration for Children and Families Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), Services for Survivors of Torture; and (2) Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), System of Care Expansion and Sustainability Cooperative Agreements.

Before each funding cycle, the MHB conducts a needs assessment to ensure that funding priorities align with the needs of the community. The MHB also conducts focus groups to identify emerging needs and other relevant information not captured in needs assessments. MHB has adopted a strength-based framework for funding priorities and has identified three impact areas for investment by the Community Children’s Services Fund in the City of St. Louis: (1) Thriving & Connecting – Children and youth are safe, healthy, and connected; 2) Learning & Leading – Children and youth learn, lead, and succeed; and 3) Ready for Work – Youth are prepared to enter the workforce. The following stories provide some examples of programs currently implemented in the City of St. Louis that address some of the impact areas previously identified.

Inspiring Stories

30 Days to Family®—Helping Children Find a Stable Home

30 Days to Family® is a program created by the Foster and Adoptive Care Coalition to meet mandates requiring states to identify and provide notice to all grandparents and other adult relatives of every child entering state custody, so that a desirable placement can be made within 30 days. Through the use of creative approaches, including engaging private investigators when families are not easily located, an average of over 30 prospects are found for each child. The uniqueness of the program resulted in a TIME Magazine feature article. In addition to identifying potential placement providers for each child, every effort is made to keep siblings together, maintain children in their school of origin, and preserve the child's important relationships with friends and supportive adults.

In 2014, Foster and Adoptive Care Coalition commissioned an evaluation, which led to the addition of 30 Days to Family® to the California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for [Child Welfare](#) website. In 2016, a follow-up evaluation study showed that, of the approximately 300 children in foster care, who were part of the original 30 Days to Family® evaluation cohort, only 26 of the children from the control group had re-entered foster care. Further, no children from the group that received the 30 Days to Family® intervention had re-entered foster care. Currently, in its fifth consecutive year of funding (as of July 2016), the project has helped 98 children attain a stable foster placement.

Successful Programs Achieving Better Mental Health Outcomes among Juvenile Court Youth

MHB has long acknowledged that youth involved with the Juvenile Court are among those at the highest risk for negative social outcomes. Since 2006, the Board's Juvenile Justice Initiative has worked with community providers and Court staff to intervene systematically in formal and informal cases. Two of the programs, supported by the Community Children's Services Fund since its inception, continue to yield significant results.

The first program, Multisystemic Therapy (MST), is an evidence-based practice delivered with greater than 95% fidelity by Places for People. It is a high intensity, 24/7 wraparound intervention for families, whose children are critically at risk of out-of-home-placement. Over the past 10 years, 250 families have benefited from this program. Of those in the program, 88% incurred no additional legal charges, 83% remained at home, and 82% remained in school, within one year of completion.

The second program, Psychological Services, pays for a team of licensed psychologists and clinical social workers to respond to the needs of youth in detention on a 24-hour basis. Over the past 10 years, the team has helped transform the Detention Center to be fully trauma-informed. The team is one of only two efforts in the State to be fully rostered by the Missouri Academy of Child Trauma Studies (MoACTS) to deliver trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy. Also, given the Court's success with its Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative in reducing the number of youth in detention, the team now follows and treats youth after their confinement.

JEFFERSON COUNTY	
Amount and Source:	1/8 Cent from Sales Tax
Total Amount Collected in 2015:	\$2,655,534
⁷County Population in 2014:	222,716
⁸Missouri Kids Count Composite Rank:	15

Tax Approval

- **Date Passed:** November, 2004
- **Tally in Favor:** 60.36% of votes.

Tax Administration

- **Name of Administrative Entity:** Community Treatment, Inc., dba COMTREA
- **COMTREA Webpage:** www.comtrea.org/
- **COMTREA CEO/President:** Susan Curfman
- **Other Staff:** For a complete list, visit the COMTREA website (see [Staff Members](#) section).

Board of Directors

- **Selection:** Board members are appointed by the County Council.
- **Term Length:** Board members serve three year terms. There are no term limits.
- **Current members:** Information about the current board members is available on the COMTREA website (see [Board Members](#) section).
- **Meetings:** The board meets quarterly in the months of June, September, December, and March.

Application Process and Funding

- **Applying for Funds:** Until this year, all funds from the Children’s Services Fund went to COMTREA. A strategic plan has been designed for 2017, in which funds will be designated for collaborative partnerships with grant guidelines and request for applications. Announcements will be made through email notification and website link to community partners.
- **Review Process:** According to the strategic plan for 2017, applications will be reviewed and selected by the Jefferson County Community Mental Health Fund Board.
- **Funding Period:** Grants will be awarded for 1 to 5 years.

⁷ Missouri Kids Count Data Book (2016)
⁸ Missouri Kids Count Data Book (2016) County Pages



Current Programs Funded:

A variety of programs are currently funded through COMTREA, including availability of school-based mental health providers up to one day per week in all public schools, the presence of a licensed counselor working with children living in “A Safe Place” domestic violence shelter, and a school-based health center for mental health and substance abuse counseling. To learn more about these and other programs, visit the COMTREA website (see [Youth Programs](#) section).

- **Working with Other Funds:** COMTREA uses other funding sources (e.g., billable services & Department of Mental Health funds) before accessing the Children’s Services Tax Fund.

COMTREA conducts annual surveys and interviews with service recipients to learn about the impact of their programs and organize community needs assessment forums to inform programming priorities. Every year, COMTREA prepares a report summarizing the outcomes of the programs that receive funds from the Children’s Services Tax (see [End of the Year](#) section). Since the Children’s Services Tax was approved in Jefferson County, all funds were used exclusively to support COMTREA programs; however, a strategic plan has been designed to expand the use of these funds to support collaborative partnerships with other organizations. To learn more about the strategic plan for 2017, visit the COMTREA website.

The approval of the Children’s Services Tax has transformed the services available for children and their families in Jefferson County. Thanks to this tax, each school building in the county has a licensed or licensed eligible counselor who serves as liaison to connect children to the services they need and coordinate their care. The following stories illustrate how the lives of two girls radically improved thanks to programs supported by the Children’s Services Tax.

Inspiring Stories⁹

In-School Counseling Program—Helping a Teen Develop into a Confident Adult

Bethany was referred to the COMTREA In-School Counselor Program after being discharged from a 5½-month hospitalization due to intense depression, suicidal gestures, and severe self-mutilation. Therapeutic interventions included individual therapy and group therapy. Initially, Bethany was shy and withdrawn in groups, and as a result, assertiveness became an additional issue addressed in individual therapy. Bethany made significant progress through the program. As she gradually became more assertive, she also became more self-confident. She successfully obtained her first part-time job—a task she was initially apprehensive about, but

⁹ Names used in Inspiring stories are fictional.

now enjoys! She managed to catch up with all her schoolwork and pass to the next grade, despite her long period of hospitalization.

Bethany initiated a group for the girls in the COMTREA In-School Counseling Program, focusing on issues specific to teenage girls today. She also plans to begin her own support group for any teenage girls who would like to attend. Last but not least, Bethany has decided to write her story as a way to further process her issues and reach out to other teenage girls with similar issues.

Children's Advocacy Center—Protecting a Child and Her Family

After three years of enduring abuse from her father, Annie found the courage to tell her older brother about it. The Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) saw Annie the same day as her referral. She was extremely afraid during the initial meeting, but the CAC's Family Advocate was able to explain to her how she and her family would be kept safe.

Without this reassurance, Annie would not have been able to disclose the abuse she and her mother had endured for years. As a result of her interview and the subsequent investigation, her father pleaded guilty. Annie and her family are now safe and going on with their lives.

Thanks to the intervention of the CAC's resource staff, Annie's father can no longer hurt her or her family.

ST. CHARLES COUNTY	
Amount and Source:	1/8 Cent from Sales Tax
Total Amount Collected in 2015:	\$6,835,371.88
¹⁰ County Population in 2014:	379,493
¹¹ Missouri Kids Count Composite Rank:	1

Tax Approval

- **Date Passed:** November 2004
- **Tally in Favor:** 52% of votes

Tax Administration

- **Name of Administrative Entity:** The Community and Children’s Resource Board (CCRB)
- **Website:** www.stcharlescountykids.org/
- **CCRB Executive Director:** Bruce Sowatsky
- **Other Staff:** Grants Administrator and Administrative Assistant

Board of Directors

- **Selection:** Members are selected by the County Executive and approved by the County Council.
- **Term Length:** Members voluntarily serve a 3-year term with the possibility of re-appointment.
- **Current members:** Visit the CCRB webpage to learn more about current board members (see [Board of Directors](#) under the About Us section).
- **Meetings:** Scheduled monthly and open to the public. Meeting schedule, agendas and minutes are available on the CCRB webpage (see [Meetings](#) section). If interested in attending the meetings, please contact the CCRB office to confirm the specific location and time.

Application Process and Funding

- **Applying for Funds:** Funding opportunities are announced annually through the CCRB [website](#). Agencies electronically submit applications in September.
- **Review Process:** Applications are reviewed by the CCRB staff and by the Board of Directors. Agencies present their applications during a hearing in November and the Board of Directors makes funding decisions in December. Funded agencies provide services from January through December.

¹⁰ Missouri Kids Count Data Book (2016)
¹¹ Missouri Kids Count Data Book (2016) County Pages

- **Funding Period:** All grants are awarded for one year. The CCRB constantly monitors funding utilization. If agencies are projected to use 95% of their funds or higher, the CCRB generally protects 100% of their dollars for the next year. If agencies are projected to use less than 95% of their funds, the CCRB protects at least the percentage they are expected to use for the following year.



Current Programs Funded:

In partnership with 30 agencies, the CCRB partially funds 45 programs that provide services within the categories outlined by the state statute.

- **Working with Other Funds:** The CCRB has an agreement with the Department of Mental Health for two programs serving families with Medicaid (40% of the funding is provided through the Children’s Service Fund, which is matched with 60% of federal funds).

The children and families of St. Charles County have benefited tremendously from the Children’s Services Fund. To learn more about the impact of the fund visit the CCRB website. In the [Community Impact](#) section, you can find details about the impact of the funds over the past 10 years. The CCRB is committed to making data-informed decisions. For example, every two years, the CCRB conducts a needs assessment to identify strengths and gaps in current services and the estimated cost for filling those gaps. In addition, the CCRB conducts satisfaction surveys soliciting feedback from service recipients. Reports documenting the finding from the needs assessments and satisfaction surveys are available in the CCRB website (see [Publications](#) section). The following stories capture some examples of collaborations that have improved services for children and families in St. Charles County.

Inspiring Stories

Crisis Nursery—Preventing Abuse and Neglect by Providing a Safe Place for Children

In 2007, in response to the Board of Directors’ desire to expand respite services for children at-risk of child abuse and neglect, the Community & Children’s Resource Board (CCRB) initiated the planning phase of building an additional Crisis Nursery site to be located in the western portion of St. Charles County. The CCRB recognized that residents of the western portion of the County had difficulties accessing the Crisis Nurseries in the City of St. Charles and that both neighboring Lincoln and Warren Counties did not have these services available for at-risk families. Providing a safe place for children to stay for a short period of time when parents face difficult times can prevent children from experiencing abuse and neglect.

To address this need, the CCRB reached out to the local hospital owned by SSM Healthcare, which had previously provided a house at their St. Charles location. SSM Healthcare quickly

agreed to offer land on their Wentzville campus free of charge. Subsequently, the CCRB approached a local homebuilder who generously agreed to build the home at cost and getting all of his subcontractors to do likewise. This agreement allowed lowering the building costs of the new Crisis Nursery. The involvement of the Mayor of Wentzville was also instrumental in helping the CCRB navigate through Planning and Zoning to get approval from the City Council. In 2008, the Wentzville location of the Crisis Nursery was opened for service—becoming a wonderful example of collaboration and partnership. The CCRB was informed that the first child who stayed at the new nursery upon seeing the room where he would sleep exclaimed, “I am home!”.

Collaborative Agencies, Prevention Education (CAPE)—Building Successful Partnerships with Schools

When the tax passed in St. Charles County in 2004, the Board of Directors made the decision to abstain from directly funding schools or school districts. Instead, the CCRB made schools and school districts the gatekeepers for services, and no services have been approved on school campuses unless superintendents (public) or principals (private) have signed off on wanting the services. Initially, the schools were inundated with requests from social service agencies interested in providing services, while at the same time, the CCRB was concerned about duplication and unfriendly competition.

In response to these concerns, the agencies that provide prevention programming met to develop a brochure that delineated a menu of available programs, their content, and target age. The brochure, called CAPE (Collaborative Agencies, Prevention Education) is inclusive of all agencies, not only those receiving funds by the from the Children’s Services Fund. The brochure is reviewed and re-published every year, providing a partnership with the schools that avoids duplication and competition while also providing a guide for the schools.

LAFAYETTE COUNTY	
Amount and Source:	1/8 Cent from Sales Tax
Total Amount Collected in 2015:	\$310,933.09
¹²County Population in 2014:	32,688
¹³Missouri Kids Count Composite Rank:	30

Tax Approval

- **Date Passed:** April 2005
- **Tally in Favor:** 50.87% of votes

Tax Administration

- **Name of Administrative Entity:** Lafayette County Children’s Services Fund (LCCSF)
- **LCCSF Webpage:** <http://www.lccsf.org/>
- **LCCSF Executive Director:** Tiffany Dehn
- **Other Staff:** None

Board of Directors

- **Selection:** An appointed county Commissioner, who acts as a liaison between LCCSF and the county commission, makes recommendations for the appointment of Board members. If a vacancy arises, the Commissioner identifies potential board members.
- **Term Length:** Currently, there are no term limits. Board members can be reappointed.
- **Current members:** Visit the LCCSF website to learn more about current board members (see [Meetings & Board](#) section).
- **Meetings:** The Board of Directors meets once a month. Currently, meetings are held the 2nd Monday of each month. Upcoming meeting dates are listed in the LCCSF website.

Application Process and Funding

- **Applying for Funds:** The LCCSF announces funding opportunities through their website and has two funding cycles. Applicants must first submit a letter of intent followed by a full proposal. Further information on funding opportunities and how to apply for them is available on the LCCSF website (see [Proposal Requests](#) section).
- **Review Process:** Funding proposal are submitted to the LCCSF Director electronically or in person. Submitted funding proposals are forwarded by the Director to each Board member before the next board meeting for review. Applicants present their grant requests at the board meeting where each board member scores and submits a scoring sheet with questions or concerns. The Director addresses any questions or concerns with the applicants, and a report with answers is submitted to each board member. A

¹² Missouri Kids Count Data Book (2016)
¹³ Missouri Kids Count Data Book (2016) County Pages

final vote is taken at the following month's board meeting to decide which requests are approved for funding.

- **Funding Period:** All grants are awarded for one year and are eligible for renewal.



Current Programs Funded:

The LCCSF currently provides funds for 5 agencies: Compass Health, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), House of Hope, Brighter Future Consortium, and Easter Seals Midwest. Visit the LCCSF website to find more information about the services funded (see links to [Funded Partners](#) at the bottom of the homepage).

- **Working with Other Funds:** The LCCSF does not work with other funds.

The LCCSF is currently working on conducting a needs assessment to identify the most relevant needs in Lafayette County. Reports documenting the outcomes of current programs are available to the public upon request (please contact the Executive Director) and will be soon made available on the LCCSF website. The Children's Services Fund has brought about invaluable changes to Lafayette County by creating avenues for local services and facilitating access to services in rural communities. The following stories illustrate how two programs, supported by the Children's Services Fund, improved the lives of children in the County.

Inspiring Stories

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)—Advocating for the Best Interest of Children

Paul was a 15-year-old who was admitted into foster care at the age of 11 due to self-harm. His biological mother had refused to access mental health services for him and demonstrated a general lack of concern over Paul's well-being. Over the years, Paul's CASA volunteer developed a healthy, supportive relationship with him. The CASA volunteer visited Paul monthly—in all his 10 mental health treatment placements, participated in Family Support Team meetings on his behalf, and constantly monitored the services ordered. The volunteer also monitored the receipt of services by Paul's mother as a way of improving the situation which removed Paul from his home originally. The volunteer also submitted succinct reports to the Court regarding Paul's best interest. When the trial home placement with his biological mother failed for Paul, the CASA volunteer became a constant in his life.

CASA volunteers have the serious responsibility of speaking for children and their best interests. Paul hit a crossroads in his young life when he decided he no longer wanted contact with his mother. Thanks to the tenacity of the CASA volunteer, who listened to the teen, researched, and spoke on his behalf in court, an unusual order was granted in court, ceasing all visitations from Paul's mother. In a heartbeat, Paul's mental health improved immensely to the

point that he was removed from institutional care and placed in a foster home. On the day of Paul's regularly scheduled court hearing, his foster mother accompanied him to court, along with his CASA volunteer. The foster mother announced that it would be her distinct pleasure to adopt Paul, who was almost 16-year-olds—a rare occurrence for foster children this age! Now, the entire team of Children's Division, Juvenile Officers, Guardian Ad Litem, and CASA join Paul in looking forward to his forever happy home.

Brighter Futures—Supporting Children to Achieve their Full Potential

A 6th-grade student was referred to Brighter Futures. The student presented multiple concerns including difficulties succeeding in the traditional classroom setting, spending most of his time in the recovery room, engaging in aggressive behaviors, frequent school suspensions, crying, and withdrawing socially. The student was diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Brighter Futures sponsored individual sessions with a mental health provider and a Social Skills Group. The student received this support from Brighter Futures throughout his middle school and high school years. Thanks to this support, the student was able to make new, close friends. He also started playing sports like football and basketball and joined several school-based clubs. The student successfully graduated from high school with an A average! Upon graduation, the student and his family relocated to North Carolina, so that he could attend college. With the steady support of Brighter Futures, Kelly Sears (an independent contracted provider on behalf of Brighter futures), Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City (HCF), the school district, and LCCSF, this student went on a remarkable journey, from not being able to sit in a traditional classroom to graduating high school with an A average and attending college.

LINCOLN COUNTY	
Amount and Source:	1/4 Cent from Sales Tax
Total Amount Collected in 2015:	\$ 1,192,370.12
¹⁴County Population in 2014:	54,249
¹⁵Missouri Kids Count Composite Rank:	11

Tax Approval

- **Date Passed:** 2006
- **Tally in Favor:** 51.17% of votes

Tax Administration

- **Name of Administrative Entity:** Lincoln County Resource Board (LCRB)
- **Webpage:** www.lincolncountykids.org/
- **LCRB Executive Director:** Cheri Winchester
- **Other Staff:** None

Board of Directors

- **Selection:** The Lincoln County Commissioners appoint board members.
- **Term Length:** Board members are appointed for three-year-terms, and can be re-appointed at the discretion of the County Commissioners.
- **Current members:** Visit the LCRB website to learn more about current board members (see [Board of Directors](#) section).
- **Meetings:** Board meetings are held monthly on the fourth Wednesday. The LCRB website has more information about the board meetings (see [Meetings](#) section).

Application Process and Funding

- **Applying for Funds:** Funding opportunities are announced at Board meetings and published on the LCRB website. For more information on funding, visit the LCRB [Funding Information](#) page.
- **Review Process:** The Selection & Review Committee meets several times (typically four times per year) to review and discuss proposals while considering utilization history, the community needs assessment, school-based assessment, providers’ clinical outcomes reports, and more. Potential funders and providers are often invited to present their proposals to the Board. The Selection & Review Committee takes the recommended proposals to the Finance Committee for approval, and then, to the Board of Directors for approval.

¹⁴ Missouri Kids Count Data Book (2016)

¹⁵ Missouri Kids Count Data Book (2016) County Pages

- **Funding Period:** All grants are awarded for one year, and recipients are required to re-apply every year.



Current Programs Funded:

The LCRB currently funds 12 non-profit agencies that provide direct treatment services, early intervention, and prevention programming to address behavioral and mental health needs. In 2017, the LCRB will fund 10 non-profit agencies. For more information on currently funded programs, visit the LCRB website (see [Contracted Agencies](#) section).

- **Working with Other Funds:** The LCRB has a Medicaid tax match program with Crider Health Center and Family Advocacy and Community Training (FACT).

The Children’s Services Fund has been instrumental in creating a collaborative system of care through partnerships among funded providers, schools, law enforcement agencies, and the greater health and charitable systems. This tax has changed the way in which children’s mental and behavioral health needs are addressed in Lincoln County. Local funds, for local children with local oversight, has allowed Lincoln County to infuse more than \$1 million annually into evidence-based, outcomes-producing programs and services that are changing the lives of children and their families. The following section presents two stories illustrating how the Children’s Services Fund has radically improved the outcomes of children living in Lincoln County.

Inspiring Stories¹⁶

Catholic Family Services (CFS)—Supporting Children to Face their Challenges

Malinda was in her junior year in high school when her school guidance counselor recommended her to visit CFS. She was suffering from depression, anxiety, family difficulties, and had been a victim of an unreported crime. Malinda had been engaging in self-harming and risky behaviors. Her grades had fallen, and she would frequently cry—sometimes in the classroom and often at home alone. She denied using drugs or alcohol and indicated she was once considered to be a “good kid,” but that was a “long time ago.” Malinda met consistently with one of the counselors at CFS, and it was during one of the sessions that she shared an extremely painful experience that had a direct impact on her life and her current choices and behaviors.

At CFS, Malinda was provided with numerous resources and encouraged to be proactive in confronting the issue and the challenges it presented. In a recent session, Malinda informed the

¹⁶ Names used in inspiring stories are fictional.

counselor that “the good kid is back.” She finished last semester with all A’s on her report card, has been accepted into the college of her choice and awarded a full scholarship. Malinda is once again involved in school activities, is no longer self-harming or participating in risky behaviors. Malinda has recently indicated that she feels drawn to a helping profession and may want to become a counselor.

Presbyterian Children’s Homes and Services (PCHAS)—Serving Children to Achieve their Goals

Brian was a child who had severe impulse control issues. He was physically aggressive with his little sister and mother. During his first visit to PCHAS, his assigned counselor worked with Brian and his mother to develop a plan to help him achieve his goals. The plan included coping skills to stay calm in stressful situations, learn social skills, and create a daily routine of getting ready for school and going to bed. During the last year, his counselor has witnessed an extraordinary change in Brian. He very rarely loses control of his impulses anymore and no longer hits his sister or mother. Brian is also performing great in school, and his newly learned social skills have helped Brian in getting along better with his classmates. Brian’s mother has managed to create a mutually agreeable routine for Brian—who goes to bed and wakes up on time now. As a result of his hard work, Brian can now play together with his little sister, follow instructions, and have a stronger and better relationship with his family.

FRANKLIN COUNTY	
Amount and Source:	1/4 Cent from Sales Tax
Total Amount Collected in 2015:	\$3,010,657.65
¹⁷County Population in 2014:	102,084
¹⁸Missouri Kids Count Composite Rank:	24

Tax Approval

- **Date Passed:** November 2008
- **Tally in Favor:** 59.17% of votes

Tax Administration

- **Name of Administrative Entity:** Franklin County Community Resource Board (FCCRB)
- **Webpage:** www.franklincountykids.org
- **FCCRB Executive Director:** Annie Foncannon
- **Other Staff:** None

Board of Directors

- **Selection:** Generally when an opening is available, the County Commission asks for suggestions from current board members and community partners.
- **Term Length:** Board members serve 3-year-terms with a third of the board up for renewal or replacement annually.
- **Current members:** Visit the FCCRB website to learn more about current board members (see [Meet the Board](#) section).
- **Meetings:** The Board meets monthly. Information about upcoming meetings is available on the FCCRB website (see [Meetings](#) section)

Application Process and Funding

- **Applying for Funds:** Funding availability is announced in the Missourian newspaper in the legal notifications and emailed out to several provider groups, including the Franklin County System of Care and the Franklin County Service Providers. Agencies proposing a new program are required to submit a concept paper, and if determined eligible, a full application for funding. For information on funding, please visit the FCCRB website (see [Funding](#) section)
- **Review Process:** The Executive Director presents an initial recommendation of potential application to the Selection and Review Committee with notes about any concerns. Starting in 2016, only new programs or programs with a potential reduction in

¹⁷ Missouri Kids Count Data Book (2016)
¹⁸ Missouri Kids Count Data Book (2016) County Pages

funding are invited to present their proposal. The Selection and Review Committee makes funding decisions based on the needs assessment, information collected from the school districts, and partnering agencies. The Selection and Review Committee, then, makes funding recommendations to the Board of Directors for approval.

- **Funding Period:** All contracts are awarded for one calendar year and are eligible for renewal annually.



Current Programs Funded:

Some examples of the programs currently funded by the FCCRB include: psychiatry, counseling and therapy, parent support services and skill building, prevention programs (e.g., bullying-teasing, substance abuse, sexual abuse, resiliency skill building, teen dating violence), respite and crisis care, pregnant and parenting teen services, case management, etc. For more information on currently funded programs, visit the FCCRB [Funded Partners](#) website.

- **Working with Other Funds:** The FCCRB works with the communities' Department of Mental Health provider to leverage dollars through a Medicaid Match.

The FCCRB conducts a community assessment and gap analysis every 5 years and monitors key program outcome indicators on an annual basis. Also, the Board of Directors and the Executive Director annually receive feedback from superintendents and school personnel about current programs and emerging needs. Before the Children's Services Tax, there were very limited services available to the youth of Franklin County. Thanks to this fund, children and their families now have better access to core mental health services, and almost all school-aged children are benefiting from the prevention programs delivered through the schools. The following stories provide a glimpse on how the tax has improved the lives of children and families in Franklin County.

Inspiring Stories

Strong Systems of Care for Families Needing Services

From the very beginning, the Putting Kids First Children's Services Fund, overseen by the FCCRB, has put an emphasis on developing community resources to build and sustain a comprehensive mental health system of care for children and families in Franklin County. These programs and services are dedicated to supporting youth and their families in the community in a manner that is individualized and best supports the family. With guidance from the FCCRB, the service providers of Franklin County have developed a strong System of Care that meets on a monthly basis in order to work on barriers to families receiving services. This dedicated group includes management from Children's Division, the Juvenile Office, School Districts, and

children's services organizations that represent mental health, drug and alcohol addiction services, child welfare, developmental disabilities, etc. Over the course of the last nine years, this group has been able to rewrite the relationships that were once carved in stone and created collaborative partnerships. The Franklin County System of Care not only works to break down barriers but also with the family at the lead, staffs cases of youth, where parents and partner organizations are at a loss of what to do.

Franklin County Task Forces and Cross Trainings' Coordinated Efforts

Another example of capacity building in the community, with the guidance of the FCCRB, is the establishment of various task forces to address targeted issues. The Franklin County Hunger Task Force coordinates food pantries and food distribution throughout the county to families in need. The Permanency Summit works with the child welfare agencies in order to find permanency for children placed in alternative or foster placements in a timely manner. The Homelessness Task Force brings resources to the county. Various cross-trainings have allowed for child-serving frontline staff from across the spectrum of services to receive the best practice information at the same time and place, such that everyone has a sound baseline understanding. These cross-trainings, typically conducted in institutes in the spring and fall, have become a way for staff from varying organizations to meet and break down communication and barriers to get fresh ideas on how to better serve families and youth in need.

Franklin County in a short time has gone from a community, where agencies worked independently, to one where there are coordinated efforts to put best practices in place in order to best serve the children, youth, and families of the community.

ST. LOUIS COUNTY	
Amount and Source:	1/4 Cent from Sales Tax
Total Amount Collected in 2015:	\$42,462,149.76
¹⁹ County Population in 2014:	1,001,876
²⁰ Missouri Kids Count Composite Rank:	8

Tax Approval

- **Date Passed:** November 2008
- **Tally in Favor:** 61.54% of votes

Tax Administration

- **Name of Administrative Entity:** St. Louis County Children’s Service Fund (CSF)
- **CSF Webpage:** www.stlouisco.com/csf/AboutUs
- **CSF Executive Director:** Connie J. Cunningham
- **Other Staff:** Director of Programs, Director of Administration, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Community Outreach Coordinator, Communications and Government Affairs Coordinator, Assistant to the Executive Director, Business Systems Analyst, Program Associates, and Accountants.

Board of Directors

- **Selection:** Board members are appointed by the County Executive with recommendations from the Executive Director.
- **Term Length:** Members voluntarily serve 3-year terms with the possibility of re-appointment.
- **CSF Current members:** Visit CSF’s website to learn more about current board members (see [Board of Directors](#) section). CSF is in the process of Board strategic planning. This will be a feature on CSF’s website in 2017.
- **Meetings:** The board meets monthly—every third Wednesday of the month. For information about meeting documents and location, visit CSF’s website (see [Board Meetings](#) section).

Application Process and Funding

- **Applying for Funds:** CSF maintains a mailing list of all agency inquiries made via CSF’s website, community meetings or by phone. An email announcing the availability of the request for proposals (RFP) is sent to this mailing list as well as to all agencies

¹⁹ Missouri Kids Count Data Book (2016)
²⁰ Missouri Kids Count Data Book (2016) County Pages

previously funded by CSF. Requests for proposals are also published on CSF’s website and local news outlets throughout the St. Louis Region.

- **Review Process:** All complete applications are reviewed and ranked by CSF staff and external reviewers. A written summary of the application, including funding recommendations, is provided to the board, which reviews the material prior to allocations of award funding.
- **Funding Period:** Currently, CSF has a two-year funding cycle.
- **Current Programs Funded:** The current Board’s priorities include: prevention programming, bullying including cyber-bullying, early identification, prevention, and treatment of substance use and abuse, expanding access for counseling services, and positive youth development.



Current Programs Funded:

The current Board’s priorities include: prevention programming, bullying including cyber-bullying, early identification, prevention, and treatment of substance use and abuse, expanding access for counseling services, and positive youth development.

- **Working with Other Funds:** CSF currently works with other funds. CSF collaborates with other tax funds and local, state, and federal government around priority areas and emerging trends.

The St. Louis County Children’s Service Fund undertakes community needs assessments every 3 years to determine the impact of previous investments, identify future funding priorities, and to capture the current landscape of behavioral health in the community. The comprehensive data collected through the needs assessments informs funding decisions and strategies. Results from the needs assessments are published in a report which is available on CSF’s website (see [Documents](#) section). The Children’s Services Tax has allowed St. Louis County to stabilize funding allocations through clear, concise policies, procedures, and practices. The following stories provide some examples of the programs funded through CSF in St. Louis County.

Inspiring Stories

Every Child’s Hope—Helping Children in their Quest for Health

Dan was a 15-year-old, who was every parent’s dream child. He had straight A’s, went to a prestigious school, excelled at sports, and was very good-natured, but something suddenly changed. When he first visited Every Child’s Hope, Dan had been dealing with gradually worsening depression with psychotic features for 1 to 2 years. For him and his parents, the last 2 years had been a nightmare—multiple hospitalizations and at least one night in juvenile hold for aggression toward family members. He also chronically battled suicidal thoughts because he

went from being such a high-achieving, young man to someone who was unable to function and was constantly tortured by his own thoughts. His anxiety was so severe that he could not walk into any public place. He began seeing Every Child's Hope and gradually became more stable with fewer hallucinations, less paranoid delusions, and less anxiety. It took some time, but now, he is doing far better than his counselors ever imagined. He is finishing high school, taking college classes, and establishing a social life. He hopes one day to become a therapist or a counselor, and now has the capabilities to do so.

Family Empowerment Program—Supporting Parents to Achieve their Goals

Funding from the St. Louis County Children's Service Fund helped the Saint Louis Crisis Nursery to expand and enrich the Family Empowerment Program (FEP) in 2016. The nursery strengthened its parenting education efforts by adopting a new evidence-based curriculum called Nurturing Parenting. Social workers use the curriculum on home visits, in monthly parent education groups, and the accompanying children's program. In addition to this focus on parenting, social workers continue to provide home-based case management and therapeutic counseling for families, who have used the nursery for respite, but desire long-term support from the agency. The St. Louis Children's Services Fund also contributed to the nursery's expansion of the Latino Outreach Program, including funding 10 outreach events at St. Louis County churches since March. More than 230 people received food, clothing, diapers, referrals, and needs assessments at these events. Thanks to the St. Louis County Children's Service Fund, about 300 Latino clients have received case management services in Spanish, and 24 have received Spanish-language mental health counseling. In addition, the Latino program and the FEP's English-speaking clients met together at 10 parent groups throughout the year, providing a unique opportunity for cross-cultural interaction and understanding. This year, the St. Louis County Children's Services Fund allowed the Family Empowerment Program to continue to serve as an important safety net with the goal of preventing child abuse and neglect, minimizing stress and isolation, and empowering families to achieve their goals.

BOONE COUNTY	
Amount and Source:	1/4 Cent from Sales Tax
Total Amount Collected in 2015:	\$6,617,337
²¹ County Population in 2014:	172,717
²² Missouri Kids Count Composite Rank:	9

Tax Approval

- **Date Passed:** November 2012
- **Tally in Favor:** 57% of votes

Tax Administration

- **Name of Administrative Entity:** Boone County Children’s Services Board (BCCSB)
- **BCCSB Webpage:** www.showmeboone.com/communityservices/
- **BCCSB Executive Director:** Kelly Wallis
- **Other Staff:** Program Manager, Program Specialist, and Administrative Assistant

Board of Directors

- **Selection:** Boone County has an application and interview process conducted by the County Commissioners. Applications are available in the BCCSB website.
- **Term Length:** Members serve 3-year terms. The board terms are staggered such that three positions are available to applicants each year.
- **Current members:** Visit the BCCSB website to learn more about current board members (see [Members](#) section under Children’s Services heading).
- **Meetings:** The Board meets once a month or more often if needed. A list of scheduled meetings for this year is available in the BCCSB website.

Application Process and Funding

- **Applying for Funds:** Funding availability is announced through the Boone County Purchasing Department. Please complete the vendor registration form to receive updates about funding opportunities (see [Purchasing](#) section).
- **Review Process:** Potential applications are reviewed and selected by BCCSB. The review process includes an individual board member review, committee work session review and scoring, staff review, written clarification requests, organization interviews, and a full board review.
- **Funding Period:** Most awards are typically for one year with the possibility of renewals. Some awards may be for one-time funding for strategic innovation opportunities or contingency for exigent circumstances with no renewals.

²¹ Missouri Kids Count Data Book (2016)
²² Missouri Kids Count Data Book (2016) County Pages

- **Current Programs Funded:** A comprehensive list with descriptions of current programs funded is available on the BCCSB website.



Current Programs Funded:

A comprehensive list with descriptions of current programs funded is available on the BCCSB website.

- **Working with Other Funds:** the BCCSB is currently matching federal funds for a program benefiting the Supplemental Nutrition Program (SNAP) and Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) recipients.

The BCCSB has taken a proactive approach in identifying and addressing the needs of children and families in Boone County. During the first year of implementing the Children’s Services Fund, the BCCSB commissioned a report to identify the needs of the community and has funded programs that offer services to improve the areas identified needs (i.e., access, education, and systems/structures). Following a targeted approach has led to increased collaborations among providers and funders, which has resulted in the development and implementation of effective programs. The following stories provide some examples of fruitful collaborations that have changed the way in which youth needs are addressed in Boone County.

Inspiring Stories

School Checklist—Making Data-Driven Decisions

The Boone County Schools Mental Health Coalition is a multidisciplinary collaboration among the six independent districts in Boone County and The University of Missouri. The Coalition was established to promote the social, emotional, and behavioral health of school-age children in the County through a collaborative initiative rooted in data-driven, scientifically supported approaches to assessment and prevention. The Coalition created a checklist that is completed by teachers and students. The checklist captures indicators strongly associated with youth mental health, including attention and academic competence, peer relations and social skills, internalizing behaviors, and self-regulation and externalizing behaviors. This checklist is completed three times per year (fall, winter, and spring) by all Boone County School Districts and one private school—providing data for more than 25,000 students. The data collected through the checklist is used to understand mental health needs at different levels (from individual students to the whole county) and direct informed, evidence-based interventions at each of these levels.

To learn more about the Coalition visit their website at: bcschoolsmh.org

Family Access Center of Excellence (FACE) of Boone County—Expanding Access and Improving Service Quality

FACE is a center intended to improve access to high quality social, emotional, and behavioral health services for families who live in Boone County. FACE provides comprehensive services for all youth (0 to 19 years) and their families using a strengths-based family systems approach. FACE is characterized by seven key components: 1) provide a single point of entry that unconditionally accepts walk-ins and referrals from any source; 2) engage families by having well-trained and licensed mental health professionals; 3) conduct comprehensive assessments of youth and family risk factors, including areas of strengths and needs; 4) rely on information collected during assessments to develop action plans for families which are strength-based and tailored to the youth and family; 5) continuously monitor progress and eliminate barriers to services; 6) ensure quality of services by documenting and monitoring progress through an integrated information management system; and 7) promote prevention and intervention services that follow a comprehensive and integrative approach. All residents of Boone County have free access to the services provided by FACE.

To learn more about FACE visit their website at: faceofboonecounty.org

The University of Missouri Bridge Program: School-Based Psychiatry—Bridging the Gap in Psychiatric Care

The University of Missouri Bridge Program is improving the psychiatric treatment of children in Boone County by facilitating access. The University of Missouri psychiatrists and two University of Missouri nurse managers work together with school counselors to assist families of children in need of care. Children enrolled in the program receive an initial psychiatric evaluation with a child psychiatrist, prescriptions for medication as needed, and two to three follow-up appointments—all free of charge. In addition, the nurse managers actively work with school staff and parents to ensure that children have ongoing care after completing the University of Missouri Bridge program. This program is improving children's access to psychiatric treatment by providing timely psychiatrist appointments, facilitating the communication between psychiatrists, schools, and families and removing barriers to care.

To learn more about The University of Missouri Bridge Program visit their website at: medicine.missouri.edu/psychiatry/bridge-program.html

JACKSON COUNTY	
Amount and Source:	1/8 Cent from Sales Tax
²³County Population in 2014:	683,191
²⁴Missouri Kids Count Composite Rank:	89

Tax Information

- **Date Passed:** November 2016
- **Tally in Favor:** 59% of votes
- **Tax Webpage:** www.jacksongov.org/childrensfund
- **Projections:** The tax was passed with a sunset clause to run for seven years, and it is projected to raise 12 to 15 million annually²⁵

²³ Missouri Kids Count Data Book (2016)

²⁴ Missouri Kids Count Data Book (2016) County Pages

²⁵ The Kansas City Star <http://www.kansascity.com/news/politics-government/election/article113522043.html>