



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2011		DATE: 3/14/2024	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KRISTEN SLAUGHTER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: kslaughter@bbbsemo.org		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/13/2024 6:54 PM

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SYNOPSIS OF REQUEST – Big Brothers Big Sisters ABCToday program
 Current Allocation for ABCToday- \$1,000,000 • \$500,000 to historic appropriation • Additional \$500,000 in FY24 to support new enhancements to ABCToday Model • Enhancements included 2 schools under the modern model and 2 new districts/schools with mentoring expansion.*Critical positions hired with funding: • ABCToday Network Manager • Group Mentoring Manager • Mentoring Manager for 1-to-1 or 1-by-1 • Student/Family Advocate (Navigation/Resources) • Development + Activity Coordinator • ABCToday Data Specialist
 Total Ask for FY2025 for ABCToday- \$1,500,000 – representing a \$500k increase to our core. • The Governor has requested our current \$1mil for FY25 • We are requesting an additional \$500,000 to support new enhancements to ABCToday Model for a total of \$1,500,000. • This will be our last request for increase for a minimum of 4 years. • BBBS has strived and as of yet, never failed, at achieving a 1:1 match on government appropriations and private donations. • This expansion will be for the enhanced model in 2 new districts/schools with mentoring expansion in rural, suburban and urban areas.



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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: SAL MARTINEZ		PHONE NUMBER: 314-333-5622
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: EMPLOYMENT CONNECTION		TITLE: CEO
ADDRESS: 2838 MARKET STREET		
CITY: ST. LOUIS	STATE: MO	ZIP: 63103
EMAIL: smartinez@employmentstl.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/14/2024 9:49 AM

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<https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fbit.ly%2f3IEi1w&c=E,1,ZTzy5vv1chQA6A-OGLZtpXq2jLfG89sgWsx0wOGFALUOwwwNHUijKIGZkCyUYpRLIMdeHtXynhtEqGNAICLFWIGOmStNmRRd3ZLNBWKL7d19VflbkDidr7E&typo=1> am speaking in support of HB 2011. Employment Connection is requesting that the committee maintain our current level of funding at \$1 million from TANF. We are also requesting a one-time appropriation of \$250,000 from General Revenue for our partnership with the Incarnate Word Foundation for the Dutchtown Opportunity Coalition for Youth "DOCY" programming. With over 45 years of experience in serving individuals with barriers to employment, Employment Connection (EC) provides specialized services that promote success, self-sufficiency and economic competitiveness for our customers. EC is an agency with extensive experience providing job readiness training and supportive services to vulnerable populations. In the past two fiscal years Employment Connection has been able to leverage the State of Missouri's investment to attract additional support from foundations, corporations, and individual donors. The State of Missouri's investment, allowing Employment Connection's demonstration of credibility and effectiveness toward other funders, has had a direct impact on strategically allocating resources and creating a sustainable funding model for programs. The State of Missouri's investment into the Dutchtown Opportunity Coalition For Youth (DOCY) has allowed over 650 Greater Dutchtown Youth to attend more than 50 events either hosted or attended by DOCY staff. This has led to 129 clients aged 10-17 to enroll in the DOCY program and engage in activities with educational or employment opportunities to divert these young people from the cycles of poverty, violence and illegal activity that disproportionately affects them in their neighborhoods. Employment Program Outcomes 2021-2023• 1,242 clients employed through our employment programs• 42% maintained employment for at least 90 days• \$15.29 average hourly wage as of 2023 Behavioral Health Program Outcomes 2021-2023• 2,655 hours dedicated to client intakes and behavioral health counseling DOCY Program Outcomes 2023• 123 actively engaged DOCY clients in Dutchtown, Gravois Park, and Mount Pleasant• 652 South Side youth engaged at over 50 events organized or attended by DOCY staff Reducing Recidivism Through Employment• Justice-involved Employment Connection clients have a 3% rate of re-offense according to University of Missouri-Columbia's Evaluation of 39 Statewide Agencies Receiving Department of Corrections Community Reentry Funding in 2015-2016• Similar clients at other agencies had a recidivism rate of 15%



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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: WILLIAM B BATES		PHONE NUMBER: 816-868-0297
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: LEADINGAGE MISSOURI		TITLE: CEO
ADDRESS: 3412 KNIPP DR, SUITE 102		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65109
EMAIL: billbates@leadingagemissouri.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/13/2024 4:56 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

LeadingAge Missouri (LA MO) is an association of 130 non-profit senior living and healthcare communities across Missouri delivering the full continuum of aging services to Missourians. Many LA MO members operate skilled nursing facilities (SNFs), which care for hundreds of older Missourians qualified for Medicaid benefits from MO HealthNet. The cost of caring for these Missouri seniors has escalated greatly in recent years, and MO HealthNet reimbursement to SNFs has not kept pace. Many SNFs are reimbursed at rates below the cost of care provided to Medicaid beneficiaries— on average Missouri SNFs are reimbursed \$35 per patient per day below average care costs. This treatment of MO SNFs (and by extension older Missourians) is both unacceptable and unsustainable. LA MO members appreciate the General Assembly’s past SNF Medicaid rate rebasing and rate increases but current rates are based on pre-COVID 2019 state cost reports. COVID and inflation - especially workforce cost inflation - have dramatically increased the cost of caregiving. This has caused Missouri SNFs to close while others are downsizing their Medicaid beds in an effort to survive. Missouri’s SNF average reimbursement rate (\$205) is the Nation’s lowest, and Missouri’s SNF reimbursement compares poorly to contiguous states (ranging from \$280 to \$246). The Missouri SNF reimbursement/cost gap must be narrowed. SNF providers need at least a cost of care rate increase that covers current costs. LA MO urges the members of the House Budget Committee to amend House Bill 11 to deliver cost-covering Medicaid reimbursement to Missouri SNFs, which care for the State’s most vulnerable citizens.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: BILL NICHOLS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: nichols4848@sbcglobal.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/13/2024 7:58 PM

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I object to these 17 bills because public input should have occurred weeks ago. The Public getting notice of one hearing on all 17 spending bills the day before deliberations is dysfunctional government (no surprise there with the GOP super-majority), especially after advocacy groups, lawmakers, and other individuals have already been able to comment on the bills.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/14/2024 12:19 AM

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Did you cut ALL Government Waste, Abuse and Cut Programs that are NOT working for Missourians?



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: COURTNEY CURTIS		PHONE NUMBER: 314-687-0569
REPRESENTING: 100 BLACK MEN OF METROPOLITAN ST. LOUIS		TITLE: PRINCIPZL
ADDRESS: 4433 PERSHING AVENUE, APT 103		
CITY: ST. LOUIS	STATE: MO	ZIP: 63108
EMAIL: courtney@strategicprogress.xyz	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/14/2024 9:38 AM

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Chairman and Committee, I Courtney Curtis, registered lobbyist for the 100 Black men of Metropolitan St. Louis would like to humbly request appropriation in the amount of \$620,000 for a non-profit 501(c) (3) community based organization that operates Project Rebound with a focus on building leaders that you would want to follow, improving our community with Project Rebound through focusing on mentoring at risk youth and returning citizens, while working to improve their health and wellness, providing access to skill based education and economic development, improving the quality of life in our communities and enhancing educational and economic opportunities for all.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: HEATHER HARGROVE		PHONE NUMBER: 573-999-0529	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: FEEDING MISSOURI; HARVESTERS–THE COMMUNITY FOOD NETWORK; OZARKS FOOD HARVEST; ST. LOUIS AREA FOODBANK; SECOND HARVEST COMMUNITY FOOD BANK; SOUTHEAST MISSOURI FOOD BANK; THE FOOD BANK FOR CENTRAL		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 2306 BLUFF CREEK DRIVE			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65201
EMAIL: kim@feedingmissouri.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/14/2024 4:13 PM

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Dear Esteemed Members of the House Budget Committee: On behalf of the six regional Feeding Missouri food banks and the over 1,200 community and faith-based partners providing emergency hunger-relief to Missourians, we urge this committee to fully fund the budget necessary for DSS to implement the Summer EBT program in our state. As many of you are aware, the summer months can be financially challenging for Missouri families struggling to make ends meet. Food banks routinely experience an increase in demand from families with children during the summer months, when the loss of school meals and higher utility bills reduce resources for food. The Summer EBT program offers an effective intervention to prevent food insecurity among children during the summer. For many children in low-income households, the end of the school year marks the end of consistent and reliable meals and nutrients necessary for them to thrive. This abrupt disruption can lead to a decline in nutritional intake, which can cause physical and mental health problems and lead to poor educational performance when school begins again in the fall. Summer EBT provides several benefits for consideration by the committee: Nutritional Security: The program directly combats child hunger and food insecurity, which unfortunately rises during the summer months. Education Outcomes: Proper nutrition is linked to better education outcomes. Children who are well-nourished during the summer return to school ready to learn. Economic Impact: By providing funds for families to spend on food, the program presents an opportunity to boost local economies and build a more resilient local food system. Choosing to support Summer EBT is a wise investment in our community's future and the estimated 429,000 children in Missouri that would be eligible for the Summer EBT program. By approving the budget for implementing this program you can help ensure that children have a hunger-free summer and return to school well-nourished and ready to learn. We would also like to offer the assistance of Feeding Missouri to this committee and the state agencies responsible for ensuring the execution and success of this program. Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely, Heather Hargrove Executive Director Harvesters–The Community Food Network Ozarks Food Harvest St. Louis Area Foodbank Second Harvest Community Food Bank Southeast Missouri Food Bank The Food Bank for Central & Northeast Missouri

CC: Robert Knodell, Director of the Department of Social Services



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: KIMBERLY MCKINNEY		PHONE NUMBER: 314-757-5242	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: HABITAT FOR HUMANITY SAINT LOUIS		TITLE: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER	
ADDRESS: 3830 SOUTH GRAND BLVD			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63118
EMAIL: kimberly@habitatstl.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/14/2024 9:32 AM	

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Since its founding in 1986, Habitat for Humanity Saint Louis has completed over 400 homes in partnership with families in need of safe, affordable housing in St. Louis City and St. Louis County. Habitat Saint Louis believes in a world where everyone has a decent place to live and is dedicated to eliminating substandard housing. Habitat Saint Louis works towards that goal with a comprehensive program in which hard-working St. Louis families invest their time in to building and purchasing their own home. While Habitat Saint Louis is an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, national funding represents less than 5% of the total budget – and proudly, 85 cents of every dollar raised goes directly into programming defined as home construction, volunteer mobilization and partner family selection/education. Half of renters in the St Louis region are cost burdened meaning too many people spend a disproportionate amount of the income on rent, leaving little left over for childcare, medical needs, and education. Statistics show that more than half of all rental units in the St. Louis region are occupied by people who pay more than 30% of their income toward rent. The average person accepted into the Habitat Saint Louis program lives on \$33,000 before taxes and has a household of 4 people. In 2023, the funds allocated by the State of Missouri allowed Habitat Saint Louis to invest in efficiencies that make it possible to build more homes and serve more families. Additionally, funds were leveraged with private dollars for each of the programmatic activities listed previously - construction materials, mobilization of volunteers and both the selection and education of partner families. Nine homes, following the traditional Habitat model, were under construction in The Gate District and Lookaway Summit, both in St. Louis City. Additionally, Habitat Saint Louis took on the role as general contractor and lead agency for a collaborative project with three smaller community organizations for the construction of 18 additional homes. Recognizing that having the ability to stay in a home is equally important, Habitat Saint Louis started a home repair program to address small repairs, code violations, weatherization, and energy efficiency concerns for low-income homeowners through St. Louis. The demand for these services has been overwhelming. Realizing this is likely a need that extends beyond the St. Louis region; Habitat Saint Louis is also working diligently to document programmatic information that could be utilized in other areas. The funding request for 2024 represents a strong need and desire to serve more families in need – whether by increasing organizational capacity by owning equipment that is currently rented which can sometimes result in costly delays, enhancing volunteer training that prepares much needed Construction Leaders, or by in actual construction dollars, leverage with private funds.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN GIBSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: Onesuegibson@protonmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/14/2024 6:10 AM

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A public hearing at this point is hardly actionable or meaningful. This hearing is two months overdue.