



2023-2024 IMPACT REPORT

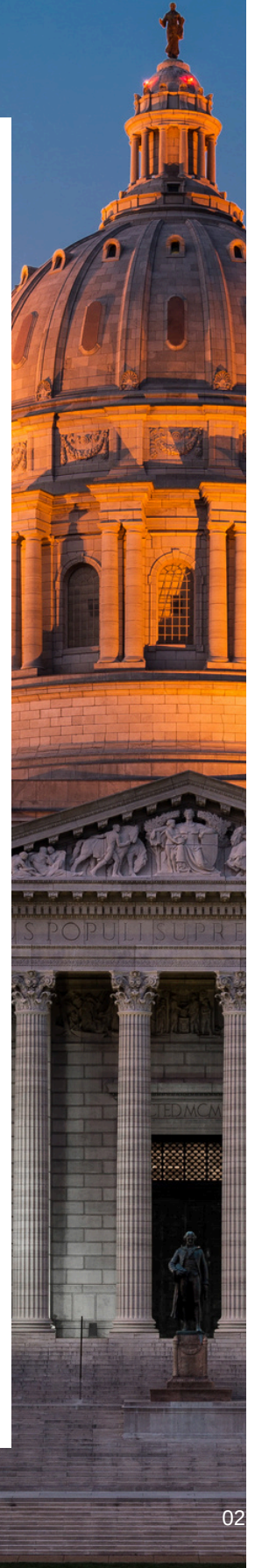


PEOPLE-POWERED

POLICY CHANGE

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From the Executive Director

Dear Friends:

I'm big on milestones. Policy work requires the willingness to hunker down and commit to projects over many years and legislative cycles, knowing that there is often a great deal of education that must happen with community members and lawmakers before substantive policy change occurs. If you don't stop and celebrate the milestones along the way, it can be hard to keep going. At the end of June, we wrapped up a three-year strategic plan (my first strategic plan as ED here at Empower), and I'm so excited to issue this report and share not only our progress over the last year, but some major organizational achievements over the last three years. We've substantially grown our staff, our board, our coalitions, and our training programs, all in service of advancing anti-poverty policy in Missouri. Check out pages 2 and 3 to get all of the details!

We are embarking on a new strategic plan as our state and our country prepare to swear in new administrations in a matter of weeks, and I've never been more convinced of the importance of our collective work than I am in this moment. It seems very possible that the incoming federal administration could make devastating cuts to social safety net programs at the federal level, plunging millions more American families into the pit of poverty. Empower will be on the frontlines, defending these programs and organizing our communities to fight back against policies that would crater the working class.

These actions will be extremely important, and we encourage all of our partners to join us in committing to standing alongside families earning low incomes across Missouri. To paraphrase civil rights leader Fannie Lou Hammer, no one is safe until we're all safe. And now, more than ever, we must protect each other.

We are living in a time of fear, anger, and division. It would be easy to close ranks around ourselves and our loved ones and to cut out folks who have different worldviews, blaming them for the problems that we're facing. We live in a society that is racially, socioeconomically, and ideologically segregated. We must continue to seek to break down these artificial barriers and be willing to listen to others who do not share our life experiences. **Empathy is the key to long-term change.** When we build community with our neighbors, we see that there is far more that unites us than that which divides us. This is the key to building the power necessary to rise up against the corporations and billionaires who are really calling the shots in this country and hoarding wealth while millions suffer around them, day in and day out. We outnumber them, and we can defeat them, but not if we're busy squabbling amongst ourselves. Don't get distracted. Eyes on the prize.

With determination, and in solidarity,

Mallory Rusch

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Advocates gathered at the Capitol for the 2024 Day of Action - we are stronger, together!

HOW FAR WE'VE COME

Reflections on Our Last Strategic Plan

Our current fiscal year, 2024-2025 has marked the start of a new strategic plan and new goals for the organization. But before we get to that, it's important to look back and reflect on our accomplishments, and the incredible community that got us here.

When we set our last strategic plan in 2021, major goals emerged: ambitious growth of our coalitions and their influence throughout the state, majorly expanding opportunities for individuals to get involved in our work, launching a fee-for-service model to improve the programs we can offer our partners, and growing our staff to meet the needs of the growing organization.

OUR GROWING NETWORK



The growth of the organization as a whole over these past few years is a direct result of the work set in motion by our 2022 Strategic Planning Committee. Today, our coalition membership has nearly doubled and includes members representing over 160 zip codes across Missouri. Our members and staff are regularly sought out for input by the media, lawmakers, and partners in the Capitol and nonprofit organizations throughout the state have utilized Empower's educational programs to train their staff and expand their own advocacy capacity. Our Board is at capacity with 16 members and three active committees leading our growth. Our emails reach over 5,000 active subscribers, and our social media following has grown to over 8,000 across our platforms.

With the addition of a second Criminal Justice Policy Manager coming in 2025, we will have two full-time staff



Advocates gathered at the Capitol during the Day of Action to make their voices heard!

members working on each of our priority issue areas, allowing us to substantially expand our focus and take on more issues in each area. Our policy team is actively working to improve our state's policies at every stage: building relationships with lawmakers, researching solutions to our state's most challenging issues, helping draft legislation, and working in the Capitol to support bills through the legislative process.

OUR GROWING PROGRAMS



Possibly the biggest accomplishment of the last few years, and the launch point for many of our plans in the coming years, is solidifying our place in the nonprofit sector within Missouri. Empower Missouri's long-term vision is for every nonprofit operating in Missouri to engage in advocacy on some level. Many of our new initiatives have focused on expanding what we can offer our nonprofit partners, and how we can support their advocacy efforts.

Our Membership Program, rebranding this year as the **Advocacy Alliance**, now offers a suite of training options and on-demand resources to maximize our collective impact. Our Advocacy Partners Program, now rebranded as the **Advocacy Accelerator**, has graduated advocates from 20 organizations, with our cohorts growing each year. We also offer personalized training sessions, and are consistently working with partners to learn about their needs and strengthen our programs to meet them.

In addition to what we can offer nonprofit partners, we have expanded opportunities for Missourians to get involved in advocacy at the individual level. We launched the first year of the **Advocates Book Club**, offering our supporters the opportunity to learn more about the issues we are facing and build community with other advocates.

We also host three annual signature events. Our annual conference, held for over 120 years, is now known as the **Anti-Poverty Advocates Summit**, and brings nonprofit professionals and other advocates from around the state together for training, support, and inspiration. Our **Week of Action and Day of Action** invite individuals to learn about the year's most pressing anti-poverty issues, and then join us at the Capitol to meet with lawmakers and take action to change policies that can help low-income Missourians. And in June each year, we gather for our **Advocacy Awards Brunch**, our opportunity to highlight the amazing work being done by a network of advocates throughout the state.

Finally, one of our newest initiatives, the **Housing Justice Fellowship**, offers tenants training and support to learn how to organize and leverage collective power to advance the movement for housing justice. Our first cohort, led in partnership with Springfield Tenants Unite, graduated in 2024, and are preparing to launch our second cohort in 2025. The Fellowship is a step forward in our work to lift up those most impacted by policy decisions and ensure that their voices are heard in the process.



The Housing Justice Fellowship is training tenants to lead power-building efforts in their own communities.

2023-2024 MILESTONES

Legislation By The Numbers

THE LEGISLATURE FILED

2,547

BILLS IN 2024



WE TRACKED OVER

440

BILLS THAT WOULD DISPROPORTIONALLY IMPACT INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES LIVING IN POVERTY.



ONLY

28

BILLS WERE PASSED IN 2024

**Excluding appropriation bills*



2024 WAS THE

5TH

CONSECUTIVE YEAR WITH LESS THAN 50 BILLS PASSED.

Legislative Updates

The 2024 legislative session was marked with roadblocks, but despite historically low bill passage, each of our core issues areas managed to secure a victory in the legislature. This provides us with an important reminder that we can absolutely secure bipartisan agreement on anti-poverty policies when we are well-organized as well as clear and consistent in our messaging.

WHAT GOT DONE

- Funds were secured to run the **Summer EBT** program in Missouri in both 2024 and 2025. This means that over \$50M new federal funds will flow into Missouri every year, starting this summer, to provide key nutritional supports to children receiving free and reduced-cost lunches during the school year.
- The legislature finally passed a new policy that authorizes any municipality in the state with more than 1,500 inhabitants to start a **land bank**, a key government tool for dealing with abandoned and/or blighted properties. This has been a long-time priority of Empower Missouri's, as we believe that this is an important first step towards turning some of these properties into new affordable housing units.

THE SUMMER EBT PROGRAM WILL BRING OVER

\$50 MILLION

IN FEDERAL FUNDS TO SUPPORT MEALS FOR

429,000 CHILDREN

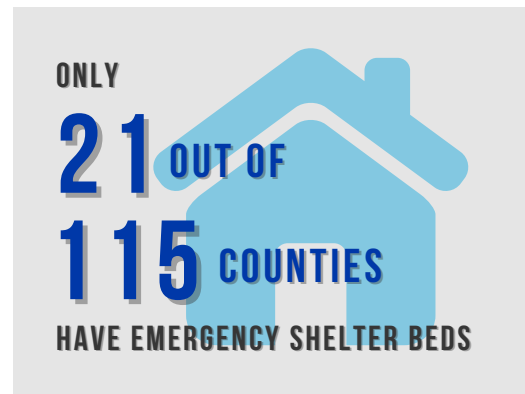


- In its final hours, the House gave final approval to SB 754, a criminal justice omnibus bill containing many provisions championed by Empower Missouri. Victories include:
 - **Banning law enforcement from issuing warrants for failure to respond, pay or appear in court for traffic infractions**, creating a new process with better allowances for individuals struggling with poverty who might not have the resources to pay the assessed fines or fees.
 - **Increasing the general minimum age for juveniles to be certified as adults** from 12 to 14, and defines a minimum age for certification for a specific list of serious felonies as 12. Under previous law, there was no minimum age for certification for serious felonies
 - **Requiring DOC to provide treatment and rehabilitation programs** for juveniles who are certified as adults, including high school equivalency programs
 - **Removing the crack/cocaine sentencing disparity** from Missouri law
 - **Increasing the lifetime limit on expungements** to two felonies and three misdemeanors (previously one felony and two misdemeanors)

WHAT WE PREVENTED

Advocates from across the state worked together to stop several pieces of legislation that would have had damaging consequences for our neighbors in poverty, and for us all, including legislation that would have:

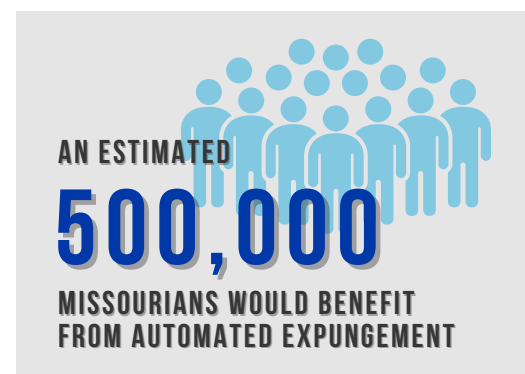
- Attacked the **Initiative Petition (IP) process**, making it more difficult for citizens to participate in the legislative process.
- **Removed local control of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department**, and instead put the department under state control.
- **Prevented TANF recipients from accessing cash benefits**, often needed to pay for childcare, rides, and other cash only needs.
- **Criminalized homelessness**, creating more burdens on our most vulnerable community members.
- Prevented local jurisdictions from passing **bans on source of income discrimination**.



WHAT WE ADVANCED

Each of these wins, both the passed and prevented legislation, are the result of the dedicated efforts of advocates across the state, working together to make our voices heard. But, we recognize that passing or blocking a bill aren't the only victories-- new legislation often takes 4-5 sessions to make it over the finish line, so we're also celebrating the following wins:

- **Clean Slate legislation** to automate the expungement process was passed out of two House committees unanimously and was heard in a Senate committee for the first time.
- Ending the **ban on SNAP benefits** for individuals with certain drug felonies was passed through the full House before dying in the Senate.
- A women's health omnibus containing a provision requiring an **annual supply of contraceptives** was passed fully through the House before dying in the Senate.



2023-2024 MILESTONES

Program Updates

GROWING MISSOURI'S COMMUNITY OF NONPROFIT ADVOCATES

This year marked our second year of the Advocacy Partners program, and thanks to the generous support of **Missouri Foundation for Health** and **Health Forward Foundation**, we were able to grow the program to offer training and support to 30 individuals representing 13 organizations across the state.

2023-2024 ADVOCACY PARTNERS

BLAQUE KC

El Centro

Faith Temple Complex

Food Equality Initiative

HealthTeamWorks

Immigrant Home English Learning Program (IHELP)

Latino Community Network

Missouri Balance of State Continuum of Care

Missouri Psychological Association

Ozarks Area Community Action Corporation

Suburban Balance

Thrive Allen

Urban League of Greater Kansas City

These organizations were already doing essential work to improve access to education, nutrition, and healthcare and fight poverty, racism, and inequities in their communities, and will now be able to expand their impact through the policy-making process and affect change at the systems level. Many participants had little to no experience at the Capitol, meeting with legislators, or testifying in hearings, but through the program were able to get involved and successfully advocated for their causes:

- The **Balance of State COC** was instrumental in work to stop homelessness criminalization from passing last year, an issue that Empower Missouri's Affordable Housing Coalition was also actively fighting. With the support of our program, they ran a diverse education campaign that reached every legislator's office during our Day of Action.
- **Missouri Psychological Association** lobbied to move a bill to secure audio-only telehealth appointments for all Missourians. We know that change takes time, and while this bill didn't make it over the finish line in 2024, they have built a plan to continue this campaign in 2025.
- **IHELP** joined us at the Capitol multiple times to provide testimony on several bills impacting immigration.

By the time the program concluded, the cohort had completed hundreds of legislative visits, and had all taken steps to plan for continued advocacy efforts in 2025 with our continued support. The 2024-2025 program has been rebranded as the **Advocacy Accelerator**, and began this fall with 16 organizations participating.

A LAUNCHPAD FOR BUILDING TENANT POWER

As part of our continued work to build tenant power across the state, the first cohort of the **Housing Justice Fellowship** was held this year. This program aims to teach tenants how to organize and leverage collective power to advance the movement for housing justice. The 2023-2024 cohort was held in partnership with **Springfield Tenants Unite**, and included eight rising leaders that continue to work closely with STUN and on their own organizing projects in the community.

IN THE PAST 6 MONTHS

130 TENANTS

HAVE JOINED SPRINGFIELD
TENANTS UNITE, AND

30 MEMBERS

HAVE BEEN TRAINED TO TAKE
ON ACTIVE LEADERSHIP ROLES



We also launched a tenant canvassing program, to speak to more community members experiencing housing insecurity about the issues they are facing, what changes are needed, and how we can support them in advocating for the protections they need. Over **300 deep canvassing conversations** were held in Springfield, Rolla, and Columbia, allowing us to gain a deeper understanding of the housing landscape for the tenants in these communities. In the coming year, we'll be focused on the ongoing development of tenant leaders through the Housing Justice Fellowship, led by Affordable Housing Policy Managers and tenant leaders that have previously participated in the program.

HONORING THE PEOPLE THAT DRIVE OUR WORK FORWARD

Our mission to end poverty in Missouri is a bold goal, and we know we can't do it alone. Through the work of an incredible group of advocates across the state, we continue to make progress each year, chipping away at the policies and systems that drive the cycle of poverty. Our annual **Advocacy Awards Brunch** honors leaders within our community of advocates who made particularly impactful contributions to that progress over the past year. The 2024 event honored advocates from the eastern portion of the state.

2024 ADVOCACY AWARD WINNERS



The Care Service
*Affordable Housing Advocate
of the Year*



ML Smith
*Community Justice Advocate of
the Year*
(Photo of Malik Sims, accepting
on behalf of ML)



**St. Louis Metro Market,
Operation Food Search**
*Food Security Advocate of
the Year*



Close the Workhouse
Coalition of the Year



Barbara Baker
Lifetime Achievement in Advocacy

Watch for information about our 2025 Advocacy Awards Brunch to be held in Kansas City in June, coming soon! Nominations will open in early 2025 for honorees from the western half of the state.

WHAT'S NEXT

The Future of Empower Missouri

DEEPENING OUR INVESTMENT IN THE NONPROFIT COMMUNITY

Building on the work from our last strategic plan, the 2024-2025 fiscal year marks the next phase in Empower Missouri's growth. A dedicated committee of some of Empower's biggest stakeholders, both new and old, has laid out a blueprint for the next few years that includes a massive expansion of our training programs, ambitious policy goals, and improved opportunities for both individuals and organizations to engage in advocacy with us.

TRAINING PROGRAMS

Direct service organizations are a very important part of our ecosystem because there are urgent needs of families across Missouri that must be met every single day. However, as a sector, we haven't made a dent in poverty, hunger, or homelessness in this state over the last four decades. We have to marshal our collective power and resources to change the systems that result in people needing those services in the first place. We



believe that every nonprofit in the state should be engaging in some level of policy advocacy work, but many organizations are misinformed about their rights to advocate or just simply don't know where to start. We're here to help!

Our two key programs for nonprofit organizations, the **Advocacy Alliance** and **Advocacy Accelerator**, have rebranded for the new year. The Advocacy Alliance allows our coalition members to deepen their partnership with us.

Alliance members have access to intro-level training (for those not quite ready for the Advocacy Accelerator) and ongoing training and support for Accelerator alumni. Members will also have access to a peer learning community of organizations who are committed to undertaking systems change work over the long haul and know that relationships with other organizations who share that mindset are critical for our collective success. We're looking for members who want to collaborate with us on a number of initiatives— from our book club series to our Week of Action and beyond. We're stronger together! The next step for many organizations, the Advocacy Accelerator will continue to offer a comprehensive suite of training and support through a year-long cohort-based program to support organizations in building their own advocacy program.

LEARNING AND ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITIES

We've revamped our annual calendar of events, and have some exciting opportunities in store to deepen our engagement with coalition members and communities across the state. This year, we'll be piloting a new **Back-to-Session Bootcamp** at the beginning of January to provide new advocates with the basics (or returning advocates with a refresher course) for a successful session in the Capitol. We're expanding the **Advocates Book Club** to read five titles this year, three in the summer and two in the winter. And in May,

we'll be offering our coalition members a third opportunity, alongside our Anti-Poverty Advocates Summit and our Week of Action, to meet up in person with other coalition members for discussion, networking, and celebrating our collective work during the legislative session. Our policy team is also launching a series of **Town Halls**, bringing conversations on key issues to communities near you! The Town Halls are one way we are utilizing our expanded staff capacity to deepen our work in each of our priority issue areas and proactively work with community members to find and advocate for real solutions. Be on the lookout for upcoming events for **Food Access for a Lifetime**, our campaign to fight food insecurity in older adults.

2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Policy change is a long-term solution to a decades old problem, and we know that the changes we seek take time. Our 2025 priorities will continue the work of previous years, and build on previous successes to get closer to our goal of eradicating poverty in Missouri. Some key issues for the coming year include:



Affordable Housing

- Seeding and supporting tenant unions throughout the state, and supporting active unions in fighting for change at the local level, such as passing tenants' right to counsel.
- Fighting attempts at the state level to preempt local housing policy that protects renters, since as eviction moratoriums or source of income discrimination bans.
- Defending against continued attempts to criminalize homelessness.
- Increasing funding for the Missouri Housing Trust Fund.



Criminal Legal System Reform

- Establish an oversight committee for the Department of Corrections to improve conditions for both incarcerated individuals and correctional officers.
- Continuing our work to pass Clean Slate legislation to automate the expungement process.
- Pushing back on attempts to increase or impose new mandatory minimum sentencing requirements for nonviolent offenders.



Food Security

- Expanding access to free school meals for all public school children in Missouri.
- Ending the ban on SNAP for those with drug felonies.
- Defending against policies that weaken the social safety net.



Other Anti-Poverty Measures

- Protect the state's initiative petition process.
- Increasing access to free or affordable birth control.

MORE THAN
720,000
MISSOURIANS LIVE BELOW
THE FEDERAL POVERTY LINE

THE LIVING WAGE IN MO IS

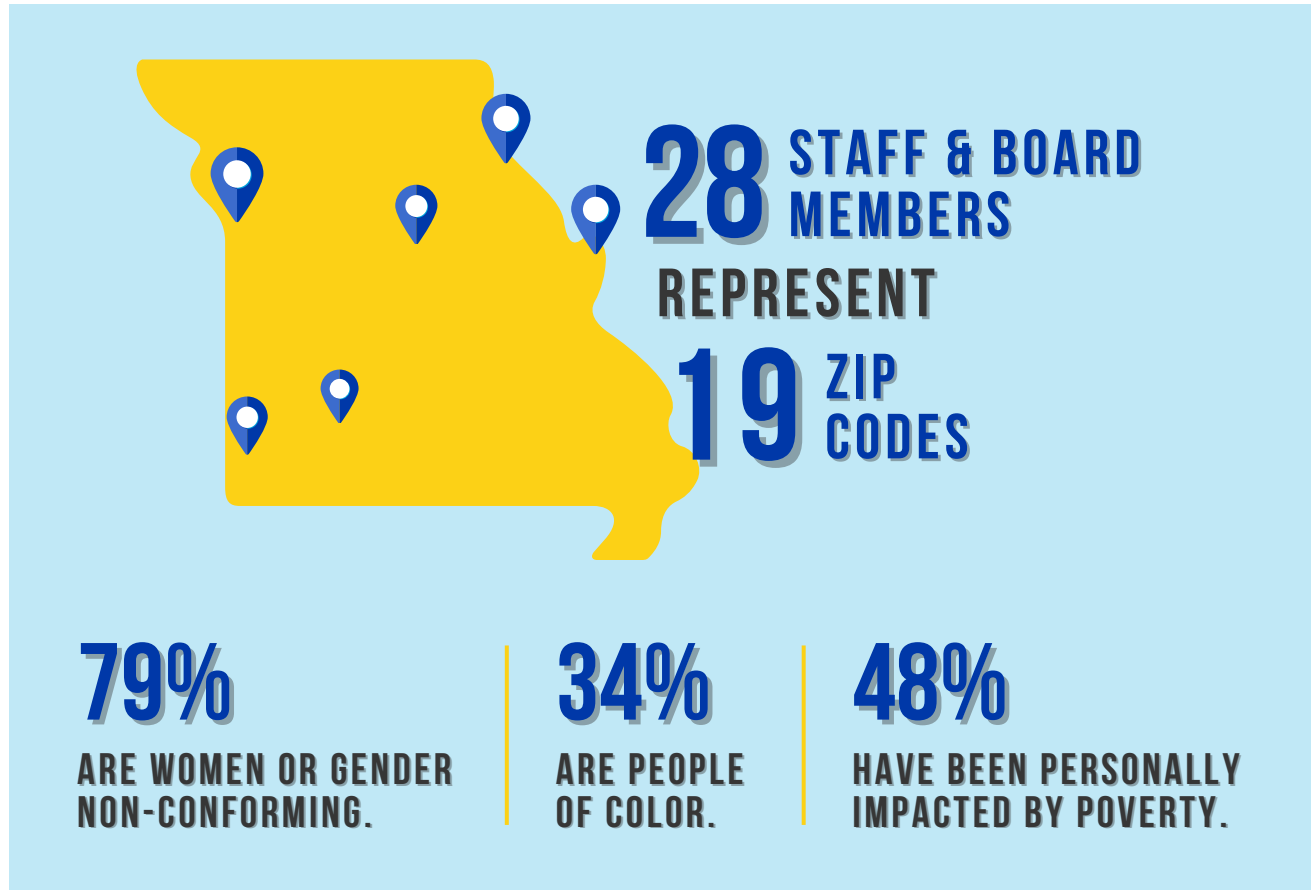
\$20.20

MORE THAN \$5 HIGHER
THAN EVEN OUR NEWLY
INCREASED MINIMUM WAGE



EMPOWER'S LEADERSHIP

Our team continued to grow this year! With the addition of six new members, our Board of Directors is now at full capacity. We also welcomed five new staff members, adding additional capacity to our policy team and rounding out our staff in supporting areas.



New Board Members

DEITRA COLQUITT, EDS

Deitra is an elementary school principal who is dedicated to ensuring the world sees the unique brilliance that lies within the community and students she serves. After 20+ years in education as a teacher, instructional coach, and now school leader, Deitra is committed to creating opportunities for people of color to thrive in their genius. Beyond her professional work, Deitra is a mother and wife. Deitra is the mother to Khloe, Demi, & Trey, and wife to Derrick. Deitra is ecstatic to join the Empower Missouri Board and work alongside others who seek to disrupt systems of oppression that hinder people of color.



KAREN ENGLERT

As the CEO of Boys and Girls Clubs of St. Charles County, Karen is passionate about providing resources our children need to help equip them for their future. She is dedicated to uniting people by encouraging collaboration, exemplifying mentorship, and engaging in service. Karen serves as a Board Member for the Missouri Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs and chairs the Advocacy Committee. Karen holds multiple advanced degrees in Education, Special Education, and Reading as well as a Certified Fundraising Executive (CFRE) designation. She is a Certified Behavioral Consultant with an emphasis in DISC Communication. She is active in the greater St. Charles community, currently serving in volunteer roles for numerous service organizations. She and her husband Jeff reside in O'Fallon.



KIMBERLY S. HENDERSON, MSOD

Kimberly is a Kansas City native and currently serves as the Housing Services Manager for The Salvation Army's Kansas City Area Command, managing a portfolio of housing programs including a mobile Houseless outreach program, two permanent supportive housing programs, and two senior affordable apartment communities. She believes that housing is a human right and serves on the Affordable Housing Steering Committee of Prosperity Now. Kimberly earned a Masters in Organizational Development from Avila University and a Bachelors in Business Administration from the University of Missouri Kansas City. She also holds several Multifamily Housing Industry Designations. Kimberly has worked and volunteered in the nonprofit sector for the past 21 years.

RACHEL TRIPP

Rachel is a passionate and driven social worker with over a decade of experience advocating for the emotional, physical, and financial needs of individuals, families, and communities. She is a program coordinator at Community Foundation of the Ozarks, where she coordinates field-of-interest and benevolence grant programming and the Youth Empowerment Project. Originally from northeast Arkansas, Rachel earned a bachelor's degree in social work from Missouri State University and a master's degree in nonprofit and civic leadership from Drury University.



RANDALL WOLLENBERG, TREASURER

Randall has recently retired after over 20 years working in the banking and mortgage industry. Married for nearly 40 years, he is a father of two, one currently working as an engineer for the Missouri Department of Transportation, and one working as a financial planner. He served for nine years on the Board of Directors for Room at the Inn, a homeless shelter in Bridgeton, Missouri. Randall is looking forward to working with Empower Missouri to help make a difference in his state.



EMPOWER'S LEADERSHIP

PIERRE YANCY

Pierre is originally from Overland Park Kansas and has an accomplished background in technology, philanthropy, marketing and political communications. In November 2013, Pierre founded his inaugural company, "ThinkTank Solutions," and in March 2015, he became Managing Partner at Lumova Energy. In December 2018, Pierre took on a philanthropic role, joining the boards of directors of two non-profit organizations: Street Medicine KC and Nourish KC. Currently, Pierre serves as the Chairman of Nourish KC's advocacy committee. Since 2019, Pierre has worked as Director of Communications for a diverse range of political campaigns.



New Staff Members

AMANDA BERRY, FOOD SECURITY POLICY MANAGER

Amanda has spent most of her life in Southern Missouri, where she recognized the need and demand for information surrounding food self-sufficiency. Amanda has served as a program technician with the Department of Agriculture delivering assistance programs to Missouri farmers as well as working on disaster relief jump teams throughout the state and PR. She then switched to the nonprofit sector as the manager of the Valley Educational Garden Initiative for La Puente Inc. Her undergraduate education focused on agriculture, and she is currently pursuing a MA in Human Rights with a focus on Food Security.



LUCAS CALDWELL-MCMILLAN, CHIEF OF POLICY STAFF

Lucas joined Empower Missouri in August 2024 as the Chief of Policy Staff. He previously worked as a Legal Aid lawyer on behalf of his community for 16 years, most recently with Legal Services of Eastern Missouri. Lucas also served as Associate Director of Policy for a national nonprofit focused on improving access to SNAP, Medicaid, and other public benefits. He received a JD cum laude from the University of Michigan and a BA from Kalamazoo College.



LORENZO HARRISON, OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

Lorenzo is from Lee's Summit, MO, and came to Empower Missouri with a wealth of experience under his belt. Deeply committed to community service, Lorenzo actively volunteers his time and expertise to uplift underserved populations. As a devoted minister, he leads by example, inspiring others with his steadfast dedication to excellence and compassion. Lorenzo serves on the Young Professional Board for Connections to Success and as President for the Lee's Summit PTA Council. He has been recognized as an NAA Next Generation Leader Award and with the Lee's Summit Mayors Breakfast Leadership Award.



JET MCDONALD, COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Jet (they/them/theirs) is a nonprofit communications specialist who has lived in St. Louis since 2013. They have worked in spaces centered on DEI, LGBTQIA+ advocacy, and community education and have experience as a mental health peer counselor. They believe in the power of collective care and accessible organizing, including online. Jet holds a bachelor's degree in Sociocultural Anthropology and a Master of Fine Arts degree in Creative Writing. They stay busy with activities like freelance journalism and dance classes.



MISHA SMITH, AFFORDABLE HOUSING POLICY MANAGER

Misha lives in Kansas City, Missouri. After receiving their bachelor's degree in Social Work, they worked as a case manager for almost a decade. However, as they saw that communities were impacted by decisions made for them, but not by them, they knew that their focus needed to shift to the policy level. Their grassroots level work in affordable housing and homeless prevention advocacy also impacted how Misha saw the work being done. As a result, they went on to complete their Master of Public Administration with a focus on non-profit and community services.



Returning Staff and Board Members



Dr. Amy Blansit
Board of Directors



Raquel Cooper
Board Vice-President



Stephanie Cooper
Board Secretary



Amber Foster-Hobart
Director of Advancement



Anatolij Gelimson
Board of Directors



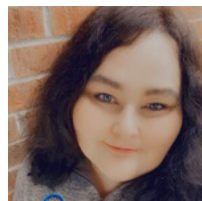
Izzy Litwack
Board of Directors



Pamela Neal
Board of Directors



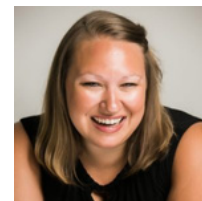
Sarah Owsley
Advocacy Director



Sara Patterson
Development Manager



Dr. Tiffany Patton
Board President



Mallory Rusch
Executive Director



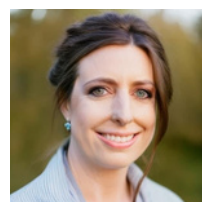
Vee Sanchez
Policy Manager



Jennifer Shotwell
Board of Directors



Gwen Smith-Moore
Policy Manager



Katheryne Staeger-Wilson
Board of Directors



Jason Stoff
Board of Directors

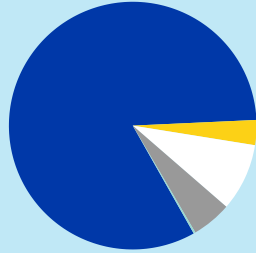
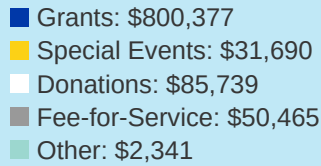


Christine Woody
Policy Manager

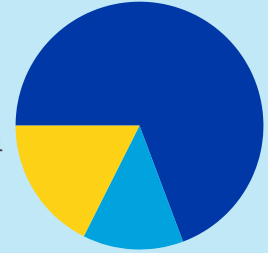
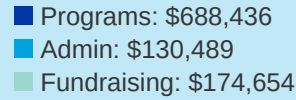
YOUR SUPPORT IN 2023-2024

Financials

REVENUE



EXPENSES



Thank You to Our Supporters

Our work would not be possible without the support of an extensive network of partners, coalition members, advocates, and supporters. We are incredibly grateful for this growing group of donors that financially supported our advocacy efforts this past year:

DONORS

Gina Aitch
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 Karmen Baker-Mays
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 Foundation
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 Amber Foster-Hobart
 Julie Fox
 Karen Francis

Kennedy Galanakis
 Alina Gargesh
 Jalen Gayfield
 Anatolij Gelimson
 Wayne & Jane Goode
Paul Goodwin

2023-2024 GRANT FUNDERS

Banjo Fund
 Clean Slate Initiative
 Marillac Mission Fund
 Missouri Family Health Council
 Missouri Foundation for Health
 MOVE
 National Low Income Housing Coalition
 United Way of Greater St. Louis
 Joan & John Vatterott Family Foundation

ADVOCACY ALLIANCE MEMBERS

Conscious Communication Ministries
 Douglass Community Services, Inc.
 Missouri Budget Project
 Missouri Coalition of Recovery Support Providers
 MO ID Access Coalition
 Mothers of Incarcerated Sons and Daughters
 St. Louis Regional Health Commission
 Women's Voices Raised for Social Justice

Cheryl Groves
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 Joe Jovanovich
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 Michael Lester
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 Don McCreary
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 Sonya Murray
 Samuel Naylor
 Jennifer Olson

Charlie & Mary Beth
 O'Reilly Family
 Foundation
 Jennifer Page
 Beatrice Parwatikar
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 Tanya Patton
 Bernetta Patton
 Nicoel Pearson
Margaret Phillips
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 Julian Russell
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 Dan Viets
 Alex Walker
Marqueia Watson
 David Webber
 Linda Wessels
 Andrew Wiegand
 Kristen Wild
 Carnella Williams
 Charmell Williams
 Stephen Williams
 Randall Wollenberg
 Jessica Yi
 Loren Zaitz

Bolded names indicate membership in Empower365, our monthly giving program.

EVENT SPONSORS

2023 ANTI-POVERTY ADVOCATES SUMMIT SPONSORS

FastDemocracy
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 St. Louis Community Credit Union
 Women's Voices Raised for Social Justice
 Missouri Family Health Council

2024 ADVOCACY AWARDS BRUNCH SPONSORS

Clark-Fox Policy Institute,
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 Health Forward Foundation
 Operation Food Search
 Delta Dental of Missouri
 Missouri Family Health Council

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Organizations - Partner with Us!

We are grateful for your continued support as we strengthen our base for future policy wins. We deeply believe that poverty in Missouri can be eradicated through the many evidenced-backed solutions we continue to advocate for. **With your help, we can continue the fight to build the power to enact policies that can end poverty.** If you are part of an organization working on fighting poverty in Missouri, there are many ways you can continue to get involved and help support Empower Missouri and our partners in the coming year:

JOIN A COALITION

Becoming a member of one of our coalitions means that you'll be a part of a network of hundreds of individuals and organizations finding and fighting for solutions to solve some of the state's biggest challenges – from housing reforms to poverty alleviation to criminal legal system reform.

Our **Affordable Housing, Community Justice, or Food Security Coalitions** meet monthly on Zoom through the summer and fall, and twice monthly from during the legislative session from January through May. Sign up on our website at empowermissouri.org/coalitions to get in touch with our Policy Managers and be notified of our next meeting!

LEARN MORE ABOUT
OUR COALITIONS!



JOIN THE ADVOCACY ALLIANCE

The **Advocacy Alliance** is for organizations that are interested in deepening their partnership with Empower Missouri and working together to expand our impact. Whether you are a current coalition member or exploring Empower Missouri for the first time, the Alliance offers your organization access to training, promotional opportunities, and resources that can help your organization build your capacity for advocacy. Membership fees are based on organization budget size, in order to make sure that all services are accessible to all of our wonderful partners. Sign up at empowermissouri.org/alliance to get started!

JOIN THE
ADVOCACY ALLIANCE!



JOIN THE ADVOCACY ACCELERATOR

Empower Missouri envisions a nonprofit sector where every organization is advocating for key policy changes alongside their direct service offerings. Our **Advocacy Accelerator** training program is designed to help direct service organizations get started. The program offers a cohesive package of training, coaching, administrative support, and relationship building to help you create or deepen your internal advocacy capacity. We offer three tiers of programming so that nonprofits can opt in to the level that best suits their organization. Learn more at empowermissouri.org/accelerator.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE
ACCELERATOR!



How You Can Get Involved

in addition to the support of the nonprofit community, the changes we seek need the support of every individual in Missouri who wants to see their friends, neighbors, and community members thrive. **Join us however you are able, as an advocate, as an ambassador, or through financial support, and help us build a better Missouri for us all.**

JOIN US AT AN EVENT

Throughout the year we host several in-person and virtual opportunities to learn more about our work and take action to end poverty in Missouri. This winter, you can join us at our **Legislative Preview webinar**, or for our **Back to Session Bootcamp**, to learn how you can advocate for low-income Missourians. In February, we hope you'll join us for our **Week of Action** and **Day of Action** to put those skills to work! You can always find the latest information about all upcoming events on our website at empowermissouri.org/events.

VIEW OUR UPCOMING EVENTS!



JOIN EMPOWER365

Your support fuels our mission, and you can make that commitment last all year long! Joining **Empower365**, our monthly giving program, is the best way to provide consistent, reliable support for our work. It's a simple and convenient way for you to make a significant impact without a large upfront commitment. Plus, you'll join a community of dedicated supporters who are helping to drive real, sustainable change. Join at empowermissouri.org/monthly-donation.

BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR!



SPREAD THE WORD

Be a catalyst for change by spreading the word about Empower Missouri. Make sure you are following our social media and subscribed to our newsletter to get the latest updates, and share them with your network! By rallying your friends, family, and community, you can raise funds and awareness for Empower Missouri's vital work. Together, let's create a more equitable society. Find all the ways to connect with us and share with your network at empowermissouri.org/connect.

FOLLOW US AND SPREAD THE WORD!





WWW.EMPOWERMISSOURI.ORG

*Thank you for powering
policy change!*