

Youth Opportunities Program

Missouri Department of Economic Development

Annual Report

2016



M I S S O U R I

Department of Economic Development

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM

REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR 2016

The Youth Opportunities Program (YOP) is authorized to allocate up to \$6 million in tax credits per calendar year for projects that target Missouri's at-risk youth. Through the 2016 application cycle, YOP allocated a total of \$5,999,970 in tax credits to 31 youth projects throughout the state. Contributions to these projects fund programming for 30 youth service projects and new construction of one facility. A 2016 project list is enclosed.

Approved 2016 projects have the potential to generate approximately \$12 million in contributions, leveraging at least \$6 million in private sector dollars. Since its inception in 1997, YOP has raised more than \$164 million in contributions for projects focused on serving Missouri's at-risk youth.

YOP primarily partners with non-profit organizations to fund programs for disadvantaged youth, teaming up to leverage private dollars instead of relying solely on public/government funding. These programs help youth break down barriers to a healthy and successful life and realize their potential as productive citizens. YOP acts as an incentive to provide specialized programming for youth who would otherwise not have such opportunities.

The Youth Opportunities Program has established program outcomes as a means to measure and verify the impact the program is having throughout the state. Priority is given to projects with outcomes impacting one or more of the following five areas:

1. Increase the number of at-risk youth that receive a high school diploma.
2. Increase the number of at-risk youth that receive a high school equivalency.
3. Increase the number of at-risk youth that remain in school, improve grades, and/or earn course credit(s) toward a diploma.
4. Reduce the number of at-risk youth committing crimes and violent acts.
5. Increase the number of at-risk youth that have completed an employment skills education and development program.

Table 1.1 (next page) shows the amount of tax credits authorized, issued, and redeemed to date from each of the last three calendar year allocations. Taxpayers (donors) have the tax year in which they made a contribution plus five succeeding tax years to redeem their tax credits.

Table 1.1: Tax Credit Utilization

	2014	2015	2016
Credits Authorized To Date¹	\$5,715,021	\$5,980,258	\$5,999,970
Credits Issued To Date²	\$4,418,634	\$3,896,513	\$1,442,428
Credits Redeemed To Date³	\$3,254,443	\$2,355,053	\$3,571

¹ Credits Authorized = Total amount authorized each calendar year minus recaptured, as of 12/31/2016.

² Credits Issued = Total credits issued as of 12/31/2016 for the projects authorized in each calendar year.

³ Credits Redeemed = Total credits that have been redeemed by contributing taxpayers as of 12/31/2016 for contributions made to projects authorized in each year.

YOP projects that ended and were closed from 2014-2016 have reported the following results under each of the program outcomes (Table 1.2). The outcome numbers are the totals to date for the projects that ended in each year. The totals fluctuate from year to year due to varying project time frames, the types of projects funded each year, and the number of projects closed each year. Some numbers may include duplicated youth if the youth participate in the program more than one year or if they achieved more than one outcome.

Table 1.2: Youth Outcomes

	2014	2015	2016
Jobs Retained and New	67	78	50
Youth Earning High School Diploma or Equivalency	44	261	0
Earning School Credits, Improving Academically or Increasing GPA	23,378	3,625	6,878
Youth Not Committing Crimes or Completing Violence Prevention Courses	5,313	5,254	34,330
Youth Abstaining from Drug and Alcohol Use; Completing Prevention Programs	3,000	458	24,611
Youth Completing Life Skills Training; Financial Literacy; Participating in Mentoring	5,711	4,664	4,008
Youth Learning Employment Skills and/or Placed in a Job or Internship	1,586	904	1,255
Youth Increasing Knowledge in Science, Math, Technology, or Business	2,071	1,087	75,718
# Achieving Other Outcomes (Such as counseling, crisis intervention, and emergency shelter, postsecondary knowledge and preparation, improved social skills, case management, etc.)	10,279	5,584	14,734

As shown by the outcome data on the previous page, numerous organizations, using YOP as a tool, are successfully implementing projects to help at-risk youth become more productive adults. Boys & Girls Club of the Capital City and Sherwood Forest are two organizations successfully using YOP tax credits to cultivate new donors, increase reach and capacity, and contribute in a very real way to meet the needs of disadvantaged youth. The following summaries demonstrate the ways in which these agencies are making positive, lasting differences to improve the lives of Missouri's most at-risk youth.

Boys & Girls Club of the Capital City

Who They Are - For more than 20 years, the Boys & Girls Club of the Capital City has been serving the Jefferson City community through after school and summer programs. During that time the club has seen the positive impact that occurs when young people have access to a safe place with caring adult mentors and enriching programs during out-of-school time. To that end, the club provides after school programs five days a week, full day programming in the summer, and weekend programming for more than 600 youth at multiple sites in Jefferson City.

Every day one out of four children leaves school with no place to go. Unsupervised out-of-school time can be very dangerous hours for youth, especially those who face other challenges such as living in low income households or neighborhoods with high crime. The Boys & Girls Club provides a solution for at-risk youth and their families with evidence-based, nationally acclaimed programming for out-of-school time.

Jefferson City Boys & Girls Club staff envision a future where success is in reach for every child, where kids are successful in school, healthy and active, and have the strong character skills needed to become leaders in our community.

Who They Serve - Boys & Girls Club of Jefferson City is open to all youth between the ages of 6 and 18 years, and actively works to reach at-risk and underserved youth in the community. Historically, the majority of children served by the club have risk factors such as participation in the free and reduced lunch program and living in single parent or nontraditional homes. These factors suggest that youth served by the club are more likely to encounter barriers to success, such as delays in cognitive and behavioral development, school failure, chronic health conditions like asthma, and exposure to violent crime.

Research has shown that youth regularly participating in Boys & Girls Club curriculum after school and in the summer are: less likely to consume alcohol and engage in physical fights, more likely to be on track to graduate from high school and expect to attend college, more physically active, and less likely to skip school.



What They Do – Research also shows that when kids attend the club more frequently, the impact of programming on their lives increases. For that reason the Boys & Girls Club works hard to create a supportive and engaging environment to keep kids coming back. Within this environment, the club implements outcome-driven programming designed with a focus on Character and Leadership Development, Education and Career Development, Health and Life Skills, The Arts and Music, and Sports, Fitness, and Recreation. Daily transportation, hot meals and nutritious snacks, and full and partial scholarships ensure the club is reaching the kids most in need in the community.

Guided by its areas of focus, the Boys & Girls Club of the Capital City conducts a variety of programs and activities that transform lives. Walk through the doors of the Boys & Girls Club and youth are likely engaged in:

- **Power Hour** – A comprehensive, incentive based homework help and tutoring program.
- **Diplomas to Degrees** – A college readiness program available to middle and high school students to decrease the dropout rate. Youth set personal academic goals and work to reach those goals.
- **Passport to Manhood** – A program teaching at-risk boys how to become productive men. It is facilitated exclusively by male community leaders and targets boys who lack male role models.
- **SmartGirls** – A program designed to help young women navigate the challenges of adolescence. Curriculum is delivered by female Club staff and community volunteers.
- **Triple Play** – Mind, body & soul wellness program that teaches nutrition and health and ensures every child receives one hour of physical activity per day.
- **Mentoring** – Boys & Girls Club staff and volunteers mentor children each day providing the guidance and attention they need to be successful.
- **STEAM** – Boys & Girls Club offers a Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math program to its members. This high-end program uses robotics, digital arts, sewing, culinary arts, chemistry, physics, math and more in a fun, hands on learning environment.
- **SmartMoves & MethSmart** – Drug, alcohol, and tobacco prevention programming.



With the assistance of YOP, the Boys & Girls Club will implement these programs and achieve the following outcomes:

- At least 250 of 461 at-risk youth participating in homework help and tutoring will earn average or higher grades on tests and increase attendance.
- During the three year project period, at least 200 of 461 at-risk youth participating in leadership, mentoring, and prevention education programs will avoid behaviors that result in a juvenile law violation.
- During the three year project period, at least 30 at-risk youth participating in technology and career exploration programs will be placed in jobs and retain employment for 90 days.
- At least 15 of 50 youth, ages 14-18, participating in academic and enrichment programming will earn a diploma or high school equivalency during the three year project period.

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Derrick's Story

Derrick began attending the Boys & Girls Club in Jefferson City as a child. Derrick was a great kid who was quickly maturing into a young man with true leadership potential. Then, during his freshman year in high school, things began to change. Derrick's grades began to slip. He was missing classes. Boys & Girls Club staff met with school counselors to find out what the club could do to help him. The school officials stated that Derrick had the worst truancy record in the grade. As it turned out, Derrick's mom had changed jobs and no one was home to wake Derrick up in time for school. With the help of mentorship from club staff, an alarm clock, and daily tutoring, Derrick's grades and attendance improved. He graduated from high school in May and started college in St. Louis in the fall of 2016. Derrick was named the 2016 Boys & Girls Club of the Capital City Alumni of the Year. Derrick is living proof that great futures do start at the Boys & Girls Club.



Sherwood Forest Camp, Inc.

Who They Are - Founded in 1937, Sherwood Forest provides at-risk, economically disadvantaged young people with positive, enriching activities that help them learn experientially and achieve critical developmental milestones key to their long-term success as adults. Youth learn to be productive, to connect to others, and to navigate healthy choices. Recognizing that the natural environment presents a unique opportunity for learning and growth, Sherwood Forest programs are anchored in a residential camp experience, and also include school-year activities to ensure year round support for at-risk youth. Since its founding, Sherwood Forest has empowered more than 100,000 youth to break the cycle of poverty in their families and grow up to become productive citizens.

Who They Serve - Sherwood Forest serves youth ages 7 to 17 living in the greater St. Louis area. The agency serves a racially and ethnically diverse population, with approximately 71% of those served being minorities. The vast majority of kids in Sherwood Forest's programs are growing up in poverty. More than 78% qualify for free or reduced lunches through their schools and an additional 8% hover just above the federal poverty line. Many attend schools that have been or are unaccredited, placing them at a higher risk for dropping out of school. Further, 50% of youth participating in programming live in neighborhoods where crime rates are at least two to five times greater than the national average, making them more likely to become victims of crime and statistically more likely to commit crimes themselves later in life without interventions. Despite many barriers to success, 100% of Sherwood Forest program graduates go on to complete high school – a rate much higher than their peers – and the vast majority go on to complete postsecondary education.

What They Do - Youth begin attending Sherwood Forest after completing first grade, and more than 75% return each year (through high school graduation and beyond) to participate in the following youth development programming:



Through their current YOP project, Sherwood Forest is increasing both the number of youth who can participate in programs and the number of opportunities available to them. YOP project outcomes are:

- **Quest** - A year round program anchored by a residential summer camp experience, ranging from 5 days for first and second graders to 26 days for older youth, and supported by Continued Contact programming during the fall, winter, and spring. During the summer youth participate in a mix of traditional camp experiences, like hiking, swimming, and backpacking, at Sherwood Forest's 478 acre campsite near Lesterville, MO. These traditional camp activities are accompanied by leadership and academic enrichment programs aimed at reducing the summer learning loss that is a significant challenge for youth growing up in poverty, and promoting character and personal development. Enrichment programs include a book club, creative and performing arts programs, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) activities. During the school year, lessons are reinforced through afterschool and weekend programs. Everything is centered on helping youth build critical skills that help ensure future success: teamwork, independence, responsibility, problem solving, and self confidence.
- **Supports for Success** - A program designed specifically for youth in grades ten through twelve, with a focus on job-readiness and skill development. Youth have opportunities to work as paid Counselors in Training (CITs) during summer camp, enhancing their resumes and proving a solid foundation of job skills.

- 15 of 18 at-risk 10th and 11th grade CITs will successfully complete a life skills development program and identify significant gains in personal growth.
- 85 of 92 at-risk 3rd grade campers will participate in the Summer Reading and Book Club Program and identify an increased interest in or enjoyment of reading.
- 256 of 352 at-risk campers will participate in the expanded learning and educational opportunities offered through the Continued Contact program.
- 343 of 424 at-risk 4th-8th grade campers will identify an increase in responsibility and/or teamwork, independence, or self-confidence.

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Tommy's Story

Tommy joined the Sherwood Forest family in 2014 as a 6th grader. When Tommy first came to camp, he was a little unsure of himself, nervous, and shy. However, he quickly became one of the most out-going kids at camp. Sherwood Forest provided a place for Tommy to be free to be his creative self. His peers and counselors talk often about his hand-made soccer jerseys, which he creates for his friends. Tommy now accepts himself for who he is and is constantly striving to change for the better. He believes Sherwood Forest has helped him feel comfortable being himself.

Tommy also believes that Sherwood Forest has provided him with great experiences and even greater friends. He's had the opportunity to learn new things, to be active and enjoy the outdoors, meet new people, and become a leader. As a member of Sherwood Forest's Leadership Adventure program, Tommy and his peers are busy planning their out-of-state trip. On this trip they will visit colleges, complete community service, and explore the country. Tommy is grateful for his camp experience and hopes other kids have the chance to be a part of the Sherwood Forest family in the future.



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CY2016 YOP Tax Credit Allocation

Organization Name	Authorized Amount
(NCADA) National Council On Alcoholism And Drug Abuse	\$240,000.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters Of Central Missouri	\$249,957.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters Of Eastern Missouri	\$250,000.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters Of Greater Kansas City	\$200,000.00
Boys & Girls Clubs Of The Columbia Area	\$249,626.00
Boys And Girls Clubs Of Greater Kansas City	\$160,031.00
Catholic Family Services	\$250,000.00
Community Living, Inc.	\$63,500.00
Epworth Children & Family Services	\$250,000.00
Evangelical Children's Home (DBA Every Child's Hope)	\$70,000.00
Foster Care Coalition Of Greater St. Louis	\$112,108.00
Great Circle (FKA Boys Town & Edgewood)	\$250,000.00
Guardian Angel Settlement Association	\$250,000.00
Herbert Hoover Boys And Girls Club Of St. Louis	\$241,978.00
Junior Achievement Of Greater St. Louis, Inc.	\$250,000.00
Kingdom House	\$241,978.00
Lutheran Family & Children's Services Of Missouri	\$250,000.00
Provident, Inc.	\$138,718.00
Sherwood Forest Camp, Inc.	\$249,549.00
Southside Early Childhood Center	\$250,000.00
St. Louis Artworks	\$35,000.00
St. Louis Science Center Foundation	\$225,000.00
St. Patrick Center	\$165,080.00
Synergy Services, Inc.	\$151,223.00
The Center For Head Injury Services	\$200,257.00
University City Children's Center	\$250,000.00
Variety The Children's Charity Of St. Louis, Inc.	\$205,561.00
Wyman Center, Inc.	\$190,731.00
Youth First Corporate (DBA Young Faith In Christ)	\$40,530.00
Youth In Need	\$239,143.00
Youth Learning Center	\$80,000.00

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