

Call to Action

Struggling to meet their basic needs.....this is what 1.7 million Missourians do everyday. This is more than the total population of Missouri's three largest cities: Kansas City, St. Louis and Springfield living below 200% of the poverty level (based on federal poverty guidelines).

This way of life does not have to be permanent. When people combine their energies in a single purpose of breaking the cycle of poverty for good, we can begin to transform lives piece by piece.

The vision

We have a vision where all Missourians share in opportunity, prosperity and hope and are economically secure.

Our families and communities will thrive when ...

- People earn a living wage* that allows them to support their families with dignity
- Wage-earners have affordable, reliable healthcare coverage for their families
- Parents who work have access to quality, affordable childcare
- Employers have access to a skilled and educated workforce
- Civic-minded employers invest in workers and provide good jobs that sustain families and strengthen communities

*a wage required to meet essential local costs of living

As advocates for families with limited resources we are here today to ask Governor Matt Blunt and the Missouri Legislature to appoint a bi-partisan Commission committed to ending poverty and promoting economic security for all Missourians.

We recommend members of this Commission include the Governor's office, the Legislative branch, business leaders, educators, community and faith-based organizations and most importantly people who currently or have recently lived in poverty.

The purpose of this Commission should be to establish a clear vision and strategies for dealing with the complex issue of poverty and setting targets that include timelines and numerical goals for reducing poverty as we work toward the ultimate goal of eradicating poverty in Missouri.

The end of poverty is in sight. Be a part of the vision.

United in Purpose, the Missouri Community Action Network will inspire and engage people to ensure all families and communities thrive.