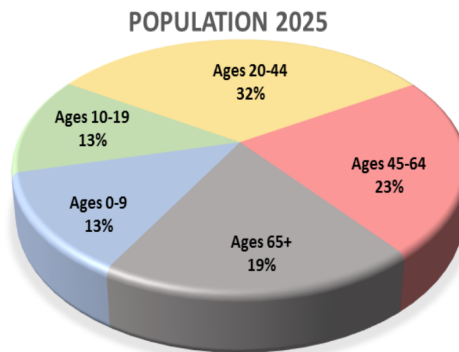


The Best Business Plan for Missouri

Investing in kids is SMART. It is the BEST investment in our future.

Goals for Missouri

- **A healthy well educated workforce**
- **A strong economy**
- **A growing middle class**
- **A tax base that supports quality education for all**
- **Strong, vibrant communities**



Challenges

Fewer children
+
Growing # of seniors
Challenges in assuring a prepared work force and a strong tax base

“In the coming decades, it is today’s younger generation who will drive economic growth, whose tax contributions will support social insurance programs for the elderly and other services, whose purchasing power will determine the demands for goods and services, who will serve in our armed forces, and who will act as caregivers to an aging population.”

-The Business Case for Racial Equity

Benchmarks of Success at Each Life Stage

Infants

- Normal birth weight
- Non-teen mothers with at least a high school diploma

Early Childhood

- Kindergarten readiness
- Healthy social and emotional development

School Age Children

- Regular school attendance
- Reading at grade level
- School appropriate behavior

Adolescents

- High school graduation
- College and Career Ready
- Drug free
- Resilient

Needed Investment

- Programs to prevent early pregnancy
- Access to health care for pregnant moms and babies
- Home visiting programs
- Economic stability for families

- Access to quality affordable child care, preschool
- Access to health care for parents and children
- Economic stability for families

- Adequate resources for schools
- Quality teachers with small class sizes
- Trauma training and suspension alternatives
- Quality after school and summer learning

- Quality education and extracurriculars that develop leadership and skills
- Employment opportunities
- Support and financial assistance for college



CHILDREN WHO ARE SUCCESSFUL AT EACH LIFE STAGE ARE MORE LIKELY TO ACHIEVE THE AMERICAN DREAMS



8 out of 10 children who are successful at 4 life stages reach the middle class



Almost 7 of 10 children who are successful at 3 life stages reach the middle class



1 of every 2 children who are successful at 2 life stages reach the middle class



4 of every 10 children who are successful at 1 life stage reach the middle class

CREATING PATHWAYS TO THE MIDDLE CLASS REQUIRES PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND GOVERNMENT SUPPORT. PUTTING THE FULL RESPONSIBILITY ON GOVERNMENT TO CLOSE THE GAPS IN CHILDREN'S LIVES IS UNREASONABLE, BUT SO IS A HEROIC ASSUMPTION THAT EVERYONE CAN BE A HORATIO ALGER WITH NO HELP FROM SOCIETY.

"PATHWAYS TO THE MIDDLE CLASS", THE SOCIAL GENOME PROJECT, CENTER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AT BROOKINGS.

References: "The Business Case for Racial Equity", Ani Turner, Altarum Institute
Missouri Office of Administration, Division of Budget and Planning, Missouri Population Projections - by County, Age, and Sex: 2000 to 2030
The Social Genome Project, Center for Children and Families at Brookings ,
"Pathways to the Middle Class", Isabel V. Sawhill, Scott Winship, and Kerry Searle Grannis 2012

Child Advocacy Day April 3, 2018

Success begets further success. Children who are successful at each life stage from early childhood to young adulthood are much more likely to achieve the American Dream

-Pathways to the Middle Class

