

NEW DIRECTIONS

2023
Annual
REPORT

WEST CENTRAL MISSOURI COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY

*Assisting & Advancing Rural Families & Communities
since 1965*



West Central Missouri Community Action Agency Region and Services

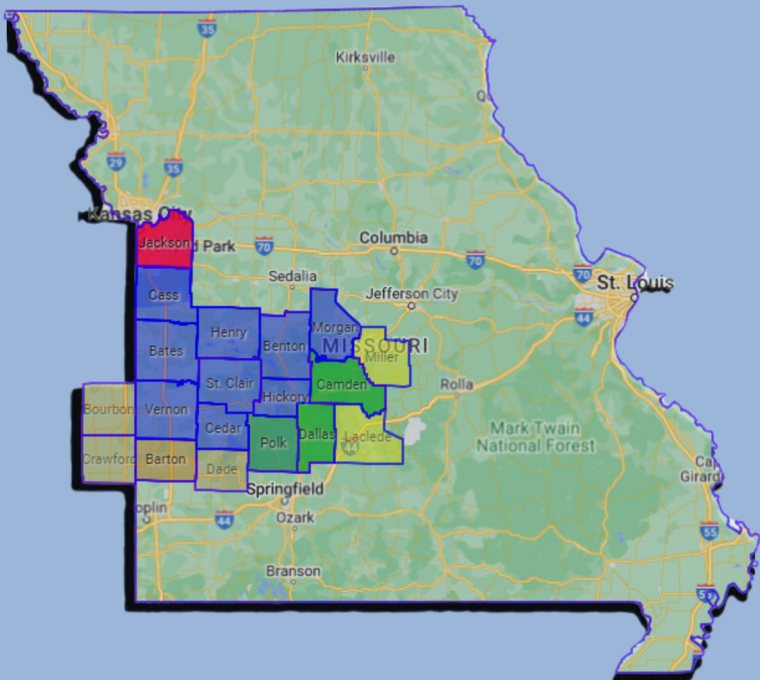
**West Central Region & Primary Service Area:
Provides All West Central & New Growth Programs**

Multi-family Housing extended services

**New Growth Women's Business Center (WBC)
& New Growth Capital (NGC) only**

New Growth Transit (NG) only

New Growth Services, including WBC, NGC, NGT





Our Agency Mission

West Central **helps** people and communities reach their **fullest potential** by **cultivating and coordinating resources, building partnerships, and advocating** for change.

Our Vision

West Central **envisions** a region where **people and communities** are **thriving**.

Our Values

Equity, Education, Encouragement, Empowerment, and Excellence support our work to implement our mission and fulfill our vision.

The Promise of Community Action

Community Action
changes peoples lives,
embodies the spirit of hope,
improves communities,
and **makes America**
a better place to live.

We **care** about the entire community
and we are **dedicated** to **helping people**
help themselves
and **each other.**

West Central's Leadership



Administrative Leadership - Left to Right: Christopher L. Thompson, Chief Executive Officer; Jana Witt, Chief Development & Compliance Officer; Jamie Oberly, Chief Community Services Officer; Mary Lou Schussler, President; Amy Anderson, Chief Housing Assistance Officer; Kelly Ast, Chief Regional Mobility Officer; Julie Engeman, Chief Administrative Officer; Sheridan Garman-Neeman, Chief Community Wealth Building Officer; Aaron Franklin, Chief Finance Officer. Not pictured: Chris Richardson-McQueen, Chief Housing Enrichment Officer.

Board of Directors

Officers & Executive Committee

Fred R. Bunch, Board Chair
 Don Boultinghouse, Board Vice-Chair
 Martha Sander, Board Treasurer
 Leroy Strope, Board Secretary
 Alvin Griffin, Executive Committee
 Shirley Parker, Executive Committee
 Sonny Rogers, Executive Committee

Low Income Representatives:

Brenda Darr, Bates County
 Thomas Gage, Benton County
 Warren "Sonny" Rogers, Cass County
 Dan Yoder, Cedar County
 Peg Neuenschwander, St. Clair County
 Martha Sander, Vernon County



Board members prepare for food distribution. Shown left to right: Joe Wilson, Fred Bunch, Larry Berry, Dan Yoder, Dale Lawler, Laura Smith, Don Boultinghouse, Shirley Parker, Alvin Griffin, Brenda Darr, Martha Sander, Peg Neuenschwander. Not pictured: Thomas Gage, Monty Kisner, Sonny Rogers, Holly Stark, Leroy Strope, Sunday Unger.

County Elected Officials

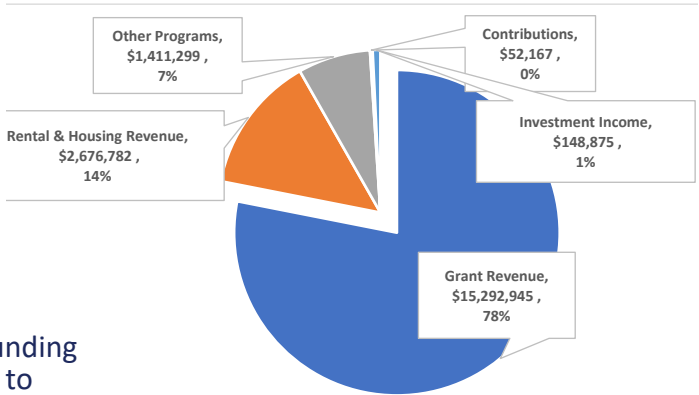
Larry Berry, Benton County
 Monty Kisner, Cass County
 Don Boultinghouse, Cedar County
 Dale Lawler, Henry County
 Leroy Strope, St. Clair County
 Joe Wilson, Vernon County

Private Industry Representatives

Alvin Griffin, Bates County
 Holly Stark, Cass County
 Fred Bunch, Henry County
 Shirley Parker, Hickory County
 Sunday Unger, Morgan County
 Laura Smith, St. Clair County

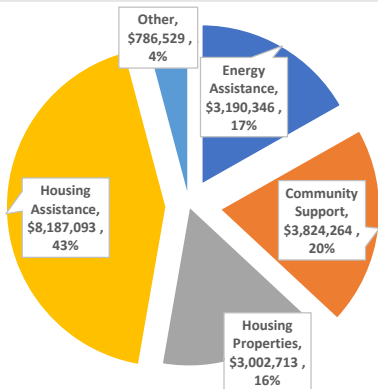
Fiscal Year 2023

2023 Total Revenue



West Central received funding from 73 sources to operate 60 different services or programs in FY 2023. Funding sources include direct federal funding, federal funding passed through state entities, and funding from state agencies, corporations, and private foundations.

Grant Revenue	2023
Department of Health and Human Services	\$ 3,798,551
Department of Housing and Urban Development	\$ 8,413,640
Department of Energy	\$ 546,962
Department of Agriculture	\$ 617,660
Department of Labor	\$ 39,873
Department of Homeland Security	\$ 25,434
Department of Treasury	\$ 217,556
Small Business Administration	\$ 273,126
Neighborhood Assistance Program	\$ 4,000
United Way	\$ 15,000
Other Grant Revenue	\$ 1,341,144
Total Grant Revenue	\$ 15,292,945



2023 Total Expenditures

10,695 served*

*individuals who achieved one or more outcomes as identified by the National Performance Indicators in various domains



Community Services

Assisting and Advancing People and Communities

West Central's Family and Community Engagement Strategies (FACES) program assists and advances individuals, families and communities with program services and resource connections. Services are provided region-wide and include a wide range of comprehensive services.

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Family Engagement served 1,138 unduplicated people last year.

Examples of the services provided include:

- Eviction Counseling –32
- Family Mentoring – 93
- Emergency Rent Payments - 124
- Fans Provided – 17
- Financial Skills, Management, Saving, Coaching - 228
- Health Insurance and SS/SSI Assistance-14
- Life Skills Coaching – 15
- Property Tax-Aide - 51
- SNAP Benefits Enrollment – 34
- Applied Technology Classes - 164
- Student Mentoring Seniors Classes - 64
- Leadership Training Classes 65
- Tri-Partite Board classes - 52
- Volunteer Education and Training classes - 126
- Food Distribution - 2,236 Food Boxes at Food Pantries

Community projects in FY23 included:

- REALL Simulations and Poverty Simulations
- Foster Care Simulation

Community educational classes:

- Grow Your Own Food
- Cooking Matters
- Life Skills for Developmentally Challenged Adults
- Cyber Seniors
- Step Up To Leadership
- Baby Shower
- County specific Resource Sharing Events



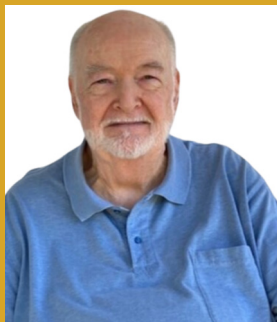
Community Services

Assisting and Advancing People and Communities

Angel says, "SkillUP helped me fulfill my life-long dream of becoming a nurse. As a low-income family, I never thought I could financially afford to go to school.

With SkillUP and my government grants I did not have to pay out of pocket and now I am able to fully support my family. I was able to show my children dreams are possible.

SkillUP not only helped pay for school but they made sure I had uniforms and equipment needed to succeed!"



Thomas, an AC Food Pantry recipient, requires foods for a diabetic diet. He says WC staff ask what foods he needs for his specialized needs, and that participating in the Food Pantry has made his life better because the foods he eats drastically affect his health. The retired veteran, also a former resort marketing consultant, says, "The food pantry here is key to the health of the community, providing much-needed healthy food to those who need it most."

West Central's FACES team connects individuals, families and communities with program services and resource connections for Employment, Education & Cognitive Development, Income Infrastructure & Asset Building, Health/Social Behavioral Development, Civic Engagement & Community Involvement, and Housing programs.

Contact our FACES team!

Call and leave a message: 660-476-2185, FACES Option

Text: 660-466-2134

Email: FACES@wcmcaa.org





LIHEAP

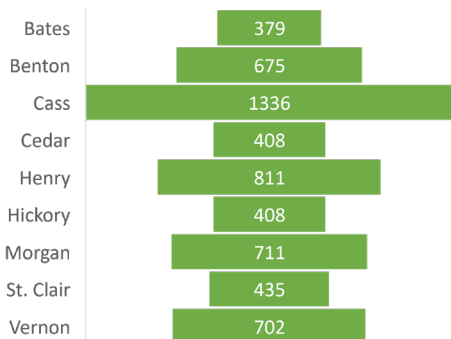
(Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program)

Helping Families with Energy Bills

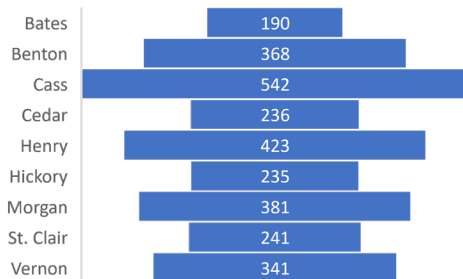
LIHEAP Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Total Households Served: 6,012

Applications by County

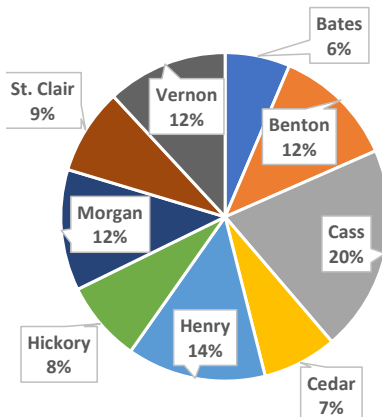


Elderly and or Disabled Households



Total Energy Assistance Benefits Paid:
\$3,351,032.53

The (LIHEAP) helps low income people meet their immediate energy needs. LIHEAP can help in two ways: The Energy Assistance (EA) Program provides a one-time payment for one fuel type for heating or cooling. The Energy Crisis Intervention Program (ECIP) helps pay for fuel bills when in crisis.

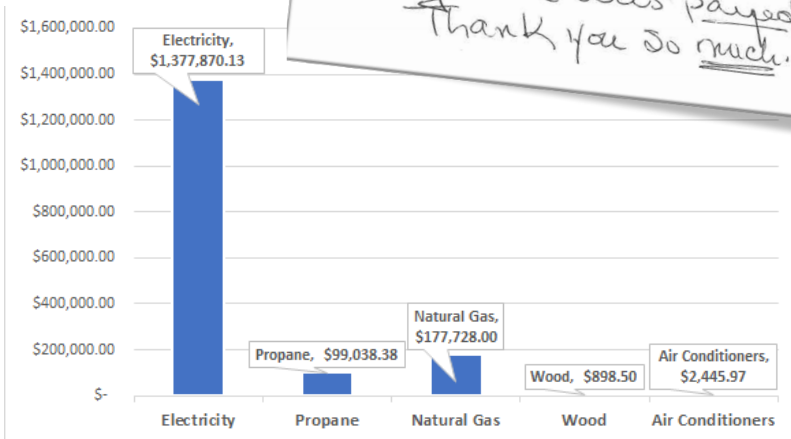
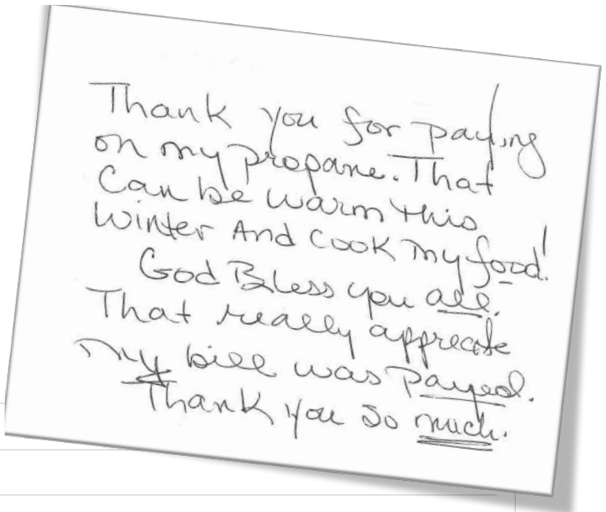




LIHEAP

(Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program)
Helping Families with Energy Bills

**2022-2023
ECIP Benefits Paid
\$1,657,980.98**



Contact our LIHEAP specialists!

Call and leave a message: 660-476-2185, Utility Assistance Option

Text: 660-466-2134

Email: energyhelp@wcmca.org



Housing Assistance

Building Self-Sufficiency

Housing Assistance programs administer services to help families secure and maintain affordable housing. The **Housing Choice Voucher (HCV)** program provides rental assistance to help low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled afford decent, safe and sanitary housing in the private market.

The **Home Ownership Voucher (HOV)** program allows families who are assisted under the HCV program to use their voucher to buy a home and receive monthly assistance in meeting home ownership expenses.

The **Family Self-Sufficiency** program (FSS) is a HUD program that enables HUD-assisted families to increase their earned income and reduce their dependency on welfare assistance and rental subsidies.

Transition Services quickly connects families and individuals experiencing homelessness to temporary housing solutions through assistance that may include the use of time-limited financial assistance and targeted supportive services.

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Housing Choice Voucher Program

Housing assistance payments - \$6,742,314

Housing Choice Voucher participants - 1,127

Home Ownership Assistance - \$26,391

Family Self Sufficiency Program:

Participants- 76

Graduates - 7

Total escrow disbursed - \$89,776.47

Achieved Home Ownership - 1

Transition Services:

Rapid re-housing assistance - 25 families and 10 individuals

State Assistance for Housing Relief (SAFHR) - 48 assisted

Prevention Assistance - 19 families and 54 individuals



Housing Assistance

Building Self-Sufficiency

The Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) program is a voluntary program for participants in the HCV (Housing Choice Voucher) program. FSS assists individuals in improving their economic status by reducing their dependence on public assistance. Participants have the following opportunities.

- Referrals to supportive services, such as:
 - completing of high school diploma or GED
 - career planning and job training
 - credit repair
 - home ownership counseling
- One on one mentoring
- Receive an escrow savings account due to earned income

These FSS graduates achieved a wide range of accomplishments!



"M" completed post-secondary education, raised her credit score, paid off debts



"L" paid off her car, reduced debt, achieved financial goals



"K" achieved goals, attained a career in management



"M" is debt free at age 38

For more information:
Housing Assistance Program
660-476-2185, Option 2
info@wcmcaa.org



Housing Enrichment Weatherization & HeRO

Repairing Homes, Restoring Lives

The Home Enrichment section of Housing Enrichment manages the **Weatherization** and **Home Repair Opportunity** programs to help renters and homeowners ensure their home is healthy and safe for their family. Home energy audits, weatherization assistance, and home repair are free services to qualified individuals. Assessments and repairs are conducted by an experienced team of construction specialists who treat each home as though it were their own. According to a national evaluation of the program, weatherization improvements and upgrades help these households save an average of \$283 or more every year on utility bills.

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Average air infiltration reduction -- 29.17%

Individuals with improved access to physical space -- 179

Households with improved energy efficiency -- 111

Number homes weatherized -- 28

Homes receiving HeRO services -- 22

Total Weatherization and HeRO Improvements:

- Windows: 108
- Doors: 19
- Roofs: 5
- ADA Bathrooms: 12
- Siding: 4
- Lift Chair: 1



Housing Enrichment Weatherization & HeRO

Safe & Cozy at Home



Diane received both Weatherization and HeRO services. Improvements included insulation, weatherstrips, furnace, ductwork, water heater, gutters and downspouts, wiring, and several safety measures. Although she is appreciative of it all, one of her favorite things is the “porch room” which is filled with sunlight and sealed up air tight, staying nice and cozy year-round. Best of all, her utility bills have decreased significantly!

**Contact the Weatherization/
HeRO team!**

Call 660-476-2185, extension
1506

Email: [energyconservation@
wcmcaa.org](mailto:energyconservation@wcmcaa.org)

Text: 660-466-2134

*Include your full name,
address, and program name*

*Learn more at wcmcaa.org/
utilities-turned-off*



*“The team did a great job! They worked
hard and results were quick!”*



Housing Enrichment Multi-Family Housing *Creative Communities*

West Central has developed, owns, and manages 12 affordable service-enriched multi-family housing communities. Applicants may qualify to receive subsidized rent (30% of income less medical, senior, child, and utility expense deductions). All properties maintain a waiting list from one month to two years.

More than “a place to live”, these service-enriched properties are homes with heart, providing residents of all ages a place to thrive. West Central created the Service Enriched Housing Program to develop and coordinate resident services at affordable properties in Missouri.

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Households obtaining safe, affordable housing - 397
Individuals who obtained health care - 104
Immunizations - 27
Wellness classes & activities - 3,404
Prepared meals - 1,508
Food pantry distributions - 877
Transportation - 91
Mediation/advocacy - 265

Contact us about finding your new home!

*Email: forrent@wcmcaa.org
Call 660-476-2185, ext. 1504
Text: 660-466-2134*



Housing Enrichment

Multi-Family Housing Locations

BENTON COUNTY:

Oaktree Villa Senior Housing
919 Walnut Drive #C-2
Warsaw, Missouri 65355
660-438-5007

CASS COUNTY:

Greenleaf Estates Senior Housing
16805 Spring Valley Road
Belton, Missouri 64012
(816) 331-4620

Hawthorn Estates Senior Housing
1900 Jenkins Drive
Harrisonville, Missouri 64701
(816) 380-6833

Walnut Estates Senior Housing
412 West Walnut
Raymore, Missouri 64083
(816) 331-2959

CEDAR COUNTY

Maplewood Estates Senior
Housing
1119 South Maplewood Place
Stockton, Missouri 65785
(417) 276-3330

Cedar Ridge Disabled Housing
1201 East Patricia
El Dorado Springs, Missouri 64744
(417) 876-6114

HENRY COUNTY:

Antioch Hills Family Housing
1819 North Gaines Drive
Clinton, Missouri 64735
(660) 885-8200

Greyhound Apartments Family
Housing
507 West Colt
Windsor, Missouri 65360
660-987-1919

HICKORY COUNTY:

Hickory Estates Senior Housing
701 West Highway 54
Hermitage, Missouri 65668
(417) 745-0131

JACKSON COUNTY:

Prairie Estates Senior Housing
1515 Jones Avenue
Grandview, Missouri 64030
(816) 767-1445

Willow Estates Senior Housing
4800 South Hocker
Kansas City, Missouri 64136
(816) 350-3134

ST. CLAIR COUNTY

Appleton Estates Senior Housing
300 South Beech
Appleton City, Missouri 64724
(660) 476-2185 ext. 1306



Food Systems

New Approaches to Solve Hunger

West Central's robust food systems program encompasses a variety of approaches to support individuals and families. Besides assisting those suffering from food insecurity, Food Systems programs build entrepreneurial farmer capacity to grow and sell their products in the wholesale market and educate farmers, consumers, and businesses about the healthfulness of and need for local food availability.

Farm to School: 14,993 students in 21 schools were given the opportunity to eat locally grown foods through taste tests and school meals. 507 students participated in the taste tests and received education on local foods. Schools in eight counties participated in the program. Three schools made regular local food purchases for their school's meals and one school made regular local food purchases for their Family and Consumer Sciences program.

Local Food Promotion Program

- 163 wholesale and retail buyers purchased \$196,549 from the Kansas City Food Hub
- 5 new farmers were recruited to sell goods at the KC Food Hub
- KC Food Hub onboarded 42 schools, amounting to \$64,379 in sales
- Sales to schools represented 7% of all sales in 2022 and 33% of all sales in 2023
- Value chain coordination assisted two farmers to find over \$50,000 in grants to expand their operations

NRCS Farm Conservation Mentor Program:

- 9 mentors provided 61 hours of mentoring to 15 mentees
- Farm Conservation video series created with topics including "Climate Smart", "Growing Undercover", "Cover Cropping", and "Ecosystem Services"

Farm to Fork Food Summit:

- 146 attendees
- 7 sponsorships
- 20 vendors

Farm Share:

107 boxes per month May - October;
100% local food provided directly to senior citizens (635 boxes total)





Food Systems

New Approaches to Solve Hunger

Farm to School



“Tastes like a real tomato!”

School children across the region taste-tested locally grown foods including cucumbers, tomatoes, apples, melons, and local honey, then were invited to vote whether they “liked” tasting something new.

One food service director commented:

“Having the students involved with what they are eating at school is a big thing. Kids are

more than likely gonna eat better if they knew how and what it takes to farm and that they had a part in the produce that they are being served. I am interested in purchasing local (because) shopping local keeps our money around our area and the farmers know they can count on the community to help them thrive. Just knowing that the produce was grown and harvested right here makes it feel better.”

Climate Smart Agricultural Practices Video Series:

“This video series will provide insight on climate smart agriculture practices, leading to a more sustainable future for other farmers”.



Farm to Fork Food Summit:

“I always look forward to Farm to Fork. The program has interesting topics, the speakers provide good information, and the food is great!”

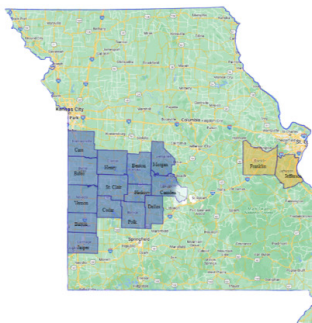




New Growth
TRANSIT

New Growth Transit

New Rural Transportation Directions



New Growth Transit, an affiliate of West Central Missouri Community Action Agency, supports rides to residents throughout a 16-county service area through a volunteer driver network. Counties served include Barton, Bates, Benton, Cass, Camden, Cedar, Dallas, Henry, Hickory, Jasper, Morgan, Polk, St. Clair, and Vernon with support in Franklin and Jefferson.

Rides are scheduled at least 48 hours in advance for medical appointments, physical therapy, pharmacy, grocery shopping, banking, and to other essential appointments.

Volunteer drivers receive the current federal reimbursement rate per mile, which does not affect taxable income. Drivers are trained and covered by CIMA Volunteer Insurance when certified. Volunteers choose their own schedule, provide rides that meet their availability, and specify the destinations where they are willing to travel.

CALL: 417-283-7991
EMAIL: transportation@wcmcaa.org

HOURS:
Monday-Friday
8 am to 4 pm.





New Growth
TRANSIT

New Growth Transit

Transportation Solutions for Rural Communities

Driver Spotlight:



Thelma, a retired nurse, began driving for New Growth Transit in 2022. A Cedar County resident, Thelma prefers to drive locally with occasional long trips. She averages 15 trips per week.

Thelma says, "I like helping my neighbors. Doing this gives me purpose. I really enjoy helping people."

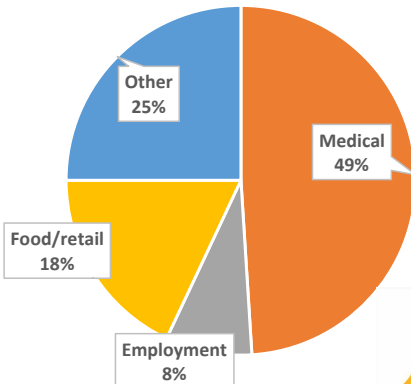
Rider Review:

Scott is 68 years old and a regular New Growth Transit rider. The retired veteran says, "The service has helped me quite a bit. I usually go to the Springfield VA or Mercy Hospital (in Springfield). And sometimes they take me to Walmart and that is real nice."



NGT Dashboard: September 2022 - August 2023

2022-2023 Ride Destinations



- 203,466 miles
- 5,864 trips
- 38 volunteer drivers
- 16 counties served

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Call 417-283-7991
Monday-Friday 8 am - 4 pm





New Growth Women's Business Center

New Directions for Entrepreneurs

The New Growth Women's Business Center is West Central's business development arm. Administered by New Growth, the New Growth Women's Business Center provides training and technical assistance for rural entrepreneurs across 15 counties (13 counties in Missouri and 2 counties in Kansas). Established in 2021, the NG WBC is one of only five Small Business Administration-designated women's business centers in the nation to primarily serve rural communities.

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Unique clients served - 162
New business starts - 3
Jobs supported -128
Capital Infusions - \$137,000

Annual Training and Events:

- Credit as an Asset Workshops
- E-3 Women's Conference
- Annual WBC Conference
- Webinars, including these topics:
 - Women-Owned Small Business Certification
 - Socioeconomic Government Contracting Certification
 - Social Media Marketing
 - Financing Your Small Business
 - Budgeting for Your Business

Awards:

One of 10 WBC's nationally to receive a "Advocate, Connect, Engage" program grant. Legislative advocacy training included strategies for small businesses to increase effectiveness by working collectively and drive policy improvements on the local, state, and national level. These strategies were provided to help eliminate barriers encountered by women



This program is funded (in part) through a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration.





New Growth Women's Business Center

Entrepreneurs Achieving Success



Amanda, a mom of five and grandmother of two, says "being in business is also about showing that if you set your mind to it, you can stand on your own two feet."

- Owner, Simply Be Day Spa
- New Growth Microloan recipient
- Graduate of New Growth Women's Business Center GrowMO women's mentoring group, May 2023

The 2023 New Growth Women's Business Center women's mentoring group, "GrowMO Women's Entrepreneurs" graduated five participants who engaged in six monthly workshops with Diagnostic Thinking coach Dina Reader. Sessions focused on bringing solutions to accelerate opportunities and increase financial rewards by diagnostically addressing business-critical problems.



Contact the New Growth Women's Business Center:
wbcinfo@newgrowthmo.org
417-282-5936





New Growth Capital

New Directions for Financing

New Growth Capital

New Growth Capital is New Growth's financing arm. New Growth Capital provides rural entrepreneurs with microenterprise loans from \$500 - \$50,000. New Growth Capital also helps individuals and entrepreneurs join the financial mainstream with credit building loans.

Credit building is a free, nonprofit service available from New Growth Capital to help individuals and entrepreneurs establish or improve credit scores. A good credit score is necessary to access employment, housing, and bank financing, and for going into business. A good credit score also saves money through lower borrowing costs, insurance rates, and more. Credit building is about moving more rural people and small businesses into the financial mainstream.

Microlending

SBA Microenterprise Financing - Funded by the Small Business Administration, microlending monies can be used in any of New Growth Capital's 15 counties. It cannot fund real estate, but can fund real estate improvements.

SBA LOANS TO DATE - 6 loans equaling \$65,500

RMAP - The Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program can be used within the 15-county service area plus Cass County. It can fund real estate purchases but not real estate improvements.

RMAP LOANS TO DATE - 7 loans equaling \$346,000

START HERE RLF - The START HERE Revolving Loan Fund is a small flexible fund that can be used to finance businesses in any rural county in Missouri.

RLF LOANS TO DATE - 22 loans equaling \$239,402.50

TOTAL LOANS TO DATE - \$674,802.50



This program is funded (in part) through a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Advancing Businesses

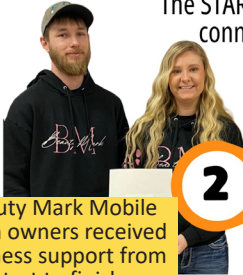
Step By Step

FROM DREAMS TO REALITY

START HERE

The START HERE business network connects new businesses with resources

1



Beauty Mark Mobile Salon owners received business support from start to finish

2

RESEARCH & PLAN WITH WBC

Create a business plan with help and resources from the New Growth Women's Business Center



Jazzy Wazzy Daycare improved their credit score and became eligible for financing.

3

FINANCING WITH NGC

New Growth Capital can help you improve credit scores and provide financing to get new businesses up and running.

4

LAUNCH

Open the doors and bring the business to life!

EVALUATE & EXPAND

New Growth Women's Business Center and New Growth Capital will advise and support you every step of the way

5



Captured Moments Photobooth siezed success with assistance from New Growth

Visit us at newgrowthmo.org
or call 417-282-5936
wbcinfo@newgrowthmo.org





START HERE

Business Acceleration Network

Cooperative Support for Businesses

New Growth works regionally and statewide to strengthen and support rural entrepreneurship. In west central Missouri, New Growth convenes the Start Here Business Acceleration Network of business resource partners. **More info:** <https://newgrowthmo.org/entrepreneurs/businessassistance-starthere-2/>

START HERE Business Acceleration Network partners:

New Growth

West Central Missouri Community Action Agency

Osage Valley Electric Cooperative

Small Business Development Centers:

- State Fair Community College, Sedalia
- Missouri Southern State University, Joplin

Small Business Administration, Springfield Regional Office

University of Missouri Extension

Kaysinger Basin Regional Planning Commission

St. Clair County Economic Development

Benton County Economic Development

Missouri Source Link

Webinars: <https://www.youtube.com/@newgrowthmo/>

- Power of PopUps
- Welcome Wagon For Rural Revitalization
- Reboot Rural with Youth Entrepreneurship
- Keeping Retiring Rural Businesses Going with Employee Ownership
- New Growth Transit

Other activities/services in 2022-23

The START HERE Business Acceleration Network identified 12 featured businesses representing a range of business types, from retail to manufacturing to farming for **Rural Business Photo Stories**. View the project at: <https://newgrowthmo.org/rbps/>





START HERE

Business Acceleration Network

Cooperative Support for Businesses

A Peek at Rural Business Photo Stories

New Growth produced Rural Business Photo Stories in partnership with the Missouri Humanities Council and support from the Missouri Humanities Trust Fund. Partners in west central Missouri's START HERE Business Acceleration Network identified featured businesses from Bates, Benton, Dallas, Hickory, St. Clair, and Vernon counties that represent business types from retail to manufacturing to farming.

Created by project originator and editor, Patty Cantrell; photojournalist, Clayton Steward.



April Blooms, Wheatland, Hickory County

Beautiful bouquets are difficult to come by if you do not grow the flowers yourself or live close to a shop that stocks stalks flown in from all over the world. Those long-refrigerated bundles pale in comparison to the just-picked bounty that the small business April Blooms offers from one of the most rural locations in the state.

W. F. Norman, Nevada, Vernon County

Since 1898, W.F. Norman has created tin ceiling tiles, siding, cornices, and decorative metal. Still utilizing original tin stamps and techniques, the company has a niche market in building restorations. "We are like a working museum."



Salmon Family Enterprises, Appleton City, St. Clair County

The Salmon family responded to the COVID pandemic by selling ground beef from their farm in west central Missouri's St. Clair County to neighbors and other people they knew. They have since built a specialty line of beef sticks in addition to cuts of beef and sell their products at farmers' markets in Bolivar and Springfield and to retailers across the region.



View the entire project at <https://newgrowthmo.org/rbps/>

West Central Missouri Community Action Agency has served a nine-county region in west central Missouri since 1965. The organization's mission, "West Central helps people and communities reach their fullest potential by cultivating and coordinating resources, building partnerships, and advocating for change", is reflected throughout the Agency's programs and services. Housing, emergency services, energy conservation, employment and training, transportation, and credit building are provided annually to over 10,500 individuals.

In addition to core services, West Central's community development corporation, New Growth, supports entrepreneurship and small business development through the New Growth Women's Business Center, and a business acceleration network, "Start Here". A new transportation program, New Growth Transit, utilizes a volunteer driver network to provide free rides to individuals for employment, medical appointments, retail shopping, and other needs. The New Growth Women's Business Center and New Growth Capital support entrepreneurs in business planning and start-up financing in 13 Missouri counties and two counties in Kansas.

We gratefully acknowledge the contributions of funders, donors, and community partners across the region, state, and nation.

West Central Missouri Community Action Agency

112 West 4th Street
Appleton City, Missouri 64724

Phone: 660-476-2185
Text: 660-466-2134

Email: info@wcmcaa.org
Website: www.wcmcaa.org
Facebook: [#WestCentralCares](https://www.facebook.com/WestCentralCares)

