**HUNGER IN MISSOURI**

17.1% (1,026,180) of Missourians did not have enough food to meet their needs at the end of the month, including 22.7% (316,450) of Missouri children.

**Supporting an Affordable, Healthy Food System**

Keeping Missouri’s products in the state could improve citizen’s health and prosperity.

If Missouri’s 2.3 million households spent $10 per week on local food, $1.2 billion would be generated for Missouri farmers and producers.

However, many Missourians lack...

- ... conveniently located grocery stores or other locations to buy healthy foods.
- ... healthy, affordable options in restaurants and other eating establishments.
- ... diversity of locally produced foods.
- ... an infrastructure to support locally grown foods.
- ... appropriate storage facilities for Missouri-made products.
- ... fresh food preparation skills and knowledge.

Missouri exports fruits and vegetables, while importing similar produce. Missouri farmers lose economic opportunities.

94% of the food produced in Missouri leaves the state.
**MO-CAN Members:**

- Alliance for Healthier Generation
- American Heart Association
- BikeWalkKC
- BJC HealthCare School Outreach and Youth Development
- Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Kansas City
- Child Care Aware of Missouri
- Children’s Mercy Hospitals and Clinics, Weighing In Community Capacity Builders, L.L.C.
- Complete Family Medicine Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Department of Health and Senior Services
- Department of Natural Resources
- Freeman Health System
- Healthcare Foundation of Greater Kansas City
- Kansas City Health Department
- Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences
- KC Healthy Kids
- Learfield Communications
- Live Well Ferguson
- Midwest Dairy Council
- Mo. Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
- Mo. Arthritis and Osteoporosis Program
- Mo. Association of Local Public Health Agencies
- Mo. Bicycle and Pedestrian Federation
- Mo. Broadcasters Association
- Mo. Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics
- Mo. Diabetes Prevention and Control Program
- Mo. Foundation for Health
- Mo. Headstart State Collaboration Office
- Mo. Nurses Association
- Mo. Nurses Association, Independence Schools
- Mo. Parks and Recreation Association
- Mo. River Communities Network
- Mo. State Alliance of YMCAs
- Mo. State Medical Association
- Mo. State Parks
- MODOT-Missouri Department of Transportation
- MU Health Communication Research Center
- MU Extension
- Northwest Missouri State University
- Ozarks Regional YMCA
- Partnership for Children
- PedNet Coalition, Inc.
- Primaris
- Springfield-Green County Health Department
- St. Louis Dairy Council
- The Prevention Research Center (St. Louis)
- Viridian Health Management
- Washington University

**Take Action:**

- Expand *Farm to School.*
- Expand *Eat Smart in Parks.*
- Support community and school gardens.
- Support education and other assistance programs for small and medium-scale local farmers.
- Establish local food preferences in government contracts.
- Support development of infrastructure for regional food system management.
- Implement tax incentives that encourage foods produced in Missouri sold in Missouri.
- Provide financial incentives for grocers to operate in underserved areas.

* Missouri Farm to School works with schools, farmers, vendors and communities to get more fresh, flavorful foods to local cafeterias.

http://mofarmtoschool.missouri.edu/

** Eat Smart in Parks** is a statewide effort aimed at promoting healthier eating options in Missouri’s state and local parks.

http://extension.missouri.edu/mocan/eatsmartinparks/

**Sources:**

- U.S. Department of Agriculture 2007 Census of Agriculture data. C. Hopper, Missouri Department of Agriculture, personal communication, December 23, 2014

**SUPPORTING AN AFFORDABLE, HEALTHY FOOD SYSTEM**

MOCAN fosters and supports healthy eating and active living through policy and environmental changes to measurably improve the health and quality of life of Missouri residents.

www.extension.missouri.edu/mocan