



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

# Reynolds County

# 2024 Annual Report

180 S. Main  
PO Box 721  
Ellington, MO 63638  
573-663-7343

**SERVE  
MISSOURI.**

**DELIVER  
MIZZOU.**



# Extension

*University of Missouri*

an equal opportunity/ADA institution



Office of Extension  
and Engagement  
*University of Missouri*

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December 2024

Dear county commissioners, elected leaders and friends of MU Extension and Engagement,

As we reflect on the past year, I want to express my deep gratitude for your support of MU Extension and for your partnership in enhancing the lives of Missourians.

Your support for MU Extension fuels Missouri's agriculture, strengthens families, prepares our youth and promotes the health, well-being and vitality of our communities. Over the past year, our programs have focused on addressing key needs throughout the state:

- **Expanding access to 4-H:** To make 4-H more accessible, we've introduced more in-school and after-school clubs, reducing barriers and creating opportunities for young Missourians to develop essential skills and leadership abilities.
- **Supporting agriculture and land stewardship:** We're addressing critical issues such as succession planning for family farms, rural mental health, agricultural business management and land stewardship. These initiatives are helping Missouri's farmers plan for the future and preserve the health of our land for future generations.
- **Advancing health initiatives:** Our team of community health field specialists, covering every region of the state, works directly with local leaders to assess health needs and bring UM System resources and expertise to these communities, supporting healthier lives and stronger communities.
- **Promoting economic development:** MU Extension is helping to create economic opportunities by working with individuals, supporting businesses in their growth and collaborating with communities to enhance local vibrancy. Through these efforts, we help bring new jobs, skills and possibilities to Missourians across the state.
- **Providing essential training:** Our continuing education programs prepare Missouri's firefighters and health care workers to meet the demands of their roles with the latest skills and knowledge, ensuring they are well-prepared to serve our communities.

As you read through this annual report, I hope you feel as proud as I do of the accomplishments we've achieved together. The dedication and professionalism of MU Extension's faculty and staff are inspiring, and I am grateful to work alongside them—and each of you—as we make Missouri a stronger, healthier and more vibrant place. Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Together, we are serving Missouri by delivering the University *for* Missouri.

Warm regards,

Chad Higgins, PhD  
Vice Chancellor, MU Extension and Engagement  
Chief Engagement Officer, UM System

# Who we are

## Faculty and staff



Stephanie Schindler - EES  
Shirley Grant - Bookkeeper-Office Staff  
Debra Rayfield - Volunteer  
Evan Holley - Nutrition and Health  
Leslie Davis - Nutrition Program Associate  
Eric Muesch - Livestock  
John Fuller - Human Development  
Jason Morris - Agriculture Business  
Adrienne Mooney - 4-H Youth Program Associate  
Donna Aufdenberg - Horticulture  
Emily Doosing - 4-H Field Specialist  
Sarah Higgins - Natural Resources  
Jerry Richards - Feral Hog Outreach  
Haley Schwantz - Agronomy  
Cara Carswell – 4-H Education

*The University of Missouri Extension Council of Reynolds County would like to graciously thank the Reynolds County Commission for their support of Extension programming in Reynolds County*

## Council members

Bill Rayfield - Council Chair  
Richard Clayton - Vice Chair  
John Lewis - Treasurer  
Dawn Bell - Secretary  
Laura Jean Helt  
Lesa-Joy Helt  
Larry Pogue, Jr. Commissioner  
Debra Rayfield  
Katie Hoskins



## County commissioners

Steve Chitwood  
Presiding Commissioner  
Larry Pogue, Jr.  
District 1  
Eddie Williams,  
District 2

# Budget and more

## Appropriations budget

### Income

County Appropriations	20,000.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>20,000.00</b>

### Expenses

Salaries/Benefits	12,771.47
Travel	1,167.68
Rent, Utilities, Phone	1,473.62
Office Supplies/Service	2,186.50
Insurance	160.00
Postage	267.22
Advertising	422.40
Furniture/Equipment	891.87
4-H Enrollment Fee	94.82
Professional Services	300.00
Miscellaneous	264.42
<b>Total Budgeted Expenses</b>	<b>20,000.00</b>

## Return on investment

University System 106,880

**For every dollar invested by the county, MU invests \$6.76**

## MU Extension is a unique partnership.

Extension funding is a three-way partnership of federal, state and county government. Federal and state money, through the University of Missouri system, pay professional staff salaries, training costs, computers and communication equipment. County funds support the local office, secretarial and youth assistant salaries, staff mileage and council expenses.



## Local Support

Did you know you can donate directly to Reynolds County Extension with a gift to be used immediately or as an endowment contribution for long term efforts. Monies put into the endowment are left forever to earn interest with the county office benefiting each year. You can also direct your donation to a specific program such as 4-H or Master Gardeners.

## Key Outcomes

- 55 soil tests were processed in 2024 for Reynolds County landowners
- 38 youth participated in 4-H programming in Reynolds County
- 25 adults participated in an estate planning workshop. This workshop gave participants the knowledge of where to start in preparing for the future.
- SNAP-Ed programming was provided to 2 County Schools, the Health Department and the Nutrition Center resulting in:
  - 129 direct contacts
  - 2,789 indirect contacts

Moisture and Temperature Hay Probe Now Available at Reynolds County Extension Center  
Date: July 17, 2024

By: Haley Schwantz, Agronomy Field Specialist, University of Missouri Extension

The University of Missouri Extension in Reynolds County Center now provides access to an *AgroTropix* probe that tests moisture and temperature for hay bales. The meter has the ability to read moisture levels from 8% to 44% and temperatures from 32.° to 225 ° F (0° – 107° C). This can be used for dry or haylage bales.

When hay is baled too wet, it can grow mold or bacteria which can cause the breakdown of the biomass. This process causes the hay bale to heat up internally which can potentially lead to spontaneous combustion creating fire.

Producers wanting to monitor their hay can borrow this probe from the Reynolds County Extension Center in 180 Main Street Ellington, MO 65658. There is no fee to use the probe, however a \$100 deposit is required from the producer and must be returned within seven days from the date borrowed. The deposit will be refunded once the probe is returned to the extension office by the producer.

If you have any additional questions, please call Reynolds County Extension at 573-663-7343.



Left: *AgroTropix* Moisture and Temperature Hay Probe

Right: Craig Foster and son, Max, monitor moisture levels of cool season grass hay recently baled and put into storage





# MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU** through credible statewide programs **Health and Human Sciences**



Healthy aging is one of the key focus areas for MU Extension. Falls and chronic diseases are among the two leading age-related causes of death. The **Stay Strong Stay Healthy** program addresses this issue by teaching older adults strength training, balance and flexibility exercises proven to reduce risk of fall and increase mobility and independence.

**6 Reynolds County residents** completed a Stay Strong Stay Healthy class offered by Nutrition and Health Specialist Evan Holley in 2024, with 100% of participants demonstrating improved strength, balance, and flexibility. Participants reported feeling better, both mentally and physically, and expressed a feeling of empowerment to continue exercising on their own going forward.

The economic impact of Stay Strong Stay Healthy in Reynolds County in 2024 is an estimated **\$6,144** in savings on healthcare expenses.

Participants in Stay Strong Stay Healthy expressed their love for the class and are on the calendar for a follow up class in early 2025, demonstrating the value participants find in the program.

#### **Participant quotes:**

- “I and my sisters, and one sister who lives in Sarasota, Florida, are very impressed with the Extension program in Missouri. Thank you!!!”
- “I enjoyed it immensely. I need the social interaction and our instructor made it fun!!”
- “I would highly recommend others to attend.”

Nutrition and Health specialist Evan Holley also worked in cooperation with Human Development specialist John Fuller to offer a 1-hour workshop on eating healthy on a budget and digital coupon tools for 6 participants who reported increased knowledge and confidence on the presented subject.

In addition to named programming, MU Extension in Reynolds County contributed to the MU Extension website and Health & Human Sciences podcast (Truth or Trend), with a combined reach of over **2,000** visits and downloads.

Contribution to broad-reaching platforms like web and podcast help to increase the visibility of Extension in Reynolds County and build awareness of Extension as a trusted resource.

- **\$6,144 in healthcare savings**
- **100% demonstrated improvement in key health indicators**
- **17 class sessions**
- **2,000+ website visits and podcast downloads**
- **858 direct contacts**



# BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES

## Building Strong Families

Division of Family Services needs parenting classes for their clients. John Fuller partnered with the Reynolds County division to provide 6-sessions of classes.

Because of the response from the class, several more classes have been scheduled for 2025. One case manager reported that a parent was already incorporating some of the skills they had learned from the class.

10 Sessions for  
10 weeks  
Starting September  
18th at 1:30 pm

4-H Building Ripley County  
Fairgrounds  
142E-2A  
Doniphan, MO 63935

No Charge

This program is  
designed for those  
60 years and older

For more information  
and requirements  
call 573-996-4097

## Computer and Technology Classes

There has been a great response to a need for these classes in the Southeast Region. From learning how a Chromebook works to a better understanding of their phones, the response has been positive. Thanks to a grant that Aging Matters received, we were able to provide these classes at no charge. In our lectures and workshops, 74.6% reported having learned a new skill. Of those surveyed in our courses, 18 people before the class either agreed or strongly agreed to be comfortable with using a computer. After the class, 32 people agreed or strongly agreed to feeling comfortable using a computer.

## Boost Your Brain and Memory

Alzheimer's is predicted to be the number one medical issue in the world by the year 2050. This six-session class discusses six areas to have shown in reducing the risk of some form of dementia.

People that took the Boost Your Brain and Memory class have shared in their surveys that before the class 29% were doing at least one thing to lower their risk for Alzheimer's Disease. After the course, 82% now report they are now doing at least one thing to lower their risk for Alzheimer's.

**TRAIN YOUR BRAIN**

**Boost Your  
Brain and  
Memory**

## SNAP Education

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Education or SNAP-Ed) brought \$11,145,237 in federal funds to Missouri. The funds support engagement with 74,864 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients and eligible citizens of Missouri who learned about being active and healthy eating on a budget. This year we had 1,164,143 indirect educational contacts through newsletters, health fairs, food pantries, and the Show Me Nutrition helpline.

One hundred and twenty-nine direct and 2,789 indirect contacts were made in Reynolds County. Participants in SNAP-Ed learn the importance of making healthier meals and snack choices, eating breakfast more often, are more willing to try new foods, increase their physical activity, and make healthier food choices. Those who practice healthy eating and are physically active are more likely to contribute to a healthy labor force and enjoy a high quality of life throughout the lifespan.

This vital programming effort also reduces healthcare costs over the participant's lifetime, saving taxpayer money in reduced public healthcare benefits and insurance premiums.



During our first-grade food tasting we tried broccoli florets, carrot chips, and snow peas. The snow peas were left in the pods. I had students open the pods to discover the peas/seeds on the inside, then students tasted both the peas and pods. Students were very interested in the snow peas. The following week one of the first-grade students said that her mother bought some snow peas at the store for the family to eat, since the first grader loved them so much! Not only did the snow peas make a memorable impression on the student, but hopefully they will make a healthful impact on the family as well

Npa: Leslie Davis Teaching Healthy Change at Ellington Nutrition Center



# MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU**

through credible statewide programs

## Missouri 4-H for ages 8 – 18



"4-H in Reynolds County is all about moving forward. We're not dwelling on the past. Instead, we're focused on the incredible opportunities ahead and the bright future we're building together for the youth and the communities." –

Emily Doosing  
4-H Specialist  
edoosing@missouri.edu

"4-H is all about helping kids grow into confident, capable, and caring people. It gives them a chance to try new things, learn important skills, and make a difference in their communities." –

Adrienne Mooney  
4-H Youth Program Associate  
Reynolds County



"Clown College in 4-H was so much fun! I learned how to make people laugh, be creative, and feel more confident. Plus, I made awesome new friends." – Melanie, Reynolds County 4-H member.



### 4-H'ers are...

- 4X** more likely to give back to their communities
- 2X** more likely to make healthier choices
- 2X** more likely to participate in STEM activities

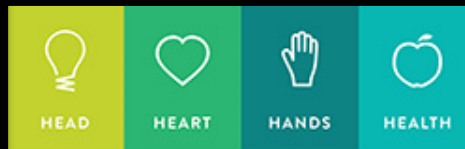
# 38

Youth were served by 4-H in Reynolds County

- Traditional Clubs
- SPIN Clubs
- School Enrichment Clubs
- After School Programs

# \$5,626.32.

7 volunteers served 4-H youth in Reynolds County. Valuing their time at \$33.49 (Independent Sector, 2024), the contribution of 4-H volunteers was worth more than \$5,626.32 in 2024. More importantly, these individuals role models and mentors for youth.



Educational Access & Excellence





MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU**  
through credible statewide programs  
**Business and Community**

# Estate Planning: What's the Worst That Can Happen???

Jennifer R. Williams, JD  
University of Missouri Extension

 Extension  
University of Missouri

**SERVE MISSOURI.**  
**DELIVER MIZZOU.**



This class uses the fictional family pictured above to demonstrate the consequences of not having an estate plan.

Jennifer R. Williams taught an estate planning class in Reynolds County to **25 adults**, educating them on the importance of completing an estate plan.

**“I was unaware of beneficiary deeds in Missouri and will certainly execute such when I update other documents.”**

**“‘What’s the worst thing that could happen’ is way worse than I ever imagined!”**

# AGRONOMY IMPACT



Private Pesticide Applicator Trainings certify crop producers for restricted use pesticides. MU Extension provides classes for these certification needs. There were a total of 4 private applicator trainings in Reynolds County in 2024.



**Replacement Heifer Development Program** Livestock Specialist Eric Meusch with Ag Economic Specialist Jason Morris and Agronomy Field Specialist Haley Schwantz held a program for cattle and forage producers in October. Topics covered were heifer development, current cattle market forecasts, and hay testing.

There were 14 attendees, and food was sponsored by Patty Pogue provided by Opy's Deli Market in Ellington.



Soil testing is a tool that producers in Reynolds County have access to use to monitor fertility and pH levels for forage and crop production. There were 55 interpretations of soil test reports by the Agronomy Field Specialist for 2024. There were also a total of 21 farm calls and visits to producers helping address any forage or soil related questions.

# Reynolds County

## Agriculture Business and Policy

### Local Impact and Stories

#### **Annie's Project**

A new program was delivered in the Southeast Region which involved women in agriculture. More than nine On My Own programs were scheduled throughout the 18 county Southeast Region.

#### **Grazing School**

In conjunction with other Extension disciplines and outside stake holders, Agriculture Business and Policy faculty were involved in numerous Grazing School programs offered in multiple counties.

#### **Ag Lenders Seminar**

The Ag Lenders Seminar is a multi-county programming effort to educate those who work in the field of agriculture finance and those who desire knowledge. This program consists of marketing outlooks, weather forecasts as well as past and current trends related to farming.

#### **Farm Lease Classes**

Many questions related to farm leases from producers and landlords are addressed yearly by MU Extension agricultural business specialists. As a relatively new program, several throughout Southeast Missouri participated in this program on-line and in-person. The two primary topics covered were items in a lease and terminating a farm lease. Estimates have 33 percent of farm leases in Missouri are still oral and oral lease termination is complicated and somewhat unique to the state. This program continues to draw participants, and elderly landowners appreciate the in-person option greatly.

#### **Farm Tax Workshops**

MU Extension hosted and taught Farm Tax Workshops for farm businesses and farm and ranch families. The content included Corporate Transparency Act, TCJA, estate & gift tax sunset, conservation tax issues, managing high/low-income years, Section 179 and depreciation, sales & exchanges and retirement and social security planning.

The online participants planned to take some action before the end of the year. The planned actions included: reviewing farm records (70%), meeting with tax preparer before the end of the year (67%), communicate with family members (50%) and fifty percent plan to review resources before purchasing begins in 2025.

#### **Beef Producers**

One of the greatest impacts for 2024 was addressing issues and needs which faced Southeast Missouri beef producers. Extension and Ag Business hosted several meetings throughout the year to educate producers regarding weather conditions, marketing options, financial directives and more.

MU Extension was involved in or participated in no less than eight cattle related meetings.

#### **2024 Program Highlight**

Beef Producers at risk: For the second year in a row, Dr. Tim Evans, Assoc. Prof. & State Ext. Specialist, Veterinary Medicine from MU was invited to Southeast Missouri to help find solutions facing local beef producers. In addition, Dr. Evans presented at two cattlemen's association meetings. This year, Dr. Evans transversed five counties and met with numerous producers. Plans have begun in preparation for 2025 farm and field days to include Dr. Evans. Originating from a one county visit, this small project has grown into a program encompassing many counties. Some of the questions and comments from the visits were:

*"How can I get Dr. Evans to my farm?"*

*"Will and can he come back next year?"*

*"Why have we not done this before?"*



Serving Dent, Phelps, Crawford, Pulaski, Shannon, Reynolds, Carter, and Texas Counties

## 2024 AT A GLANCE

- Grazing Schools held in 5 counties taught approximately 110 livestock producers the fundamentals of Management Intensive Grazing. Improved grazing can reduce production costs, provide environmental benefits and improve drought resilience on livestock farms in Missouri.
- Show Me Quality Assurance events held in Dent, Phelps and Crawford Counties trained youth on proper care of livestock. Other youth-oriented activities included Ozark Cattlemen's Beef Day in Salem and the Wurdack Education Day event.
- The Value-Added Meats (VAM) team collaborated with Feedlot School team to develop the Direct Marketing Beef School held in West Plains. VAM also worked through the 2501 Program to conduct a hands-on chicken processing workshop for urban farmers in the St. Louis area



On-farm visits with producers addressing various issues is a key activity that takes place throughout the year.

## KEY SUCCESSES

- ✓ A total of 174 youth in 3 counties received Show Me Quality Assurance training, learning industry standards for food animal care and husbandry. This training is required for youth exhibiting livestock at county fairs and Livestock Expos.
- ✓ Participants in Missouri Grazing schools learned the basics in management intensive grazing, including soil and forage management, grazing system layout, livestock management and infrastructure development..
- ✓ Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers participated in livestock related programs such small-scale chicken processing and farm walk abouts. This was part of the grant funded 2501 Program.
- ✓ In the Show Me Select Heifer Development Program, the state-wide combined totals for the spring and fall sanctioned sales were 1,352 heifers sold with gross receipts of \$4,490,675.



The Value Added Meats team worked with the 2501 and Beginning Farmers Programs to teach poultry processing.

# County Highlights

## Missouri County State Fair Farm Family – The Gore Family

The Gore's were among those honored during the 67th annual Missouri Farm Family Day, Aug. 14 at the Missouri State Fair. The Gore family was selected as the Missouri County Farm Family by University of Missouri Extension and the local Farm Bureau. Each year, the fair sets aside a day to recognize farm families from across the state that are active in their communities, involved in agriculture, and/or participate in local outreach and extension programs such as 4-H or FFA.



## Missouri Century Farm

Two Missouri County farms have been recognized as a Missouri Century Farm in 2024.

- The Tarvid Family
- The Meister Family

Families were presented their certificates during the Annual Dinner. In 1976, Missouri's Centennial Farm project awarded certificates to persons owning farms that had been in the same family for 100 years or more. The MU College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources and MU Extension planned a 10-year update in 1986 called the Century Farm program. Since then, the program has been an annual event, recognizing more than 100 farms each year.



# Reynolds County



## UM System Footprint in the county in 2024



### FY24 county students

**22 students**

- 20 Undergraduates
- 2 Graduate and professional students
- 20 Full-time students
- 2 Part-time students



### County employees and retirees

**2 people employed by UM**

- 2 Campuses



### County alumni

**Selected school alumni**

- 1 Medicine
- 5 Nursing
- 7 Health Professions
- 5 Agriculture
- 16 Engineering
- 2 Law

**Alumni teaching K-12**

- 3 teachers
- 3.3% of all district teachers
- 1 principal or administrator
- 12.5% of all district principals and administrators



### County breakdown

#### MU

- 14 students
- 45 alumni
- 0 employees

#### UMKC

- 0 students
- 3 alumni
- 0 employees

#### Missouri S&T

- 6 students
- 15 alumni
- 2 employees

#### UMSL

- 2 students
- 23 alumni
- 0 employees



### County properties and offices

MU Extension in: Reynolds County



County population: 6,058



### County services provided

**Health care (FY24)**

- 43 in-state patients seen at MU Health Care, with \$46,780 of uncompensated care
- MU Health Care's Missouri Telehealth Network recorded 46 visits to 26 patients having ZIP codes associated with the county

**Extension (2023)**

- 1,032 Total educational contacts from MU Extension to residents of the county, including:
  - 23 contacts related to productive farming, better gardening, and managing natural resources
  - 942 contacts related to healthy eating and aging, strengthening families, personal finance, or youth development
  - 25 contacts related to starting businesses, developing community leaders, or renewing the local economy

# Reynolds County



University of Missouri System  
COLUMBIA | KANSAS CITY | ROLLA | ST. LOUIS

## UM System Statewide Footprint

### Economic and Community Development Highlights

- In FY23, Business Development Specialists worked with small businesses and entrepreneurs statewide to create or retain 98,527 jobs.

**\$3.1**  
billion

For every dollar invested from 2019 to 2021, the MU Extension Business Development Program has returned \$133 in economic impact for its clients by increasing sales more than \$1.6 billion. For a total impact of \$3.1 billion, the program has generated more than 37,000 jobs and attracted nearly \$451 million in capital investments and \$1.5 billion in government contracts.

- Between FY18 and FY23, UM System brought Missouri more than \$1.58 billion in federal and private research funds, funded primarily from outside the state, but spent within the state.



In FY24, UM System was issued 29 patents and filed 69 new U.S. patent applications.

- In FY24, the UM System awarded 707 design and construction project contracts throughout Missouri, for a total investment of \$287.3 million in the state.



In FY24, to improve access to medical and health related services, MU Health Care's Missouri Telehealth Network's Show-Me ECHO program provided 16,687 hrs of case-based instruction to 3,113 learners located in 105 of 114 Missouri counties and the city of St. Louis.

### Education and Training Provided



40,542 police, fire fighters, and medical professionals attending continuing education (2023)



Agriculture and natural resource programs served 369,077 farmers and related businesses (2023)

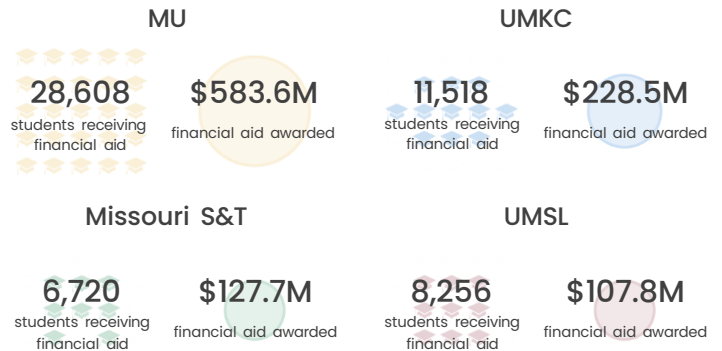


210,577 youth and stakeholder educational contacts in 4-H clubs, schools, camps and other programs (2023)

### Education Highlights

#### FY24 Financial Aid Awards

In FY24, 69.7% of the UM System's 79,014 students received financial aid totaling \$1.048 billion



UM System's MOREnet (Missouri Research and Education Network) provides internet connectivity, access, support and training to 58 higher education institutions (230,000 students), 484 K-12 school districts (830,000 students) and 134 public libraries (serving nearly 3 million Missourians) in 2023.

- UM System awarded 50.5% of the 31,689 Bachelor's or higher degrees awarded by Missouri four-year public institutions in 2023-24.
- UM System awarded 35.0% of the 1,776 research doctorates and 26.8% of the 3,796 professional doctorates awarded by Missouri public and not-for-profit private institutions in 2023-24.
- In FY24, UM System's \$30.7 million in National Science Foundation (NSF) grants represented 96.9% of all NSF grants made to Missouri public colleges and universities.
- In 2024, over 12,400 Missourians accessed [mobroadband.org](http://mobroadband.org), part of the UM System Broadband Initiative which helped the statewide build-out of high-speed internet infrastructure.

## Supporting the University of Missouri is an investment in the future of Missouri.

The university advances Missouri citizens and communities through its mission of teaching, research, public service, and economic development across our four campuses and University of Missouri Extension.

Prepared in December 2024, based on the best available and most recent data. Data Sources include: Missouri Office of Administration • UM IR • MU Institute for Public Policy • Center for Applied Research and Engagement Systems (CARES) • MU • UMKC • Missouri S&T • UMSL • UM System • UM Health Care • MU Extension • US Census Bureau • US Dept. of Health and Human Services • National Science Foundation

