



PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN NAMED MISSOURI KIDS COUNT GRANTEE

Partnership for Children, Greater Kansas City's leading advocacy organization dedicated to improving life for children and youth, has been chosen to be the KIDS COUNT grantee in Missouri.

KIDS COUNT is an initiative of The Annie E. Casey Foundation, which made the selection. The foundation funds a nationwide network of KIDS COUNT projects which track the status of children on a county-by-county basis. The measurements of social, economic, educational and physical well-being are used to inform policymakers and the public of the needs of children and to spur action.

Don Crary, The Annie E. Casey Foundation's associate director of policy reform and advocacy, said Partnership for Children is an excellent fit for the foundation's data-driven advocacy work in Missouri.

"Partnership for Children was the ideal choice to be Missouri's KIDS COUNT grant recipient because of its long-time and respected work to improve the lives of children through research, education and advocacy," Crary said.

Established in 1991 as a joint initiative of the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation and Heart of America United Way, Partnership for Children collaborates with other organizations to tackle critical issues impacting Greater Kansas City's children and youth.

Charron Townsend, Partnership for Children president, said the KIDS COUNT grant will enable her organization to expand its advocacy efforts statewide. For instance, although Partnership for Children already has a significant presence at the state Capitol in Jefferson City, she said the KIDS COUNT grant will help it to have a greater impact on children's issues because of state partners.

"We will work with partner groups around the state to make sure we are addressing the issues that are important to child advocates and state policymakers in Missouri," she said. "And we will also continue our local Ready by 21 work to improve outcomes in the areas of early childhood care and education, K-12 education, health, social and emotional well-being and safety and security."

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