

What is a Children's Services Fund?

The Children's Services Fund (RSMO Section 67.1775) was established nearly 30 years ago by Missouri Law. The law allows counties through a voter approved tax to establish a fund solely for the purpose of establishing a community children's services fund for the purpose of providing services to protect the well-being and safety of children and youth nineteen years of age or less and to strengthen families.

JASPER COUNTY PROPOSAL

1/4 Cent sales tax generates

\$5 MILLION

annually for children in Jasper County

Average cost per family per year = \$52

How does it work?

- Jasper County Commissioners appoint a nine member board to disburse and oversee the funds.
- Nonprofit organizations and governmental entities may apply for funds outlined in the law.
- Board members cannot serve on the governing body, be employed by, or have a financial interest in a recipient of funds.
- Board may audit expenditures at any time.

Services may include:

- Temporary shelter for abused, neglected, runaway, or homeless children
- Outpatient treatment
- Outpatient counseling
- Prevention programs to strengthen families
- Intervention programs
- Counseling, therapy, evaluations, and screenings
- Crisis intervention
- Respite Care

Missouri Counties That Have Established Children's Services Funds:

Boone • Clay • Franklin • Jackson • Jefferson • Lafayette
Lincoln • St. Charles • St. Louis City • St. Louis County

Reasons to support Children's Services Funds

- Savings to Taxpayers
- Improved Economy
- Improved Workforce
- Improved Business Recruitment

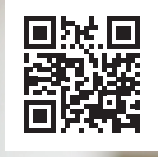


**PROP A
FOR KIDS ON
APRIL 8**

jaspercounty  **kids**
jaspercounty4kids.com



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jaspercounty kids

Children today are facing unprecedented levels of anxiety partly due to increased use of technology and social media. Events like the pandemic have further intensified mental health challenges for them. Furthermore, one in five children in Jasper County lives in poverty. Children living in poverty often experience poor health, hunger, and instability.

All of these things contribute to higher rates of depression, stress and other mental health concerns, leading to problems such as substance abuse, suicide, violence, lower school attendance and graduation rates. Children are affected across all family types and backgrounds.

JasperCounty4Kids will expand access to vital prevention and intervention services. Investing in the well-being of our children will lead to thriving young adults who grow into productive community members.

Why it's important:

Missouri Kids Count ranks Jasper County 98 out of 114 counties

- Substance abuse hospitalizations **33rd**
- Teen homicides and suicide **56th**
- Child abuse and neglect **18th**
- Child homelessness **5%**
- Births to teens, ages 15-19 **92nd**
- High school graduation **99th**

Jasper County Student Survey: In the past 30 days...

- Felt very sad **31%**
- Were in a physical fight **15%**
- Seriously considered suicide **12%**
- Attempted suicide **6%**

The establishment of a Children's Services Fund can make this a reality. Prevention Saves Jasper County Taxpayers \$\$\$.

- Every \$1 invested in prevention equals \$24 in health and economic savings according to NIH.
- Reduce substance abuse treatment, lost wages, and criminal justice system cost.
- Prevention helps to lower health care costs and increase graduation rates.
- Over 60% of Jasper County sales tax revenue is generated by those who live outside the county.

A Children's Services Fund is an effective method to increase resources and services to protect the well-being and safety of children and youth and to strengthen families.