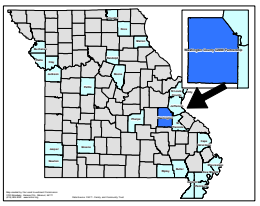
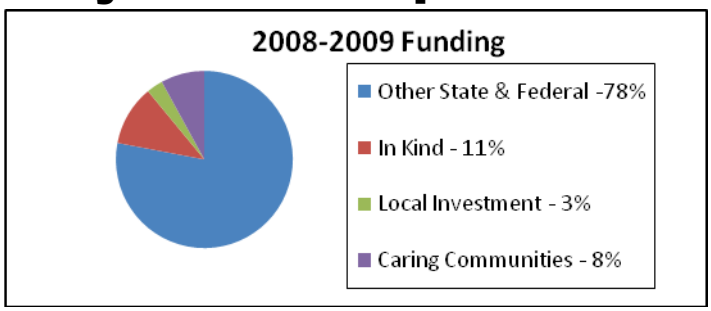
Washington County Community Partnership

Established: 1999





FY09 Result Achievement:

Increase TANF recipients' work participation/reduce sanctions

September 2009

Community Profile: The Partnership office is in Potosi, the county seat, and serves all Washington County. The county is large, rural and poor. The population is 24,548 covering 760 sq. miles with a sparse 30 people p/sq. mile. In July 2009, our unemployment rate was 14.2%, 57.2% of school-aged children are enrolled for free/reduced lunch and 31.2% of our children live in poverty. Of our population 25 and older, 37.5% do not have a high school diploma or GED. (OSEDA, 2007, LAUS 08)

The Washington County Community Partnership was established in 1997 and has been a 501(c)3 Caring Community site since 1999. It was one of the last 3 Partnerships designated and, as such, funded at the minimum level to do assessment, local capacity development and leverage resources. No direct services are provided with CP funds.

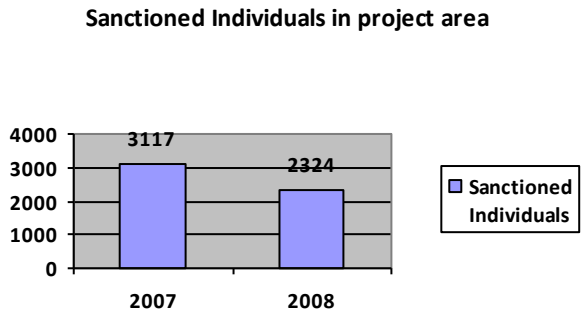
We administer 8 programs in Washington County: Caring Communities (since 1999), Educare (1999), Smiley Faces Oral Health (2003), Missouri Reentry AmeriCorps (2006), Reentry Green Team (2009), Strategic Prevention Framework (2006), Community Work Support (2007) and Christmas for Kids (2007).

The Partnership is governed by a 10 member board which meets monthly. We have 11 employees, 4 P/T. There is also a 40 person general membership that meets bi-monthly to discuss community events and initiatives. This group elects the governing board at the annual volunteer banquet and is open to all members of the community. We have representation from most social service agencies, schools, government, law enforcement and the faith community.

A decade of collaboration has integrated our local resources to address a variety of community needs without duplicating services. The Partnership sponsors 4 community coalitions addressing issues related to Health, Alcohol Prevention, Reentry, and Christmas for Kids fundraising.

The Partnership has also been the start up resource for initiatives that have gone on to secure their own 501(c)3 such as Great Mines Health Center and the Washington County Tourism Board.

Major Collaborative Accomplishment: The Working Partnership is a broad-based community effort to increase work activity participation among Washington County TANF (welfare) recipients. A Missouri family of 3 may receive a maximum of $292 p/month if the head of household participates in required work activities 30 hours p/wk. If work activities are not met, TANF is cut or 'sanctioned' by 25% until they are.



Among the 4 Partnerships and 4 Community Action Agencies that participated, there was a decrease of 793 sanctioned individuals in the pilot area after only 13 months. The Working Partnership contacts each sanctioned family, identifies the challenges they face and works with a community team to meet those challenges. If no other resources are available, we provide emergency funds for car repair and GED tests. We offer job readiness/ computer training and jobs tours of local employers.

Community Engagement: Beyond the programs that we administer in-house, the Partnership also provides technical assistance in assessment, grant writing, and partners in a variety of programs administered through other county agencies.

In 2008, the Partnership directly administered or leveraged a total of $1,498,890 in Washington County on the Caring Community base funding of $83,. That is $10.97 for each CC dollar invested.

List of Partners: Family Support Division, Workforce Development, Central Ozarks Private Industry Council, East Missouri Action Agency, and Ministerial Alliance.