

September Employee of the Month



Congratulations to Emily McGee, FOC Program Administrator, our September Employee of the Month! Here's why Emily was nominated:

"I would like to nominate Emily McGee for her outstanding leadership and the powerful example she sets in balancing both her professional and personal responsibilities. In a role that is often demanding and fast-paced, she consistently demonstrates what it truly looks like to maintain a healthy and sustainable work-life balance. This is something that is not only admirable, but deeply impactful for those she leads.

What makes her leadership especially unique is also her supportive and thoughtful approach. When challenges arise, or deadlines become difficult to meet, she does not default to criticism or pressure. Instead, she leads with curiosity and compassion, often asking, "How can I help?" or "What happened?" This creates an environment where staff feel supported rather than judged, and where problem-solving becomes a shared effort rather than an individual burden. Her approach helps promote resilience, accountability, and trust within the team and with her staff members.

In addition to her supervisory responsibilities, she continues to manage her own caseload with dedication and professionalism. Balancing these dual roles is no small task, yet she handles both with consistency and care. Beyond the workplace, she also fulfills many important roles—as a wife, a mother, a friend, and an active member of her community. The way she carries these many "hats" with grace and intention only strengthens the example she sets for others.

Her leadership style not only supports productivity and success but also prioritizes well-being, understanding, and

Her leadership style not only supports productivity and success but also prioritizes well-being, understanding, and human connection. She models a way of working that is both effective and sustainable, and her impact extends far beyond day-to-day tasks. For these reasons, she is highly deserving of recognition and nomination."

Thank you, Emily, for the positive impact you have on your staff, your program, and CMCA. Your nomination reflects the kind of leadership that makes a lasting difference. Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition!



Economic Stability

Agency Employment & Financial Coaching Outcomes September 2026



35

Unemployed People
Placed in Jobs



18

People with an
**Increased Level
of Education**



52

People with
**Increased
Net Income**



70

People with
Increased Savings



14

People with
**IDA Matched
Savings**



36

People with
Reduced Debt



32

People with
**Improved Credit
Scores***



220

Non-energy related
**Crisis Requests
Fulfilled**



39

**New Businesses
Started**



38

**19 New Full-Time &
19 Part-Time
Jobs Created
through small business**

* Credit scores can be retrieved every 6 months.

Community Economic Development

WBC staff attended the Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities conference in Maryville, Missouri. Hosted by MU Extension, the conference highlights a different Missouri community each year and showcases how small and rural communities can work together to strengthen economic development and entrepreneurship. Topics included statewide developments in artificial intelligence, childcare, and entrepreneurship.

Director Jayme Prenger volunteered at the Columbia Chamber's Worlds of Work Workforce Event, which introduced more than 1,300 ninth-grade students to career opportunities through hands-on experiences with local employers. Participation provided an opportunity to engage with the next generation of Missouri's workforce.



Director Jayme Prenger and Boone County Advisory Board Member Chrystal Graves served as judges for the University of Missouri Entrepreneurship Quest Student Accelerator Pitch Competition, alongside other entrepreneurship support organizations and ecosystem partners. Finalist Katie Meuth of Unbridled Impact will receive WBC coaching as she prepares for the final pitch competition in November. The finalists will compete for a share of the \$30,000 prize pool.

Capital Access Program



5

Small business
Microloans



\$1.1M

Small business
Capital Infusions
Oct. 2025-Sept. 2026

MoWBC presented its Microloan Program to Equity Bank, highlighting opportunities to partner with local community banks to help small businesses access the capital they need to start, grow, and sustain their operations.

These collaborative efforts aim to strengthen local lending relationships, expand financing options for entrepreneurs, and address barriers to accessing capital.

Entrepreneurship

MoWBC staff joined Downtown Fayette's Economic Development Committee for a "Woot Woot Wagon" visit to local businesses. The committee thanked business owners for their support of the community, answered questions, and shared information about available resources. Each business received a plant as a small gift of appreciation. The visit was a great opportunity to introduce more Howard County businesses to the services offered through MoWBC, and we look forward to continuing to grow these relationships.



Our last Business Blitz Day of the year took us to Mexico, Missouri, where we visited four local businesses and learned more about the entrepreneurs making an impact in Audrain County. We began at Kaitlyn's Cleaning Services, LLC, where 2025 Women Who Own It Awardee Kaitlyn Camp has grown her business to 27-30 employees while regularly giving back to community members in need. We then visited Stacey's Place, where owner Stacy shared her journey from employee to entrepreneur, followed by Melody's Quality Jewelry, where Melody's

commitment to supporting her community stood out alongside her successful business. We wrapped up at The Cookie Club, where founder Kierah shared how her business has grown over the past seven years and provided connection and joy to the community, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. Business Blitz days give us an opportunity to connect with local entrepreneurs, celebrate their successes, and learn more about the businesses strengthening communities across Missouri, and we look forward to next year's visits!



Economic Stability

Entrepreneurship

Missouri Women's Business Center is excited to announce that the 2026 Women Who Own It Awardees were selected in September. This annual recognition celebrates women entrepreneurs who are making a difference in their businesses and communities across our service area. This year's awardees are:

Audrain County

*Courtney Sample
A&H Doghouse*

Boone County

*Beth Orns
Better Together Mental Health*

Callaway County

*Bethany Walsh
Hello Belle*

Cole County

*Kim Stockstill
Dogwood Realty Group*

Cooper County

*Amanda Penrod
Bloom & Bindings*

Howard County

*Dr. Chelsea Karwath
Abide Fayette*

Moniteau County

*Becki Collier
Grace Print House*

Osage County

*Heather Henke
Onyx Aesthetics*

We are excited to celebrate these women at our annual Women Who Own It event on November 5. Please join us!



**MISSOURI WOMEN'S
BUSINESS CENTER**
a program of Central Missouri Community Action

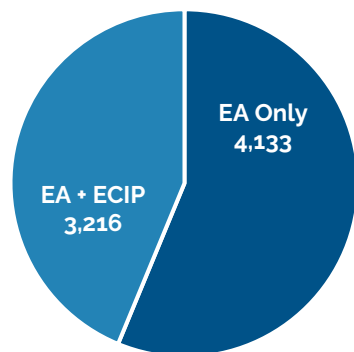


Economic Stability

Total Households Receiving Energy Assistance

October 2025-Present

Total: 7,349



Total Energy Assistance Applications Processed

Eligible	0
Ineligible	1,021
Direct Pay	80
Supplier Approved	4,053
Supplier Denials	35
Reapplications	465
ECIP Applications	3,216
Total Applications	8,870



\$1.2M

Emergency/Crisis Energy Assistance*

October 2025 – Present

*This amount reflects ECIP payments & pledges only. Households must first receive EA to be eligible to receive ECIP.

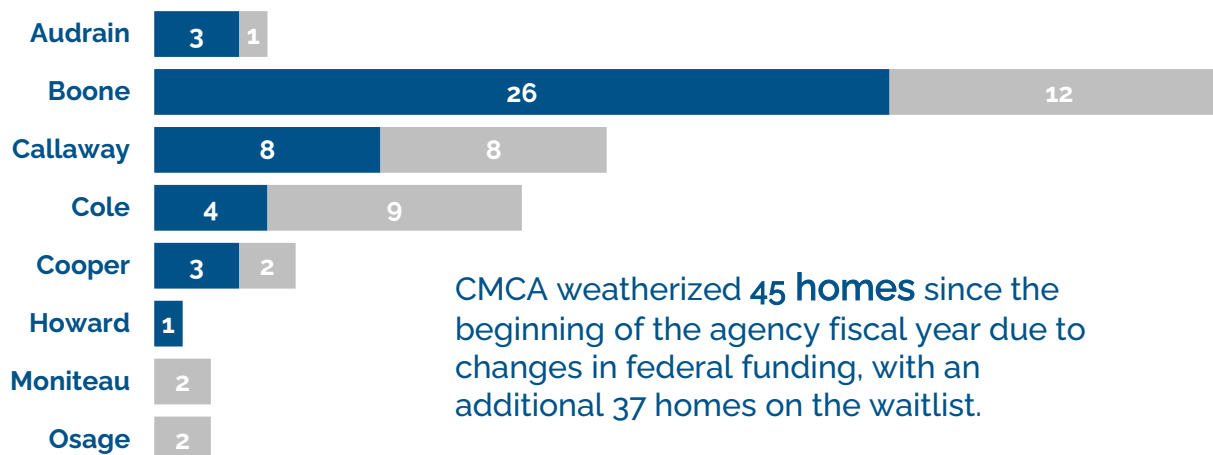


\$8,416

Average invested in each
Weatherized Home
October 2025 - Present

Weatherized Homes

■ Homes Completed ■ Waitlist



CMCA weatherized **45 homes** since the beginning of the agency fiscal year due to changes in federal funding, with an additional 37 homes on the waitlist.

Economic Stability



7

Tenants Paying Full Rent

Will graduate HCV after six months of paying full rent



137

Households on HCV Waitlist

Housing Choice Voucher



67

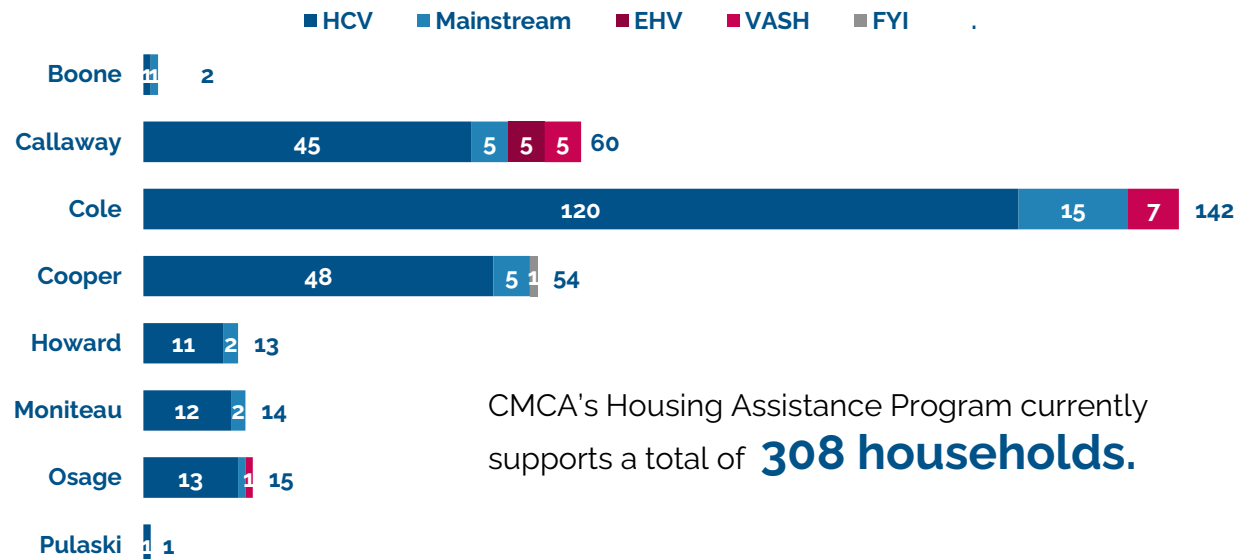
Outstanding Housing Vouchers



Here is this month's hidden code! [Click the link](#) to submit the code.

This month's code is: *autumn*

Households Receiving Housing Assistance Payments



CMCA's Housing Assistance Program currently supports a total of **308 households**.

Strengthening Communities



Audrain County

CMCA organized a training on evictions for direct service staff from agencies working with individuals experiencing housing insecurity. Seventeen people attended the training.

Community Organizer Mary Rohrbach and the Rural Health Transformation Hub 19 Board worked on proposals to help with medical transportation. The Hub's priorities are maternal health and access to care.



Boone County

CMCA is now a member of the Ashland Chamber of Commerce!

We have hired a new Community Organizer for Boone County who will start in October.



Callaway County

Information about the new FutureBuilt program has been shared with over 70 people from multiple organizations. This resulted in several new enrollments and several programs expressed interest in becoming a FutureBuilt worksite.

Community Organizer Kellie Pontius attended the Callaway County Special Services Disability Showcase Fair and spoke to approximately 50 people about CMCA programs that can support individuals with disabilities.



Left: Eviction Training in Audrain County.

Strengthening Communities



Cole County

Our Cole County office participated in United Way's Days of Caring by operating the food pantry at Catholic Charities. In addition to serving the pantry, staff had the opportunity to share information about FutureBuilt with Catholic Charities and connect directly with individuals utilizing pantry services. FutureBuilt information was also included in each pantry bag. This was a great opportunity to build relationships and trust with community members who may access services from multiple organizations while introducing them to additional CMCA resources.

CMCA participated in the Jefferson City Project Homeless Connect event. Staff managed the checkout station and entered data for 175 participants who attended the event. Community Organizer Stefani Thompson also co-chaired the planning committee and helped coordinate approximately 200 volunteers who made the event possible. We will use the data to facilitate referrals to CMCA programs & services.



Economic Stability

Strengthening Communities



Cooper & Howard Counties

CMCA hosted a Car Care Clinic for residents of Cooper & Howard Counties. The clinic was led by Cars4Missouri and ten people attended. Participants learned about basic car maintenance and warning signs, then moved outside to view the Cars4Missouri vehicle and do a Q&A. All participants were engaged and seemed to learn a lot at the clinic. Three of our ten participants were teenagers, and they had some excellent questions, including our own WIOA Youth who was seeking advice on purchasing her first car.



Moniteau & Osage Counties

The Moniteau County Healthy Lifestyles Glow Walk welcomed approximately 235-200 community members, families, and local organizations. The event provided an opportunity for participants to connect with local resources on prevention, mental wellness, and healthy, drug-free lifestyles. Community feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with several attendees expressing interest in making the Glow Walk an annual event.

CMCA hosted a car care clinic led by Cars4Missouri for a small number of attendees. Participants learned about basic vehicle maintenance and opportunities for involvement with the Head Start program.

The annual Taste of Osage event welcomed about 300 attendees throughout the day and featured 43 local vendors representing small businesses, nonprofits, schools, community organizations, and local service providers. The event provided an opportunity for Osage County and surrounding communities to discover local products, learn about available services, and support local small businesses.



Left: Car Care Clinic in Cooper County.

Early Childhood Updates

September is the beginning of the Head Start school year. Staff are orienting families into the program, and screening and assessment begin for the children.

We held our first staff in-service training, and during this professional development day, we celebrated the work that staff do on a daily basis and awarded more than 60 certificates.

The enrollment reduction application was resubmitted to the Office of Head Start. Once we hear back, any changes will be communicated.

The Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) for the recommended Performance Standards changes has closed. There were more than 40,000 comments that OHS is required to review. Once the review is complete, the new Performance Standards will be released, most likely in early 2027.

Many sites held back-to-school events this month. Cole East Head Start held a Dinner & Discovery event where families learned about other programs CMCA offers.

We want to send out a huge thank you to Shoes from the Heart and Home State Health for bringing shoes to all the Head Start kiddos at Williams Family Support Center!



Family Well-Being

Head Start Enrollment & Attendance September 2026



8

**classroom
closures***

6 full closures
2 at reduced
capacity

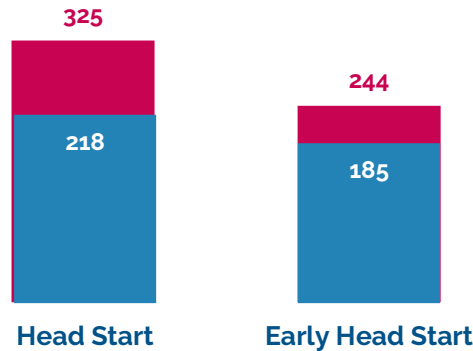
70

Children
affected by
classroom closures

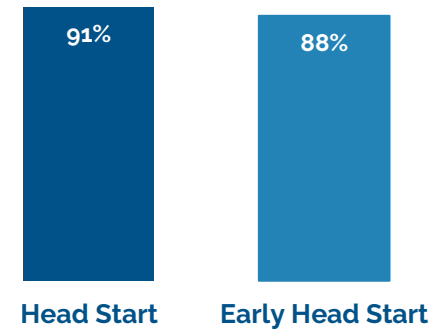


Actual Enrollment

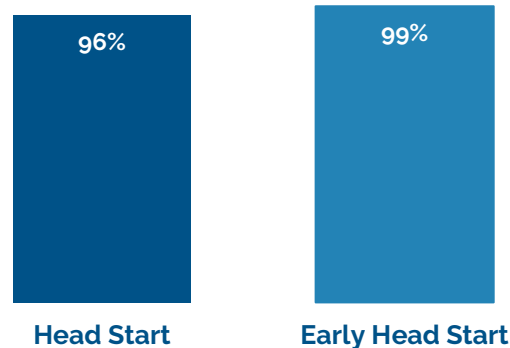
■ September ■ Target



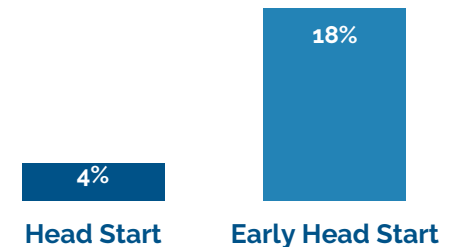
Average Daily Attendance



Income Eligible Enrollment



Disabilities Enrollment



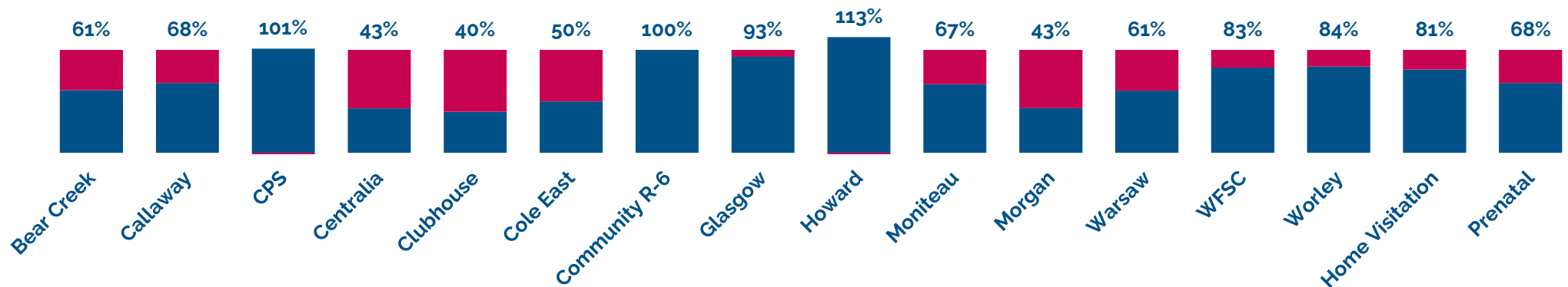


Family Well-Being

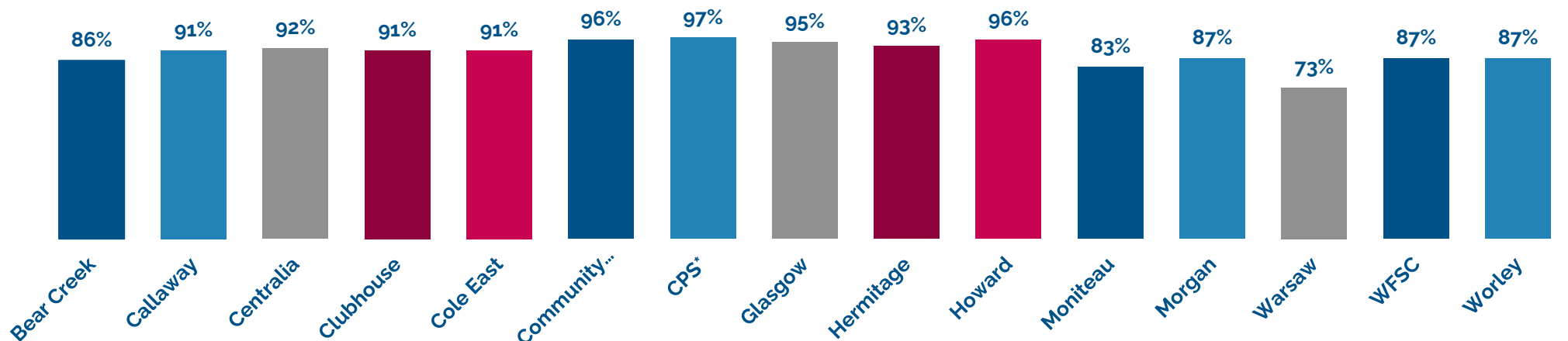
Head Start Enrollment & Attendance by Site September 2026

End of Month Enrollment by Site as a Percentage of Funded Enrollment

■ Actual Enrollment ■ Funded Enrollment



Average Daily Attendance by Site as a Percentage of Actual Enrollment



Note: CPS attendance reflects August attendance.

Head Start Report requiring Board & Policy Council approval

Family Well-Being

Head Start Classroom Snapshot

September 2026



31

Behavior Reports
for Classroom Behaviors



11

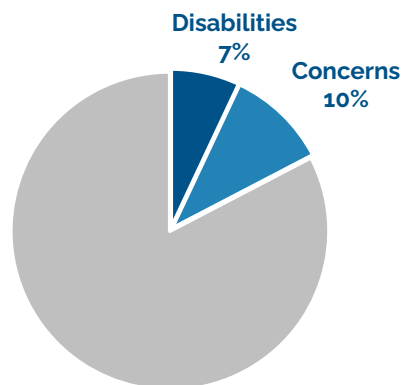
**Active Head Start
Staff Vacancies**
All Positions



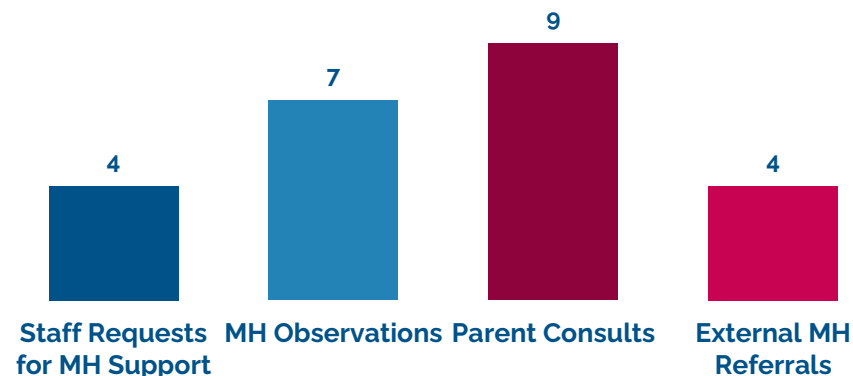
22

**Staff Receiving
Intensive Coaching**
on Education &
Mental Health Topics

Classroom Children with Disabilities & Disabilities Concerns



Classroom Mental Health Supports



Family Well-Being

Health & Wellness



201

Children received
Health Screenings



9

Children received
**Follow-Up
Medical or
Dental Care**



339

Children up-to-date
Immunizations



363

Children up-to-date on
Physical Exams

Head Start Meals Served (Determines CACFP Reimbursement)

3896



Head Start

3395



Early Head Start



21

People obtained
Health Insurance
October 2025-Present

35

People with
**Improved
Physical Health**
October 2025-Present



20

People with
**Improved
Mental Health**
October 2025-Present

ShowMe Healthy Relationships

ShowMe Healthy Relationships (SMHR) wrapped up Year 1 of our third grant on September 29, serving 125 participants and exceeding our enrollment goal by three! We achieved this milestone in just the few short months we were able to offer classes. With each participant attending six two-hour sessions, that represents 1,500 participant hours of healthy relationship education.



September was a busy month for outreach and professional development. Our team attended several events, participated in a weeklong grantee training, and updated our website information. We also reached out to every Department of Corrections institution in Missouri and trained community partner staff on how to discuss healthy relationships with the clients they serve.

As we begin Year 2, we look forward to offering more classes, building additional partnerships, and continuing to connect with CMCA staff to work together in serving members of our communities.

This fall, invest in healthier relationships — and yourself.

ShowMe Healthy Relationships

FREE 6-WEEK RELATIONSHIP CLASS

Whether you're single, dating, separated, or just want stronger relationship skills, ShowMe Healthy Relationships can help you build healthier connections in every area of your life.



CLASS BEGINS

**Wednesday,
October 14, 2026**



7:00 – 9:00 p.m.



Meets Wednesdays for 6 weeks



Online via Zoom

DURING THE 6 WEEKS, YOU'LL EXPLORE:

-  Healthy communication & conflict management
-  Relationship needs & expectations
-  Recognizing healthy vs. unhealthy relationship patterns
-  Relationship warning signs
-  Managing stress in relationships
-  How finances and family impact relationships



Missouri adults
ages 18+
All relationship types
welcome!



**NO COST
TO PARTICIPATE!**
A supportive,
judgment-free
environment.

*Ready for a
fresh start this fall?*

RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY!



smhr@cmca.us



Call or Text: 573.540.1028



ShowMe Healthy Relationships
Central Missouri



STRONG RELATIONSHIPS • STABLE FAMILIES • BETTER MISSOURI



A Taste of Osage

