SCOTT FITZPATRICK
MISSOURI STATE TREASURER

CARES Act Funding Working Group

Notice is hereby given that the Governor's Working Group on CARES Act Funding will be held on:

May 21, 2020 at 10:00am

State Capitol Building, House Hearing Room 5
201 W. Capitol Avenue
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

AGENDA

I. Testing Update
II. Economic Impact
   a. Unemployment
   b. Business Recovery
III. Remote Learning Capacity
IV. Adjournment

*A livestream of the meeting will be available on www.house.mo.gov

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COVID-19 UPDATE

Randall Williams, MD, FACOG
Director, Missouri Department of
Health and Senior Services

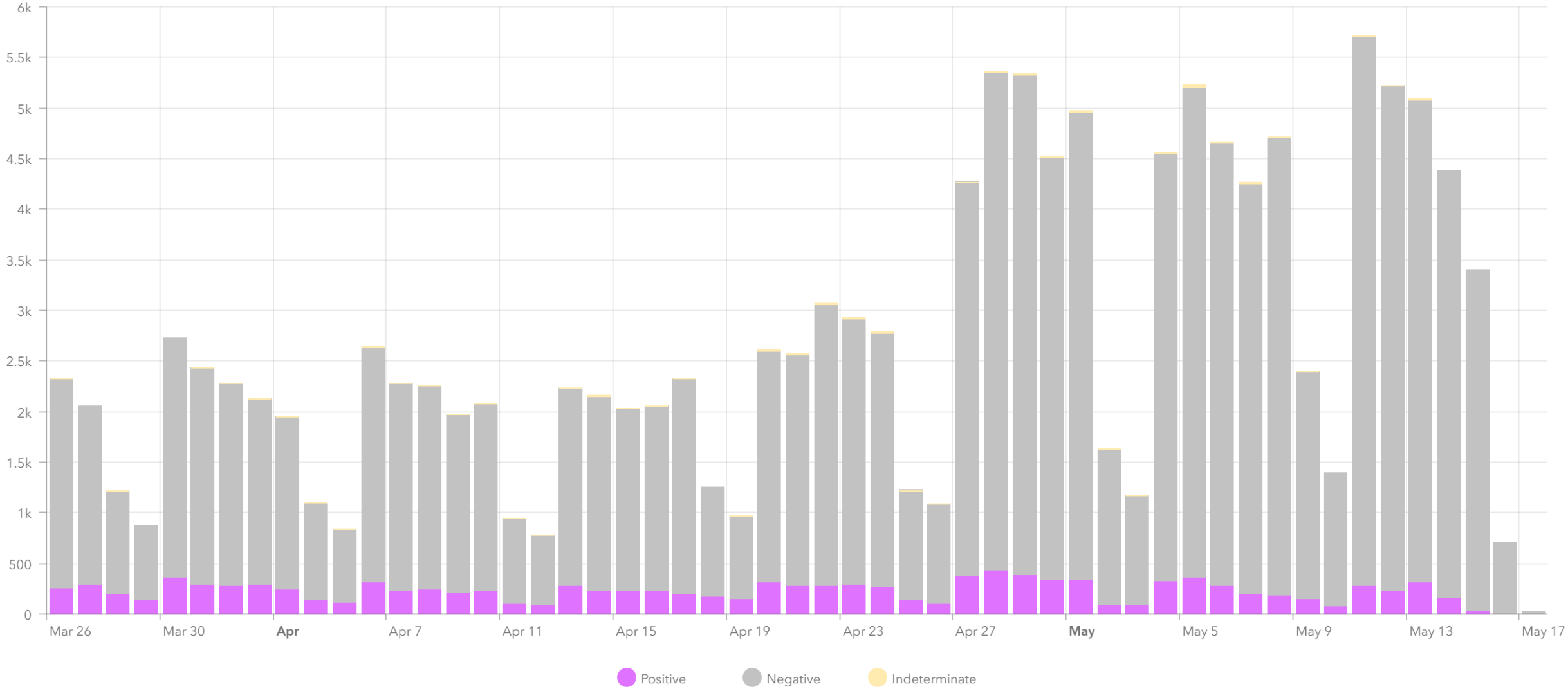
www.health.mo.gov/coronavirus

OHIO
OKLAHOMA
OREGON
PENNSYLVANIA
PUERTO RICO
RHODE ISLAND
SOUTH CAROLINA
TENNESSEE
TEXAS
UTAH

“The secret to getting ahead is getting started.”

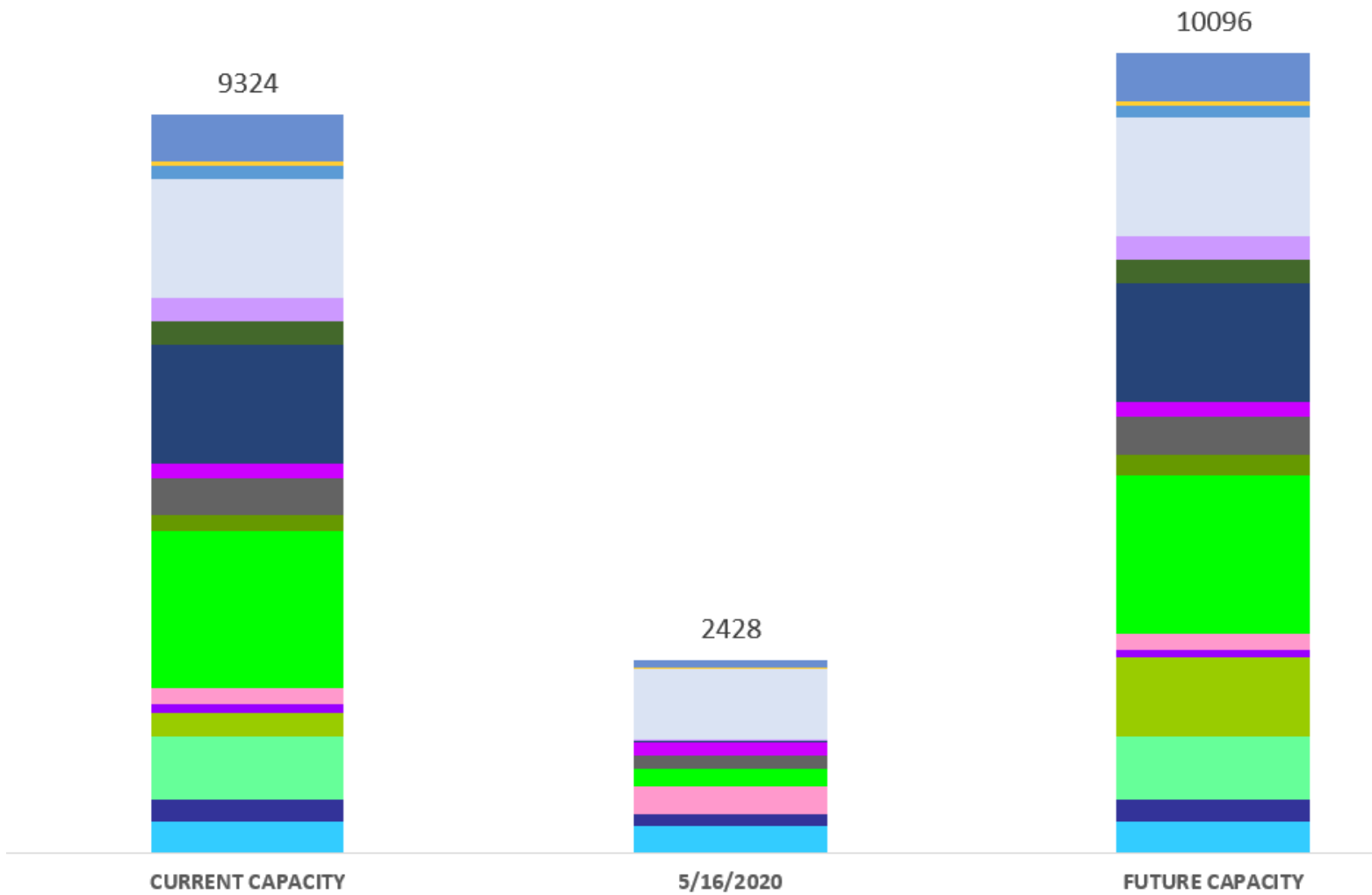
– Mark Twain

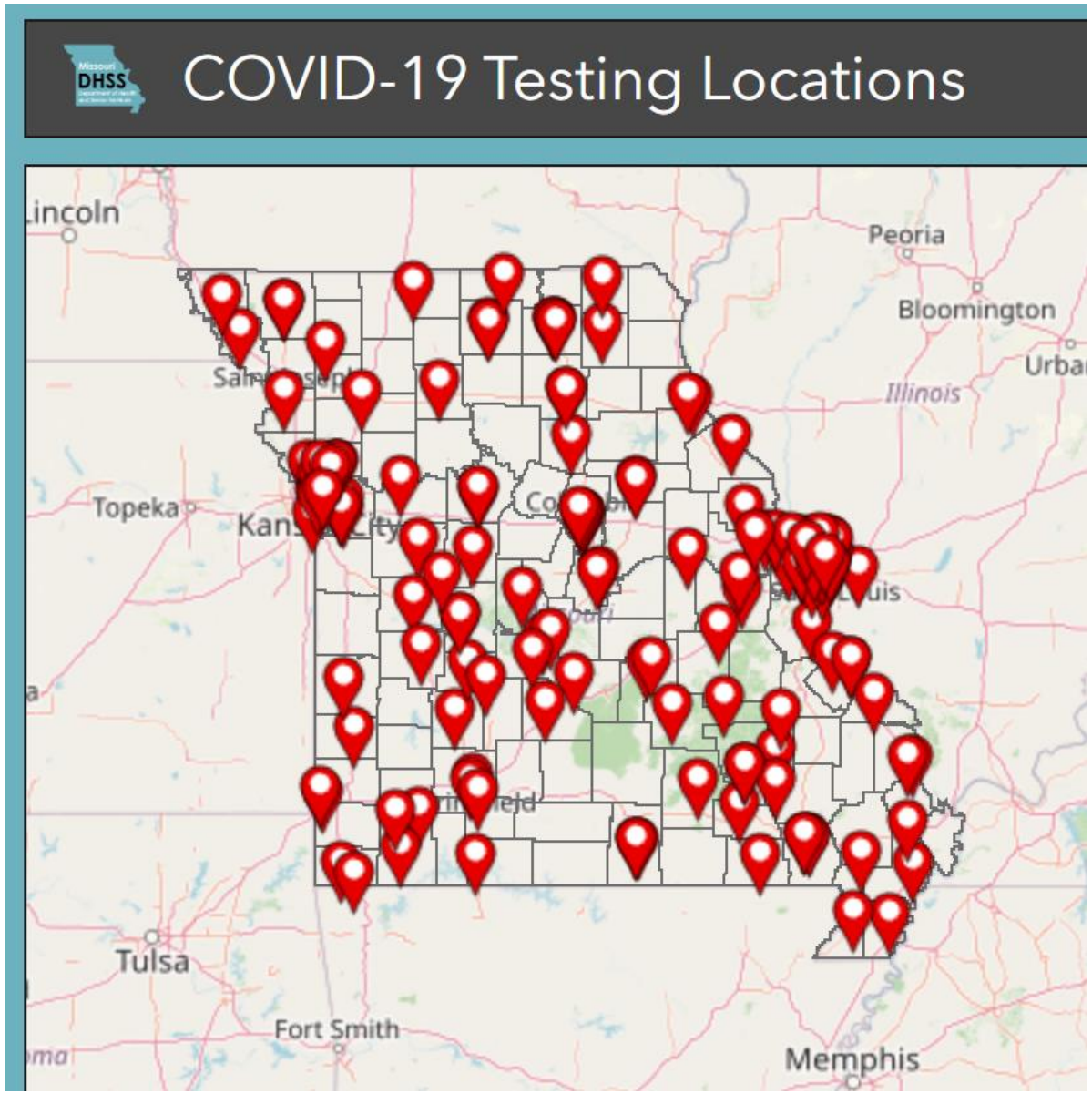
Daily COVID-19 Test Results

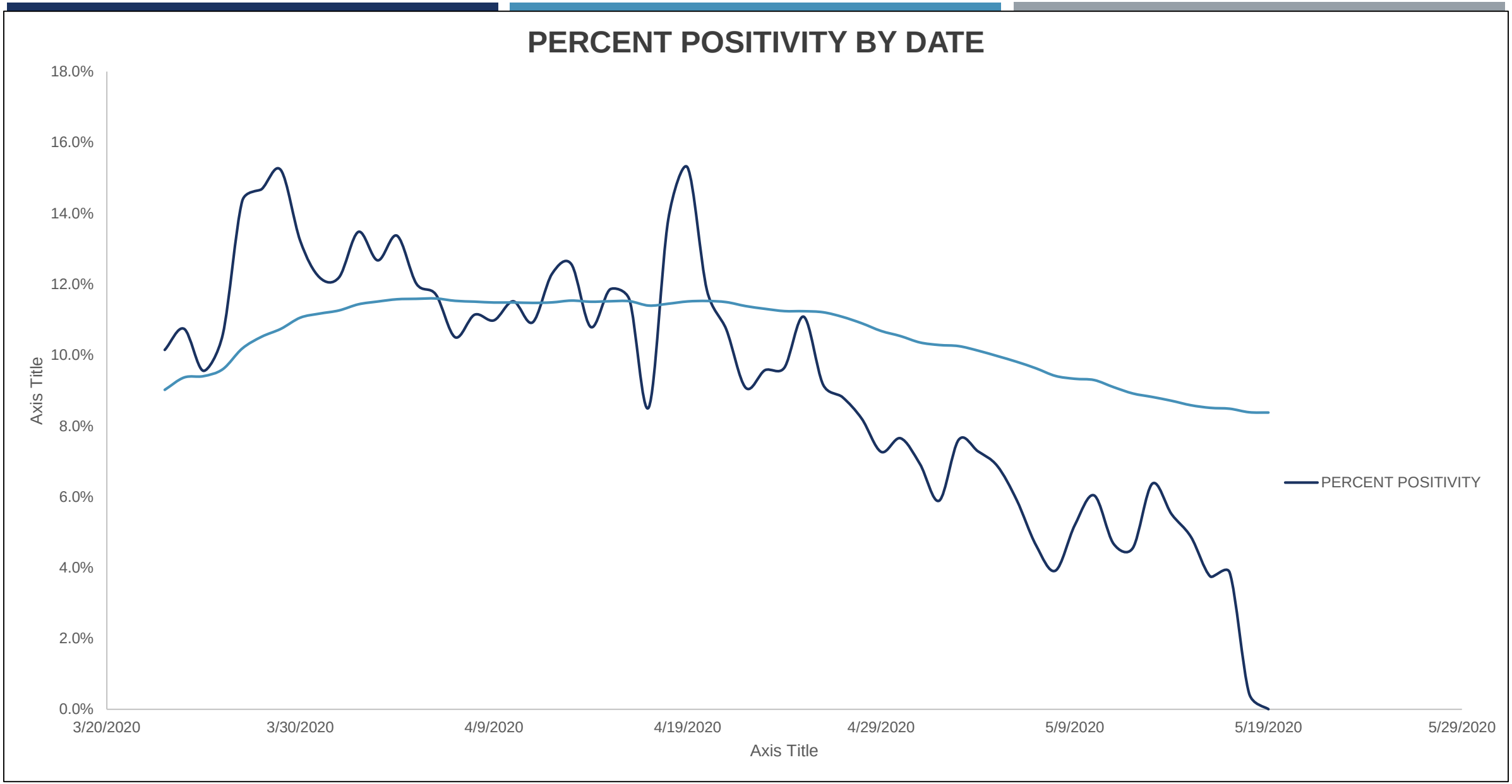


CURRENT TESTING, CAPACITY AND FUTURE CAPACITY

All testing capacties based on a lab's stated test capacity, the contracted number of tests committed to MO, or the mean of the upper quandrant of tests performed for MO daily



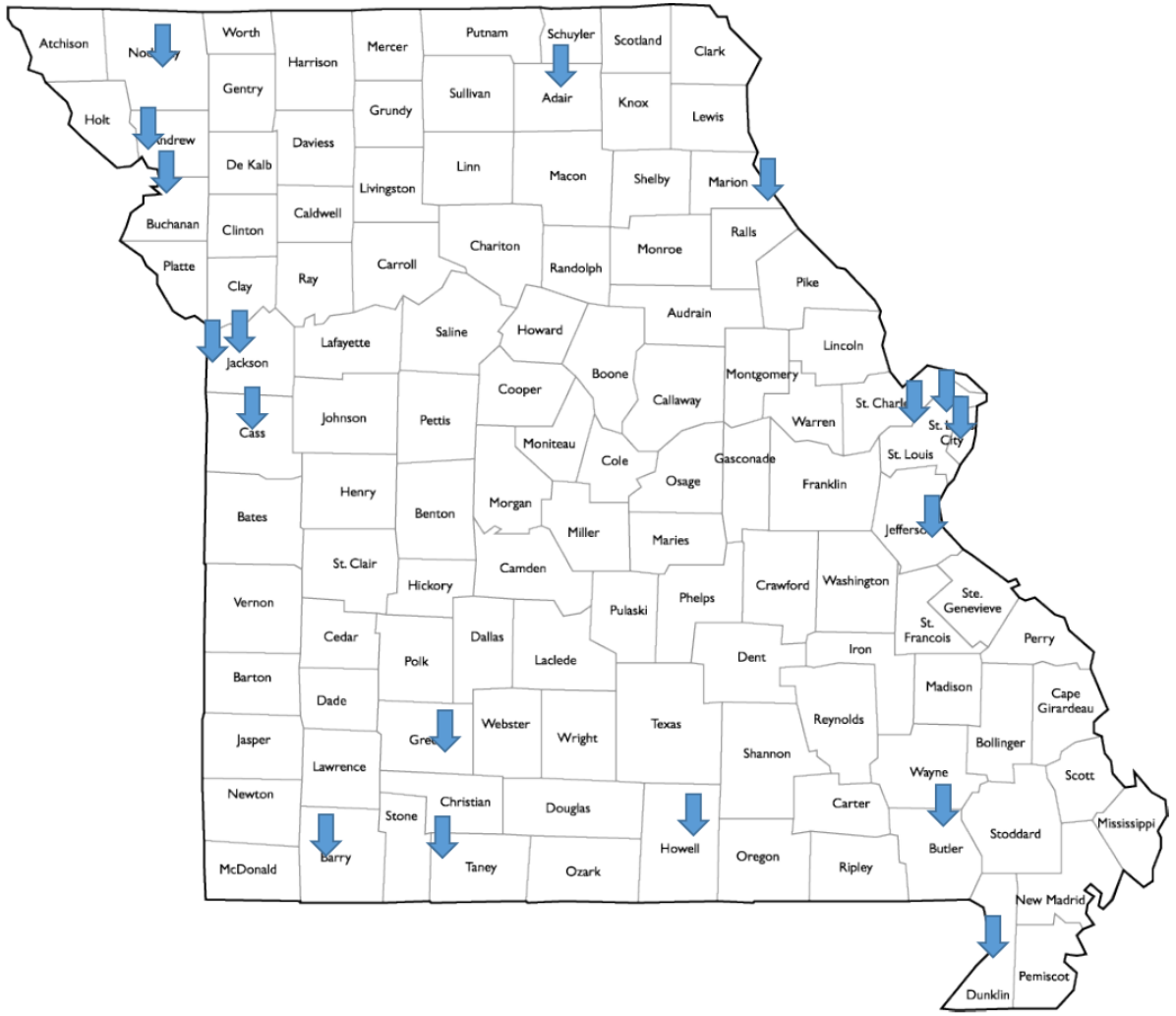

COVID-19 Testing Locations
Missouri DHSS
Lincoln
Peoria
Bloomington
Illinois
Topeka
Tulsa
Fort Smith
Memphis


PERCENT POSITIVITY BY DATE
18.0%
16.0%
14.0%
12.0%
10.0%
8.0%
6.0%
4.0%
2.0%
0.0%
Axis Title
3/20/2020
3/30/2020
4/9/2020
4/19/2020
4/29/2020
5/9/2020
5/19/2020
5/29/2020
Axis Title
PERCENT POSITIVITY

Abbott ID NOW COVID-19 rapid point-of-care test devices

ID-NOW Device Recipients

Adair County Health Department
Andrew County Health Department
Barry County Health Department
Buchanan County Health Department
Butler County Health Department
Cass County Health Department
Dunklin Health Department
Greene County Health Department
Howell County Health Department
Jackson County Health Department
Jefferson County Health Department
Kansas City
Marion County Health Department
*Planned placement is Hannibal hospital
Nodaway Health Department
St. Charles County Health Department
St. Louis County Health Department
St. Louis City
Taney County Health Department



COVID-19 Serology Testing, Missouri, 2020				
County	Indeterminate	Negative	Positive	Total
Total	12	11,710	**430**	**12,152**

8: Eliminate barriers to recovery and foster the growth of Missouri business and industry

9: Strengthen Missouri's communities grappling with funding shortfalls and other cascading economic effects

10: Support struggling Missourians and help citizens become economically resilient

11: Spur economic activity through major investments in infrastructure across the state

ECONOMIC RECOVERY

TESTING

5:

Rapidly expand testing capacity and volume in Missouri

PPE

4:

Expand reserves of PPE

HOSPITALS

2:

Protect the state and health care workers and residents in State Direct Care Facilities

3:

Coordinate regional and state health care systems

6:

Monitor and, if necessary, expand hospital health care system capacity

PREDICT

7:

Improve ability to monitor current situation and predict potential outbreaks

COMMUNICATIONS

1: Communicate and connect health directives to Missouri residents

Box-in Strategy

- Control outbreaks within facilities
- Mitigate community spread caused by facility outbreaks

Community Sampling Strategy

- Obtain data about the spread of the virus, including in areas that may not have had widespread testing
- Improve ability to predict potential hot-spots
- Increase access to and volume of testing

Sentinel Testing Strategy

- Regular surveillance testing of state and private long-term care and residential facilities to proactively predict potential outbreaks
- Participation is voluntary.

Missouri's businesses, communities and citizens have made significant changes to their ways of living and have shown their resilience during these challenging times. State information and federal guidance show that a strategic reopening of Missouri's economy can only be successful if we take proactive steps to mitigate the risk of a COVID-19 resurgence.

These guidelines are meant to empower you with the critical information you'll need for a successful and safe reopening. We are in this together, and by working together, we will come out better and stronger than ever before.

~ Governor Mike Parson

THANK YOU

RANDALL.WILLIAMS@HEALTH.MO.GOV

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES

WWW.HEALTH.MO.GOV/CORONAVIRUS

CARES Act Funding Working Group

May 21, 2020

Daniel P. Mehan, President & CEO
Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry

CARES Act Funding Working Group

Surveying the Damage

Our Response

Our Reach

Business Recovery Needs

Testing

Workforce Flexibility

UI Cost Controls

Broadband Expansion

COVID-19 Liability Protection

Surveying the Damage

15%
of Missouri business leaders expect their business will **permanently close** this year as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.

Employee Impact

50%
of employers expect to enact temporary layoffs.

17%
of employers expect to permanently lay off employees

Revenue Impact

↓ 68%
of Missouri businesses are seeing a revenue decline.

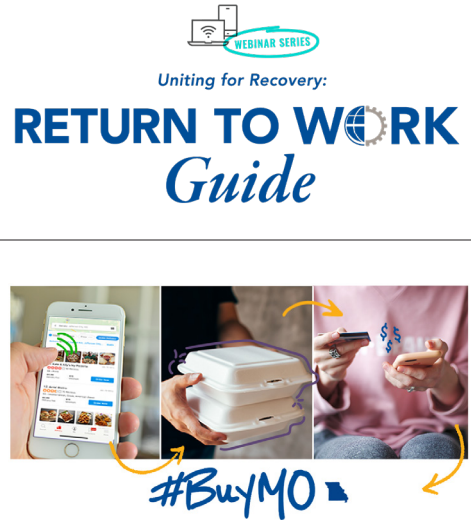
The average Missouri business expects revenue to drop
↓ 27%

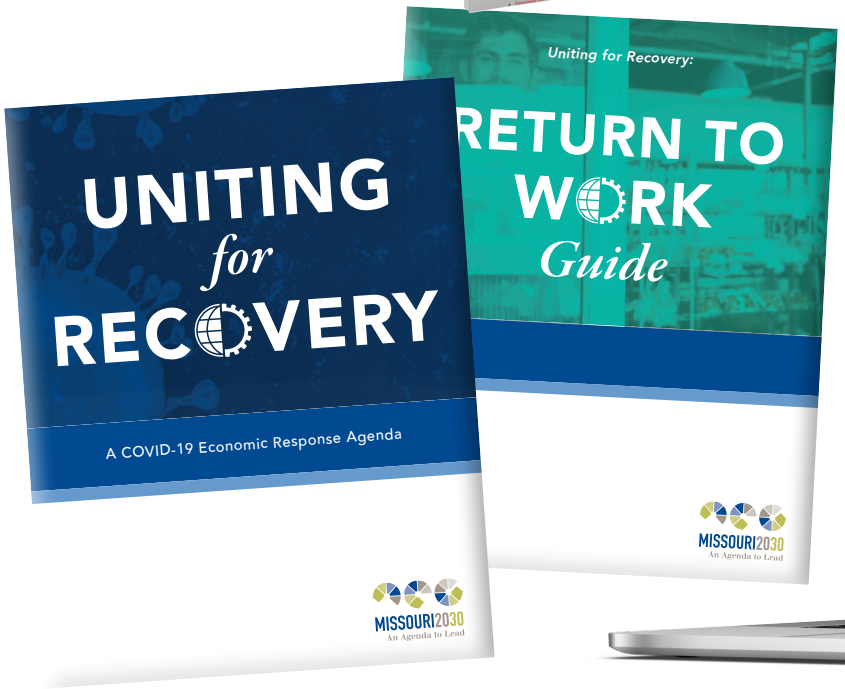
Source: Missouri Chamber member survey, late March

CARES Act Funding Working Group

- Surveying the Damage
- **Our Response**
- Our Reach
- Business Recovery Needs
  - *Testing*
  - *Workforce Flexibility*
  - *UI Cost Controls*
  - *Broadband Expansion*
  - *COVID-19 Liability Protection*

Our Response





CARES Act Funding Working Group

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Our Reach

- Missouri's largest statewide business association
- Missouri Chamber Federation, with **165** local chamber members, provides a massive communication platform with the potential to reach **75,000** employers statewide

Missouri Chamber FEDERATION
MISSOURI CHAMBER FOUNDATION

CARES Act Funding Working Group

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Testing

- Employees need to feel safe in coming back to work
- Businesses want to be proactive in providing a safe workplace
- Missouri needs a centralized testing program
- Start-up funding needed, with businesses paying for testing expenses

CARES Act Funding Working Group

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Workforce Flexibility

- More than **530,000** Missourians have lost their jobs
- Not every job will return exactly as it was
- Investment in apprenticeships and other customized training programs helps unemployed Missourians transition back into the workforce.
- Apprenticeships are a vital recovery tool:
  Earn while learning new skills
- Statewide platforms for promoting internships and apprenticeships:
  - Missouri Intern Connect and Missouri Apprentice Connect
  - Developed in partnership with the Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development

Missouri InternConnect

APPRENTICESHIP MISSOURI

- Built on the Indiana model, which includes a **50%** state-funded match for employers
- Creating a state match in Missouri via Missouri Intern Connect and Missouri Apprentice Connect would help expand these vital workforce efforts.

CARES Act Funding Working Group

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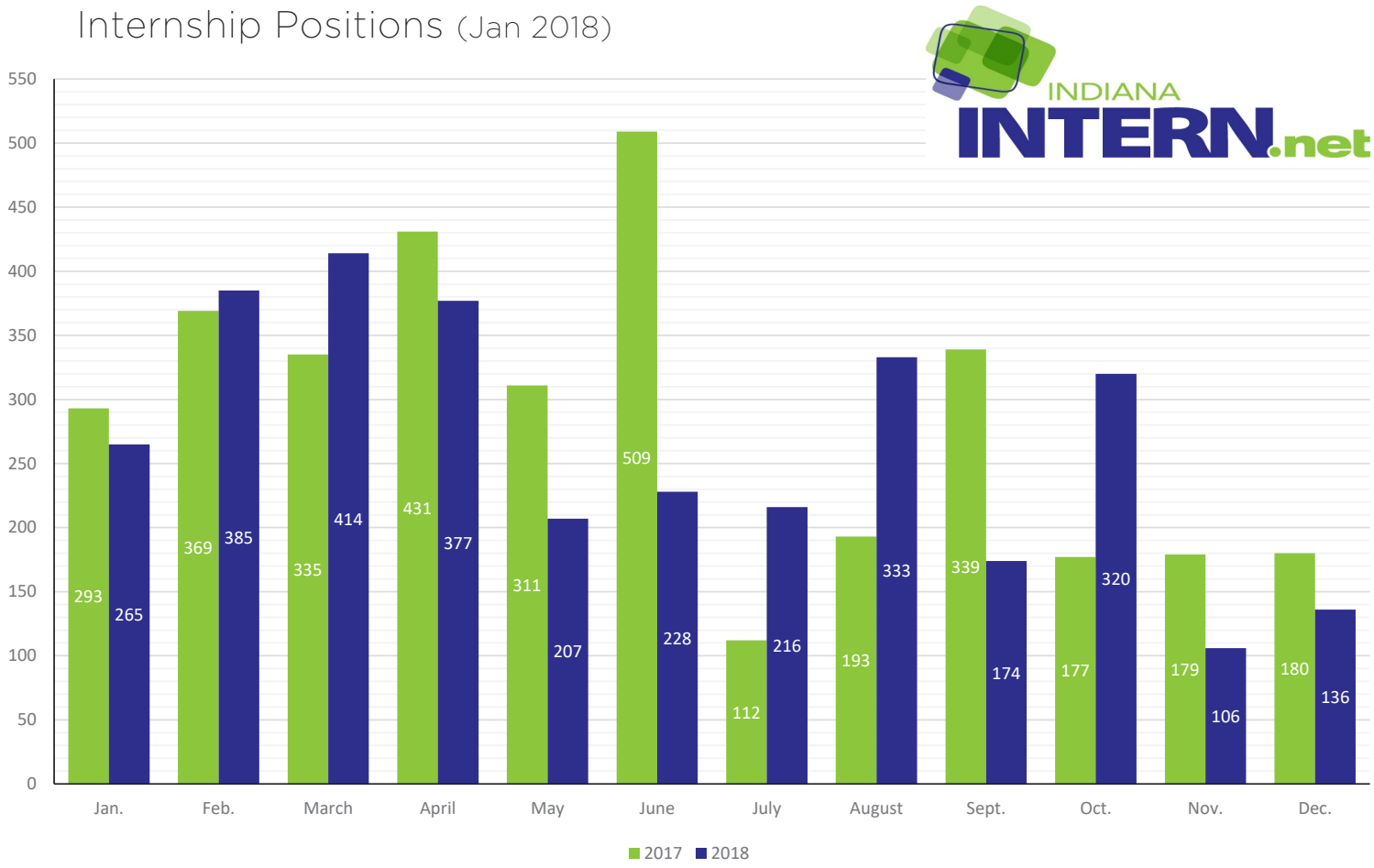

EARN Indiana-eligible positions are not designated due to the delay between posting and EARN Indiana approval.

CARES Act Funding Working Group

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UI Cost Controls

- We appreciate Governor Parson and Director Hui have enacted changes so employers are not charged for COVID-related unemployment.
- The current economic crisis is causing a large burden on the system.
- Additional steps are needed to ensure employers are not saddled with additional assessments.
- Increasing UI assessments on businesses during a recovery only slows our economic rebound.

CARES Act Funding Working Group

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Broadband Expansion

COVID-19 Liability Protection

Broadband Expansion

- Access to broadband is vital for both business and education
- **More than 1 million** Missourians have little or no access to broadband internet
- Lack of access in Missouri is a major barrier to starting/ growing a business
- Additional broadband funding could have a direct impact on our economic recovery

CARES Act Funding Working Group

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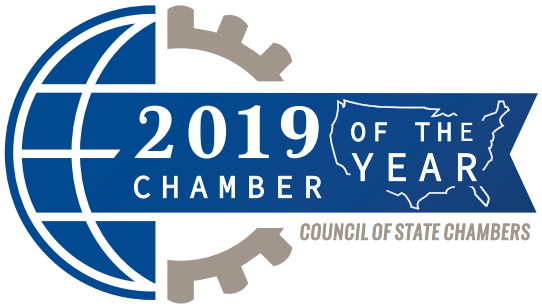
COVID-19 Liability Protection

COVID-19 Liability Protection

- Temporary, limited immunity from liability related to COVID-19 should be available to businesses that follow government guidance regarding public health.
- Providing this legal safe harbor will enable more Missouri businesses to confidently reopen, bring Missourians back to work and further strengthen our state's recovery.
- Our economy cannot recover without businesses operating and workers working. *Fear of lawsuits hinders both.*



MISSOURI CHAMBER

OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

MISSOURI TRAVEL SPENDING LOSSES
Feb 29 – May 9

MISSOURI
enjoy the show

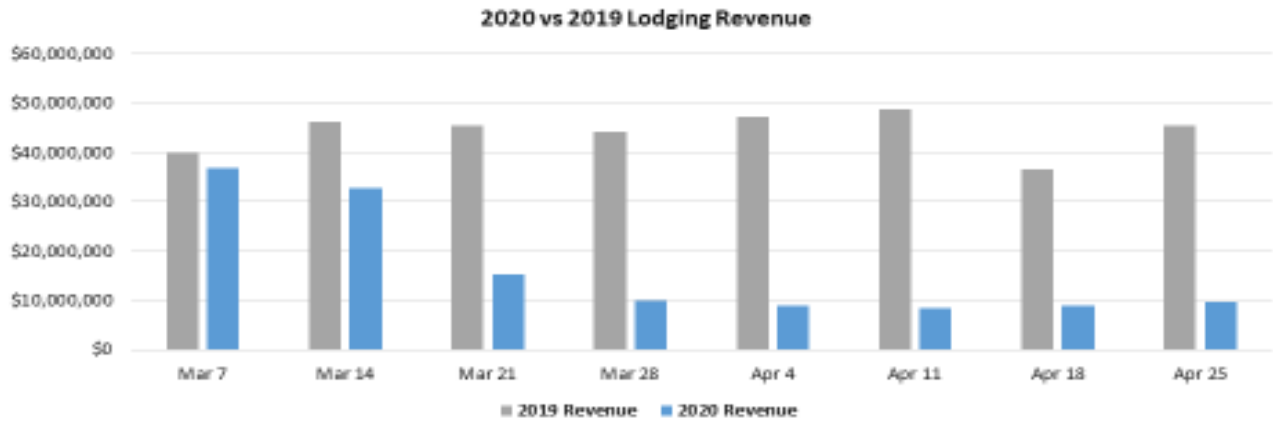
YEAR-OVER-YEAR NET CHANGE IN WEEKLY TRAVEL SPENDING ($ MILLIONS)														
WEEK ENDING...	1-Feb	8-Feb	15-Feb	22-Feb	29-Feb	7-Mar	14-Mar	21-Mar	28-Mar	4-Apr	11-Apr	18-Apr	25-Apr	2-May	9-May
Missouri	10	26	18	4	-15	-20	-96	-209	-242	-256	-262	-264	-269	-263	-259

YEAR-OVER-YEAR % CHANGE IN WEEKLY TRAVEL SPENDING														
WEEK ENDING...	1-Feb	8-Feb	15-Feb	22-Feb	29-Feb	7-Mar	14-Mar	21-Mar	28-Mar	4-Apr	11-Apr	18-Apr	25-Apr	2-May	9-May
Missouri	3%	9%	6%	2%	-5%	-7%	-31%	-69%	-80%	-84%	-85%	-86%	-88%	-86%	-84%

Source: Tourism Economics – an Oxford Company

MO Lodging Revenue Declines
March and April 2020

- Lost Lodging Revenue in March 2020 Compared to March 2019
  Lost $80,859,334.53
- Lost Lodging Revenue in April 2020 Compared to April 2019
  Lost $142,100,687.27



Source: Smith Travel Research

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governor's Informal Working Group on CARES Act Funding

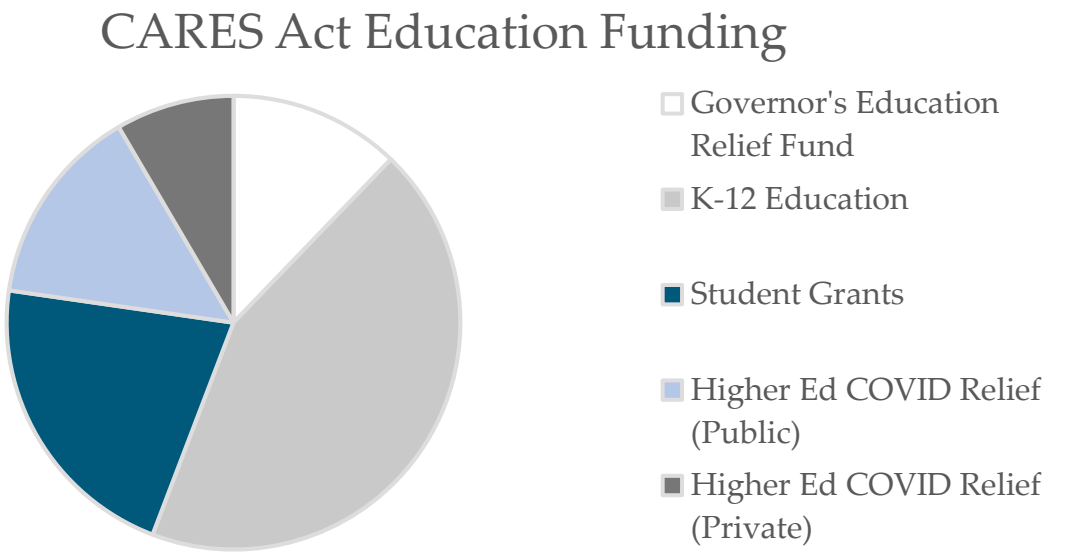
FROM: Zora Mulligan

RE: Higher Education Coronavirus Relief Needs

DATE: May 21, 2020

Overview of Higher Education CARES Act Funds Received

Public and private institutions have received significant resources to address needs directly related to COVID-19 through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund administered by the U.S. Department of Education.



Student Grants. Under § 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act, Missouri institutions have received about $104 million for emergency grants to students, including food, housing, course materials, technology, child care, and health care.

Higher Ed COVID Relief. Under § 18004(c) of the CARES Act Missouri institutions have received an additional $104 million they can use to:

1. Recoup costs associated with refunds for room and board, tuition, and other fees
2. Expand remote learning programs
3. Build IT capacity, including purchasing laptops, hotspots, etc.

Office of the Commissioner
zora.mulligan@dhewd.mo.gov · Mobile (573) 301-5370

4. Train faculty and staff to operate effectively in a remote learning environment
5. Expand support to students with significant financial need

Public institutions received about $65 million of the $104 million total. These funds were received shortly after $75 million was withheld from public colleges' and universities' FY 2020 budgets.

Note that the U.S. Department of Education's FAQ on this fund prohibits using this money for scholarships unless scholarships or grants are for costs associated with significant changes in the delivery of instruction due to the coronavirus or are for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus.

In addition, these funds cannot be used to pay staff, whereas the funds received by K-12 institutions can be used for "other activities necessary to maintain the operation and continuity in the LEA and to continue to employ existing staff."

Needs Indicated by Survey

In light of the disruptions created by the COVID-19 pandemic, DHEWD surveyed Missouri postsecondary institutions in April to determine greatest need in ensuring continuity of educational services and access for students for the remainder of the 2020 calendar year. This survey requested information regarding student and institutional barriers to online education and needs that have arisen from the new demands required by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Highlights

- Institutions' largest concerns for online learning include student internet connectivity and access, lack of hardware and software for students, and faculty development.
- Institutions report one of their largest concerns for students is lack of resources to engage in online education.
- The majority of institutions report up to 25% of students lack the internet connectivity, hardware, or software to engage in online learning.
- 45% of responding institutions report lacking resources to offer online programming Fall 2020.
- Institutions list the following as top needs for resources:
    - Institution IT and Systems to increase bandwidth (#1 of all institutional unmet needs)
    - Provide online tutoring on demand
    - Ensure every student has hardware, software and support needed for online education
    - Fund student acquisition of ISP
    - Extend Wifi services
    - Faculty development

Unmet Financial Needs

Total Institutional Unmet Financial Needs Related to Online Education (40 institutions responded):

	Campus Broadband Infrastructure	Student Internet	Student Hardware	Institution IT Systems	Prof'l Dev	Tutoring & Advising	Total
2-Year Public	$100,000	$52,540	$110,643	$1,538,852	$82,000	$24,475	**$1,908,510**
4-Year Public	$239,000	$1,863,500	$486,000	$3,040,000	$435,000	$183,000	**$6,246,500**
Private	$200,000	$8,500	$66,373	$673,500	$37,000	$36,000	**$1,021,373**
Certified	$2,500	$750	$27,159	$16,345	$1,674	$1,500	**$49,928**
Total	**$541,500**	**$1,925,290**	**$690,175**	**$5,268,697**	**$555,674**	**$244,975**	**$9,226,311**

Qualitative Data

Summary Answers related to Online/Remote Learning:

1. What assessment are you using to measure barriers to implement effective remote learning and do you need additional support to continue assessing barriers into the next academic year?

   Fifty-nine responses total, various means, examples:

   - Calling students individually;
   - Receiving emails from students with suggestions;
   - Student evaluations;
   - Various formal assessment software;
   - Surveys

   Twenty-one institutions stated need additional resources to assess in remote environment.

2. How are you addressing the digital barriers your students face amidst the COVID-19 pandemic? Please discuss connectivity, equipment, etc. How would you use additional resources to address this?

   - Supplying laptops or other hardware to students
   - Utilized lab computers as loaners for students
   - Supplying chromebooks with built-in service
   - Wifi available in parking lots
   - Extended IT helpdesk hours
   - Providing hotspots to students
   - Communicating options in community for internet access

Would use additional resources for such issues:

- Rebuild servers to increase bandwidth
- Provide online tutoring on demand
- Ensure every student has hardware, software and support needed for online education
- Fund student acquisition of ISP
- Extend Wifi services
- Faculty development

3. What technological capacities are limiting your ability to support remote learning for all students? How would you overcome these limits with additional resources?
    - Lack of student access to hardware, equipment and software for quality online learning, lack of knowledge on how to use LMS, increased helpdesk and support hours students need, lack of library access. Also, tutors need same supports as students to successfully tutor online.
    - With additional funds, would purchase more licenses, hardware, software, subscription costs, accessibility capacity, etc., to support student learning. Also look at virtual lab equipment and software options. Would also develop faculty in online learning.
4. Do you have the resources necessary to continue effective remote learning should the need exist throughout the 20-21 academic year? How would you use additional resources to increase faculty effectiveness and ensure remote learning can continue?
    - Yes: 23 / No: 27
    - Did not directly answer: 10
    - Institutions would use additional resources to increase connectivity, hardware and faculty development.
5. What are the biggest barriers your institution is struggling with amidst the COVID-19 pandemic?
    - Quality online education (resources, capability, faculty development)
    - Student hardware for online education
    - Internet connectivity
    - Staff to support new needs of online environment
6. Please describe barriers with practical, hands-on courses and clinical/internship experiences. How would you overcome these limits with additional resources?
    - Provide students with technology and support for hand-on courses/programs
    - Increase virtual lab/simulation capability
    - Increase Zoom usage
    - Utilize Virtual Reality hardware and software

7. If not mentioned above, what specifically do you need regarding technological capacity and access to support learning for all students?
    - Increased instructional designers to design online courses
    - Affordable internet service (in many cases, too expensive)
    - Increased capacity for affordable proctoring services
    - Increased on-campus data network services
    - Expansion of lecture recording studio equipment for online courses

Other Unmet Financial Needs

	Wraparound Services	Childcare	New/Redesigned Workforce Programs	Facility Enhancements to Safely Reopen Campuses	Breach of Contract Damages	Basic Service Maintenance	Auxiliary Losses	Cleaning and Disinfecting Supplies	PPE Replen-ishment	Virus Testing	Other Needs	Total
Public												
2-Yr	$ 101,000	$ -	$ 100,000	$ 697,000	$ 5,000	$ 585,000	$ 606,500	$ 82,500	$ 113,125	$ 50,000	$ 5,352,957	$ 7,693,082
4-Yr	$ 92,000	$ 501,000	$ 2,200,000	$ 4,064,200	$ 2,512,000	$ 5,063,803	$ 20,175,200	$ 1,834,843	$ 1,342,044	$ 4,000,000	$ 2,400,000	$ 44,185,090
												$ -
Private	$ 36,000	$ 188,000	$ -	$ 10,000	$ 446,000	$ 100,000	$ -	$ 615,662	$ 101,500	$ 212,500	$ 25,700	$ 1,735,362
												$ -
Certified	$ 18,000	$ 24,000	$ 64,700	$ 20,600	$ -	$ 43,200	$ -	$ 3,900	$ 5,800	$ 350	$ 37,800	$ 218,350
	$ 247,000	$ 713,000	$ 2,364,700	$ 4,791,800	$ 2,963,000	$ 5,792,003	$ 20,781,700	$ 2,536,905	$ 1,562,469	$ 4,262,850	$ 7,816,457	$ 53,831,884

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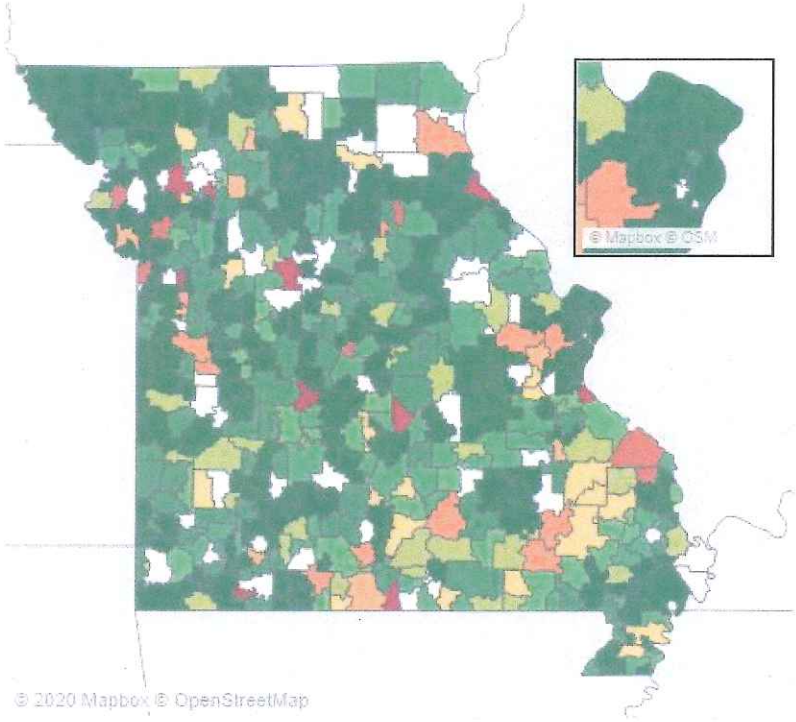
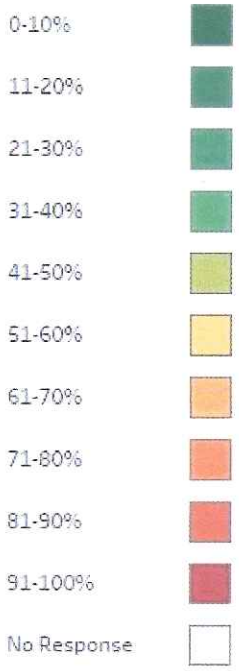
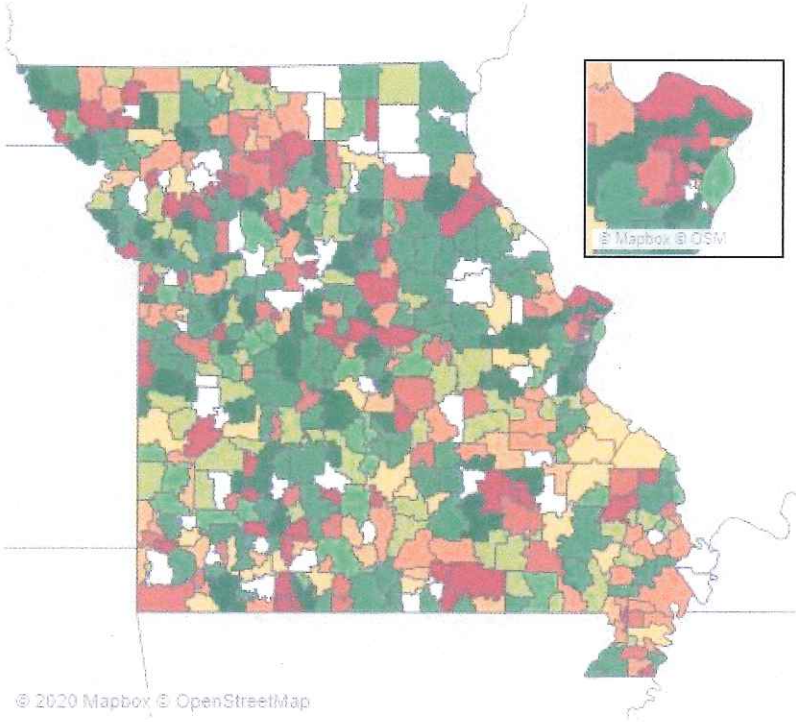
Broadband Access – Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Estimated Percent of Students without Internet where Physical Access is the Driving Factor





Estimated Percent of Students without Internet where Affordability is the Driving Factor



Solving the Homework Gap for Low- Income Missouri Students- Enterprise Solution

OVERVIEW

The proposal set forth below has been drafted by Moreable, LLC a St. Louis, MO based telecommunication service company. This proposal in partnership with Communications Depot, INC also a St. Louis, MO based Wireless Wholesaler and Logistics Provider. Also in partnership with PWG Network Solutions, a MD based Mobile Virtual Network Aggregator and Supplier. StandUp Wireless, a Missouri approved Eligible Telecommunications Company. Lastly, STEPCGR, a Covington, KY based Education Solution for On-Demand Learning Provider as well as an E-Rate Eligible Service Provider. All parties are honored for the opportunity to propose a plan of action and are committed to meeting the needs of those in our state.

Citing the US Census Bureau's release in September 2019, new data from the 2018 American Community Survey found 333,351 Missouri households currently do not have any internet service (including no dial-up, fixed broadband, mobile-only, anything). Access to *reliable, constant, non intermittent service is even more scarce as that data is not recorded. This is further exacerbated by current social distancing measures and the closing of public places that these students relied on for internet access (library, restaurants, community centers, etc).*

Today, hundreds of thousands of Missouri's most at risk and vulnerable students are being left behind and without access to reliable broadband internet service, they are effectively shut out of the public school system.

GOALS

1. Provide an immediate short-term solution to the most vulnerable and at risk households and districts.
2. Provide a robust, medium to long term solution for all economically challenged Missouri families and households with students assuring that reliable access to broadband for the purpose of education is always available.

SPECIFICATIONS

1. Emergency delivery of up to 30,000 Broadband Enabled Mobile Hotspot Devices.

2. 60 to 120 day procurement, delivery and deployment of up to 100,000 Broadband Enabled Mobile Devices, providing access to 400,000 student users. This includes School District Network Administrator VPN Management and Multi-Platform E-Learning Integration.

MILESTONES

1. Outreach campaign and coordination with DESE, Social Service Dept's and Community Based Organizations to identify and service the areas and households in most immediate need for deployment and depletion of initial 30,000 emergency units.
2. STEPCGR facilitates full coordination with DESE and District Superintendents and District Network Administrators for implementation of complete E-Learning apparatus, deployment and on-going management. As an E-Rate Service provider, STEPCGR will assist districts in navigating E-Rate funding as all these services are eligible for E-Rate.

COST and COMMITMENT

1. Up to 30,000 broadband enabled emergency hotspot devices are immediately available. Funding for a 4 month program would cost up to $5,720,000 for all 30,000 units.
2. Up to 100,000 multi-point units providing broadband access for up to 400,000 users for the duration of a full calendar year would cost up to $106,584,000. At the conclusion of year one, districts will be prepared to utilize E-Rate funding to support their recurring costs.

Total plan cost: $112,304,000

710 N. Tucker Blvd., Suite 307
St. Louis, MO 63101
(314) 384-2002

Solving the Homework Gap for Low-Income Missouri Students - Summer School 2020.

OVERVIEW

The proposal set forth below has been drafted by Moreable, LLC, a St. Louis, MO-based Telecommunication Service and Marketing Company. This proposal is in partnership with CommSell, also a St. Louis-based Wireless Wholesaler and Logistics Provider. Moreable and CommSell currently employ roughly 100 Missourians combined and have continued servicing our State as part of the Critical Infrastructure Network while adhering to CDC workplace guidelines. Both companies are proud to say we are Missouri small businesses that have retained all of our employees through the Covid-19 crisis.

Today, many of Missouri's most at-risk and vulnerable students are being left behind and without access to reliable broadband internet service. They are effectively shut out of the public school system.

Citing the US Census Bureau's release in September 2019, new data from the 2018 American Community Survey found 333,351 Missouri households currently do not have any internet service (including no dial-up, fixed broadband, mobile-only, anything). Access to *reliable, constant, non-intermittent service is even more scarce as that data is not recorded. This is further exacerbated by current social distancing measures and the closing of public places that these students relied on for internet access (library, restaurants, community centers, etc).*

GOALS

Provide a full solution for all economically challenged Missouri households with students assuring that reliable access to broadband for the purpose of education is always available. A responsible and complete solution to ensure the classroom experience is accomplished in the home.

SPECIFICATIONS

Immediate delivery of up to 40,000 Broadband Enabled Wifi Devices with 4 months of broadband data service.

COMMITMENT

We are able to deliver a plan that no one else can. Both companies involved in the proposal are leaders of their respective channels within the telecommunication industry. By coming together to address this crisis, our combined services provide the most responsible use of tax dollars to immediately meet the needs of Missouri's most vulnerable students and households.

- We are able to identify and support the mobile carrier needed (T-Mobile, AT&T, Sprint, and Verizon) on a geographical basis, to determine coverage area by mobile carrier, ensuring optimal connectivity.
- As aggregators and wholesale suppliers to all the major carrier networks (T-Mobile, AT&T, Sprint, and Verizon) we are able to utilize all the networks and service every part of the state where there is at least one service provider. No one carrier can provide this reach.
- The ability to provide services in an "a la carte"/customizable way to address persistent and future needs.
- Our positioning as aggregators and wholesalers of wireless networks allow us to provide a solution that cannot be matched. We can tap into all the networks within our state and leverage our wholesale pricing structure to deliver the same product as the big carriers at a lower cost and with a faster turn around.

COST

At a total cost of $8,612,000.00 we can deliver all 40,000 units to students across the entire state on all major networks. All units will be supported with 4 months of broadband data service.

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Who We Are

-MoreAble, LLC is a St. Louis, MO based company employing more than 45 full time professionals. During these trying times we've proudly done for our company exactly what we will do for these students. We took an in-office workforce and seamlessly transitioned them to a remote workforce because of our experience in the industry.

-Our team has more than 15 years of Telecom experience.

-For the past 10 years, we have specialized in servicing the economically challenged, vulnerable and at-risk consumers. Our mission is to make sure no child or family is left behind!

-To date, we have assisted nearly 3 million households, in Missouri and across the nation, to attain and maintain affordable access to telecommunication and broadband services.

-Providing these services bring us great pride and satisfaction.

The Digital Divide

Today, hundreds of thousands of Missouri's most at-risk and vulnerable students are being left behind and without access to reliable broadband internet service. They are effectively shut out of the public-school system. This is further exacerbated by current social distancing measures and the closing of public places that these students relied on for internet access (library, restaurants, community centers, etc.).The Pandemic has only worsened the digital divide.

This vulnerability reaches every part of our State - rural, urban and suburban. All the statistics are glaring. We know that access to reliable broadband has a direct correlation to drop-out rates, standardized test scores, college acceptance rates, etc. What is more difficult to quantify, particularly amid the pandemic, is the psychological effects of a student effectively being shut out of the public school system due to their family's socioeconomic standing.

As an organizational commitment, this is Moreable's "**Why**". It is **why** we remain leaders and advocates in this industry, and **why** today more than ever we are compelled to be driver of the greater solution for our home state. Having seen these challenges first hand, MoreAble is prepared to do everything in our power to provide the State and those most in need with the most formidable options available.

The Solution

MoreAble is the solution and here is why:

- We understand the needs of this segment of the population more intimately than anyone in the telecom industry.
- We have the ability to use every network provider in the state to ensure we are delivering the most ideal product based on the area and the given network best suited.
- As aggregators and wholesalers of all the mobile networks, we will leverage our wholesale pricing, and mitigate overhead charges instituted by the carriers. No carrier can offer another carrier's service without instituting expensive roaming fees. We can.
- Our significantly lower cost of operating allows for more favorable data pricing compared to the carrier themselves, even on their own networks.
- Our commitment to the highest level of hands-on service and our guarantee to deliver the most reliable, affordable and responsible solution will not be beat.
- Most importantly, our long standing and passionate history servicing those most vulnerable has always been and will always remain our top priority. MoreAble wants to help our State trim the Homework Gap, enhance accessibility to broadband service, and ultimately defeat the Digital Divide.

Executive Summary

- The federal Department of Education is explicitly looking for Governors to use their discretionary education funding differently and innovatively to address 21st century learning and readiness in the wake of COVID-19. The crisis has shined a light on two fundamental weaknesses that plague districts and schools in low income urban areas that were hit hardest by the coronavirus pandemic:
    1. There is little to no technology strategy, integration with learning, or training and support for educators. Students are not being prepared to thrive in a 21st century workforce and teachers are not given guidance and support on how to effectively integrate technology into their instruction.
    2. Attempts to meet the unique learning needs of children growing up in poverty are either ineffective or absent all together. Children in these areas are starting off behind and falling further behind every year in school. These learning gaps will be exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic and addressing them will require fundamental shifts in the approach to teaching and learning. Districts and schools will need to help to make these shifts.
- The CARES Act requires that the funding go to the hardest hit areas, and the St. Louis region has the largest number of coronavirus cases in the state, which is disproportionately affecting low-income people who are attending the worst performing schools in the state.
- We believe one of the highest impact uses of these discretionary dollars would be to grant $10M to The Opportunity Trust to support districts and schools that serve children growing up in poverty in St. Louis City and County to create and implement plans to restart school strong in the fall. The Opportunity Trust has the backing of the business and philanthropic community in the region and is uniquely equipped to help districts and schools that serve high needs students transform.

Restarting School Stronger: COVID-19 Learning Innovation Fund

The DOE has made clear in its requirements that it wants these funds to innovatively address the preparedness for 21st century learning and to be used more strategically than the lion's share of funding that is already flowing through existing funding formulas. We propose allocating $10M toward a competitive fund, Restart Strong, to support a select group of high poverty, high potential districts and charter schools to develop and implement plans that address foundational weaknesses exposed by this crisis. This fund, managed by The Opportunity Trust, would help selected districts and schools to rigorously evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of their instructional and technological strategies in light of the pandemic and to develop and implement plans in the coming school year that dramatically improve 21st century learning readiness and address learning loss in the most vulnerable student populations.

The Opportunity Trust would quarterback the creation of an Request For Proposal and convene a diverse, cross-section of stakeholders including business leaders, community organizations, and educators to evaluate proposals and select the recipients.

Those selected would receive funding and technical assistance via The Opportunity Trust and its national network of best-in-class support providers and participate in shared learning with other grantees. All plans would be shared publicly for replication by other schools and districts across the state and nation.

All administrative costs would be covered via private donations so that 100% of funds would go directly to districts and schools in support of their “restart strong” plans.

Why 20% of discretionary funds to St. Louis?

We believe this approach could be replicated across the state but would require an intermediary like The Opportunity Trust that has expertise and access to best-in-class resources on strategic planning and implementation, educational technology, curriculum and assessment, and teacher professional development.

The St. Louis region is home to the largest number and concentration of children living in poverty who attend schools that are consistently among the lowest performing in the state. The region has been among the hardest hit by the coronavirus pandemic with its most vulnerable communities bearing a disproportionate impact. Federal funding guidelines require that the funds go to those most acutely impacted during this pandemic.

The Risk of a Traditional Approach

Simply dividing the amount dedicated to K-12 education equally among districts results in just an additional $28-50 per student and would be very unlikely to have any meaningful impact in addressing challenges and weaknesses illuminated by the pandemic. Furthermore, while $55M is a meaningful amount of funding, it is not enough to address statewide gaps in technology access, particularly given that many districts and schools lack a clear strategy, aligned curriculum, and teacher training to effectively utilize technology.

CARES Act Encourages Public-Private Partnerships with Nonprofit Organizations

The CARES Act outlines that each state will receive an allocation from the $31 billion allotment for education based on population. The bill outlines that 43.9% of the state's allocation goes directly to districts via the existing federal funding guidelines (though DESE can withhold up to 10% for its discretionary use), 46.3% will go toward higher education institutions, and 9.8% is at the Governor's discretion to address educational needs in communities most impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. This amounts to **$54,643,115 at the Governor's discretion** for education related services outlined in the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act responding to the pandemic (approved by US DOE and the MO legislature).

The federal Department of Education (DOE) just released the Governor's Discretionary Grant requirements outlining possible uses for this funding. The Act oulintes three ways that the state can use these funds:

1. Provide emergency support through grants to the LEAs that the State educational agency (SEA) deems to have been most significantly impacted by COVID-19 to support the ability of such LEAs to continue to provide educational services to public and non-public school students and to support the on-going functionality of the LEA;
2. Provide emergency support through grants to IHEs serving students within the State that the Governor determines have been most significantly impacted by COVID-19 to support the ability of such institutions to continue to provide educational services and support the ongoing functionality of the institution; and,
3. ***Provide support to any other IHE, LEA, or education-related entity within the State that the Governor deems essential for carrying out emergency educational services to students*** for authorized activities described in section 18003(d)(1) of the CARES Act or the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), the provision of childcare and early childhood education, social and emotional support, and the protection of education-related jobs.

The Governor must submit an application detailing the uses of the grant funds to the DOE by June 1, 2020 and all funds must be distributed within one year of receiving them.