

2014 Advocacy Grantees

Applicant	Project Name	Project Description
Child Day Care Association	United 4 Children Advocacy Initiative	United 4 Children requests support to supplement and increase existing advocacy efforts. The book Forces for Good has demonstrated the impact an organization has when service meets advocacy which is why U4C advocates to improve early childhood education and after school services for children in our region.
Epworth Children & Family Services	Advocacy	Epworth would like help covering the costs of our Advocacy program. This program will help youth advocate for themselves and directly influence legislation and policy in Missouri, which affects youth in the foster care system. These policy changes affect not only the youth served by Epworth, but youth like them statewide. We would like to fund a portion of the salaries of our three Life Skills Trainers in our Chafee Program. These trainers teach foster youth to advocate for themselves and on behalf of other youth like them.
Legal Services of Eastern Missouri, Inc.	Removing Legal Barriers to Housing	Legal Services of Eastern Missouri (LSEM) proposes a holistic, comprehensive legal advocacy approach to educating, assisting, and representing families with children or unaccompanied youth facing barriers to housing. Preventative legal services will include advice, advocacy, connecting families to resources, and/or extended representation with the following: code enforcement, eviction actions, and disputes with landlords, housing authorities, or local governments concerning substandard housing conditions and/or removing barriers to housing. LSEM will promote ordinance enforcement by community partners. In addition, LSEM will advocate with local governments and community partners to enforce laws that protect families with children from substandard housing.
Let's Start, Inc.	Outreach and Advocacy Program Expansion	Let's Start is requesting to fund a collaborative expansion of our advocacy to give the children of incarcerated mothers a voice in the policies that impact them locally and at the state level. The lives and prospects of prisoners' children are profoundly impacted by the many institutions - law enforcement, the courts, jails, prisons, probation offices, parole boards, and legislators - but these children have no rights, explicitly or implicitly within any of these jurisdictions. Our agency will organize our participants, their children, the children's caregivers and other client advocates to inform state legislators and judges about the unique circumstances affecting families with incarcerated parents.

2014 Advocacy Grantees

Applicant	Project Name	Project Description
Lutheran Family and Children's Services of Missouri	Church Outreach and Coalition Support	Lutheran Family and Children's Services of Missouri requests support to: Expand outreach efforts within the Lutheran community to educate and engage individuals in advocacy efforts to support vulnerable children and families, and; Provide backbone support to the children's services coalitions' advocacy committee to help promote information sharing and strengthen a collective voice for vulnerable children and families. Both of these goals will increase the number of people and organizations involved in advocacy efforts at the state and local level to protect and support the health and wellbeing of vulnerable children and families through policy changes and/or policy decisions.
Metropolitan Congregations United for St. Louis	Bi-State Leadership Academy for Change	Seeking to address educational inequity in the region, MCU and UCM will venture on a joint effort to organize parents primarily as well as students as the main stakeholders and agents of change, the organization will utilize Gamaliel, the national network both organizations are members of to assist and coordinate the education equity campaigns with MCU St. Louis and UCM to build racial equity in our schools.
Missouri Health Care for All	General Operating Support	We are requesting support for our work to mobilize grassroots voices in support of increased access to health care, specifically through Medicaid Expansion. Medicaid Expansion in Missouri would greatly impact children in the St. Louis Metropolitan region, who benefit when their caregivers have access to care. Youth also benefit from having good care options available as they enter young adulthood. Specifically, funding will allow us to capture and share personal stories, educate the community, and empower community members to advocate for Medicaid Expansion. We are requesting an increase this year to allow us to increase a half-time position to full-time.
Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis	Advocacy for Postsecondary Access for Low-Income Students	As a leader providing college access in the St. Louis region, The Scholarship Foundation will coordinate public policy advocacy efforts to improve postsecondary education access for low-income students. The Foundation will employ student interns who represent constituent populations to research college access issues, develop policy positions, advocate with local, regional, and statewide systems, and share findings with the community. Relevant policy issues will likely continue to include merit-based versus need-based aid, college access for undocumented students, rising tuition costs, disproportionate debt burden, and the effectiveness of Missouri high school guidance counselors.

2014 Advocacy Grantees

Applicant	Project Name	Project Description
Vision for Children at Risk	General Operating Support	Vision for Children at Risk mobilizes community action to improve well-being of children in the St. Louis area, especially those facing serious socio-economic risk. We do this by providing research information on child well-being, building collaborative strategic action among community stakeholders benefiting children, and advocating for greater community investment in children's services. We are a catalyst for positive change in the way the St. Louis region takes care of its children.