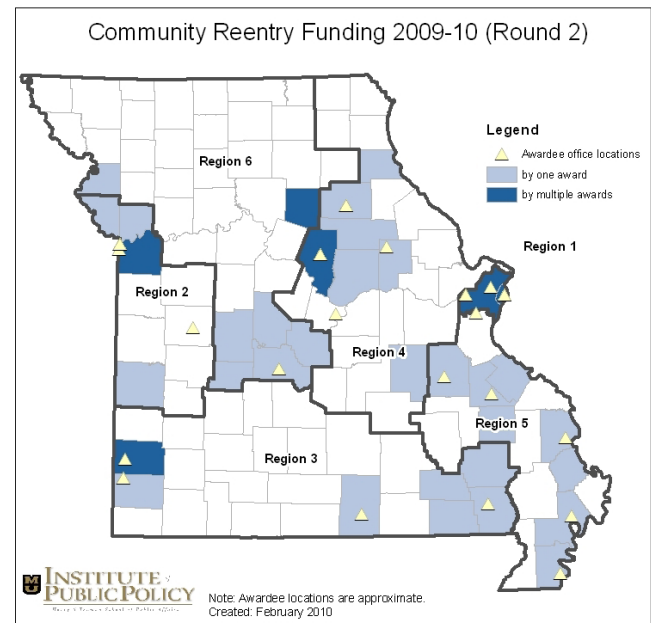


The Institute of Public Policy continues to provide research, evaluation and training for Missouri's public and non-profit organizations. Some examples of our most recent work are highlighted in this newsletter

Missouri Department of Corrections Community Reentry Program

The Missouri Department of Corrections launched the Community Reentry Funding Initiative in 2009 to support local offender reentry efforts in communities throughout the state. The Institute of Public Policy is providing process evaluation, initiative-wide impact analysis, and technical support to the awardees. The process evaluation assesses the funded organizations' achievement of their output and outcome objectives. On a larger scale, the Institute will evaluate the initiative's process and utilize data on participating clients to illustrate the impact of the initiative on the recidivism rate. The Institute will collect and analyze data that will be used by the Department and awardees to facilitate their rehabilitation and reentry into the community. A summary report based on work conducted in 2009 is posted on the Institute's website. See *Missouri Department of Corrections Community Reentry Funding 2009: Summary Report, Report 2-2010*.



Evaluation of Healthy and Active Communities Initiative

The Institute recently completed its three-year study of the Healthy and Active Communities Initiative funded by the Missouri Foundation for Health (MFH). The Institute used a cluster evaluation approach to examine the 33 grantees, an approach that enables evaluators to study individual programs and identify strengths and challenges across the initiative as a whole. The evaluation found that most healthy and active programs were both successful and sustainable after MFH funding ends. For more information, see *The Healthy & Active Communities Initiative: Conclusions from a Three Year Evaluation, Report 16-2009*.

Missouri Arthritis and Osteoporosis Program (MAOP)

The Institute of Public Policy has been working with the Missouri Arthritis and Osteoporosis Program since 2007. The Institute has worked with MAOP to coordinate, conduct, and report on the surveillance and evaluation activities of the program under a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention grant. In addition, IPP has worked with MAOP to develop and conduct the evaluation of the Rheumatoid Arthritis education grant from Abbott Laboratories and is coordinating the evaluation of CDC's pilot health communication campaign.

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Academic Research with Policy Implications

The institute continues to publish generally relevant policy reports based upon faculty research. Drs. Heflin and Iceland's report *Poverty, Hardship and Depression* studied the relationship between several measures of material hardship and depression among young mothers. See [Report 4-2010](#) at the Institute's website. Dr. Jason Grissom and Stephanie Vandas examined the relation between teacher preparation and student achievement. They conclude that some aspects of teacher preparation programs contribute little to overall effectiveness in the classroom while others, especially those related to practice, made a positive contribution. See *Teacher Preparation and Student Achievement: Reviewing the Evidence*, [Report 6-2010](#). James Harrington and Grissom examined the factors behind teacher turnover and the cost of turnover and identify potential strategies for reducing turnover. See *Teacher Turnover in Missouri: Evidence from Administrative Data*, [Report 05-2010](#). The Institute also published a report by Dr. Lael Kaiser and Susan Miller in which they examined the relationship between the strength of state veterans organizations and the speed and size of disability compensation decisions in the state. See *The Impact of Organized Interests on Eligibility Determination: The Case of Veterans' Disability Compensation*, [Report 12-2009](#). These reports have direct implications for Missouri.

P-20 – Missouri Education Policy Research Center

The P-20 center is a new multi-disciplinary center located in the Truman School. Center scholars are examining data of Missouri students, over time, to enhance our understanding of the factors affecting academic success. See www.truman.missouri.edu/P20 for more information.

Training

The Institute continues to provide training for local officials and members of non-profit organizations through the Academy for Leadership Development. The Academy provides an annual program for officials from local government and non-profit organizations, training for fire and emergency services executives, and custom-designed programs. In 2009 and 2010, the Institute provided a custom-designed leadership program for county clerks and local election authorities. The program was presented during the spring in five locations across the state.

Grants and Contracts

The Institute is working on 17 grants with local and state partners, including the Department of Health and Senior Services, the Missouri Foundation for Health, Harris-Stowe State University, the Missouri Secretary of State, Boone County, the Heart of Missouri United Way, the City of Columbia, and the US Election Assistance Commission. Activities in support of these contracts include project management, data collection and analysis, program evaluation, training, and recruitment of technically savvy college poll workers for the 2010 elections.

About the Institute: The Institute of Public Policy is a research and public service entity committed to increasing knowledge and understanding of issues facing Missouri state and local governments. It provides policy research to policymakers and conducts program evaluation and other applied research through contracts with public and non-profit entities. If you are interested in a particular topic or service, please contact us at 573-882-1739 or ipp@missouri.edu.

To learn more about the research conducted at the Institute, please visit our website:

<http://www.truman.missouri.edu/ipp>