

# #TheNetBenefit

When everyone has resources to support themselves, we all benefit.

Too many of our families, friends, and neighbors don't have access to the basic resources they need to lead healthy lives. They have to make tough decisions about how to pay for essentials like utilities, clothing, child care, education and job training, and transportation.

*"It's helping families take care of the needs they have where they're at. And that's a big thing because there are so many people that don't have the basic necessities to get through."*  
- Missy A. and Lora Z., Cape Girardeau



Our most vulnerable Missourians rely on a combination of federal, state, and local programs to help cover their basic needs. This support provides a lifeline for older adults and people with disabilities. And it means that when Missouri families fall on tough times, they can get back on their feet and have a pathway toward economic self-sufficiency.

## Supplemental Security Income (SSI)



In 2015, SSI helped more than **140,000 of Missouri's older adults and people with disabilities** meet basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter. More than 94 percent of beneficiaries in SSI have a disability.

## Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)



When Missouri families fall on tough times, TANF is there to help by providing them with financial assistance to cover children's clothing, utilities, and other services, as well as connecting participants to employment and job training services. In 2012, **38,454 Missouri families** received TANF benefits. Nearly 50 percent of Missourians that received TANF benefits were less than 10 years old, and almost 80 percent of recipients were under 25 years old.

## Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)



EITC is a benefit for working individuals with low-to-moderate income, particularly those with children. Families use the tax credit to pay for necessities like groceries, transportation, rent, and utilities. In Missouri, **40,000 EITC recipients are veterans and 155,000 are rural families.**

## Local support



Local institutions and volunteers make up a crucial network of support across Missouri, supplementing federal programs to ensure our neighbors have access to other economic support in times of need. From shelters and health clinics, to schools and churches, these organizations go above and beyond to fill gaps and meet the needs of their neighbors.