



**CAPITOL REPORT**  
**DALE WRIGHT**  
DISTRICT 116  
MISSOURI HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES



COMMITTEES

December 20, 2022

- \*CONSENT & HOUSE PROCEDURES
- \*CORRECTIONS AND  
PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS
- \*HEALTH & MENTAL HEALTH
- \*PENSIONS

Dear Friends, Merry Christmas!



**Wishing you and your families a Blessed and Joyful Christmas**

It's that time of year, again, when we gather with family and friends, exchange gifts and most importantly, reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. As we celebrate what many consider the most wonderful time of the year, let me simply say from my family to yours, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! I hope your days are peaceful and relaxed as you take some time away from work to spend with your loved ones as you come together with those who mean the most to you to celebrate the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ.

At the same time as we celebrate this wonderful holiday, I also ask us all to remember there are many Missourians who are not as fortunate as we are. They won't have the luxury of reliable transportation, a warm home to live in, or the companionship of loving family and friends. They don't have presents to open or possibly even a warm meal to eat. Some of our fellow citizens have been displaced due to unemployment or other reasons. Others simply have been homeless for years with no family to support them or the means to lift themselves up. I ask us all to keep them in our thoughts and prayers during this holiday season. Reach out to those in need and lift them up whenever you can. Christmas is a time of giving and it's important that we remember that means more

than presents. It should also be a time of compassion, to give of ourselves, to help those who are less fortunate than we are.

On this, a most holy holiday, let us not forget that God gave us the gift of his holy son who would bring us a message of peace, love, and hope. Let us also remember that Jesus died for our sins so that we might have eternal salvation. Christmas is a time to remember that we are all God's children and that we can find joy and peace as we strive to keep Him centered in our lives. Let us look to Him in all we do in the New Year.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and thank you for the honor of serving you at our Missouri State Capitol!

### **Missouri Awards \$20 Million in Funding for Workforce Innovation**

During the 2022 legislative session, members of the Missouri House of Representatives approved appropriations for the Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development (MDHEWD) to fund Private MoExcels and Agriculture Innovation & Workforce grant programs. This month, Governor Mike Parson announced the department has awarded \$20 million in funding to nearly two dozen postsecondary institutions.

The money appropriated by the legislature is funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The grant money now headed to postsecondary institutions will provide high-demand career training for new and underrepresented populations and to address the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on agriculture and supply chains.

Governor Parson said, "These grants will allow Missouri colleges and universities to expand our workforce, particularly in entrepreneurship and other careers where we are seeing growth. In addition, the innovative work of these schools will not only educate more agricultural experts but will help us address the needs of Missouri's number one economic driver."

A total of \$10 million in Private MoExcels grants were awarded to 17 institutions. Accredited private, not-for-profit institutions of higher education in Missouri were eligible for the grant and could request up to \$1 million, which must be matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis. Funds from a Private MoExcels grant may be used for outreach and recruitment efforts, student support services, professional and curriculum development, construction/renovation, and the purchase of equipment.

A total of \$10 million in Agriculture Innovation & Workforce Development awards were granted to six institutions for projects. Public institutions of higher education in Missouri were eligible for the grant and were able to request up to \$2 million, which must be matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis. Funds from an Agriculture Innovation & Workforce Development grant may be used for outreach and recruitment efforts, professional and curriculum development, construction/renovation, and the purchase of equipment.

To view grant recipients and specific award amounts, go to the Governor's website <https://governor.mo.gov/mogov-search/results?search=ARPA%20grant%20receptients>

### **Applications Available for 2023 Missouri Agribusiness Academy**

The Missouri Department of Agriculture is offering 30 high school students the opportunity to explore potential careers in agriculture. High school sophomores representing 4-H Clubs and FFA chapters, as well as farm families, can participate in the Missouri Agribusiness Academy

(MABA), which is a competitive program for sophomores interested in pursuing agriculture-related degrees and careers.

The director of the Missouri Department of Agriculture said, “Year after year, the Missouri Agribusiness Academy allows some of Missouri’s brightest students to gather and collaborate. This program presents high school students the opportunity to learn alongside those with a similar passion for agriculture. Through MABA, students build leadership skills and gain a better understanding about the career opportunities available throughout the Missouri agriculture industry.”

The students selected will participate in a yearlong program to learn about the unique opportunities for careers in the St. Louis area, volunteer at the Missouri State Fair and learn more about the agriculture industry in Jefferson City. The 2023 schedule will be finalized in the spring and will include visits with industry and agribusiness leaders, as well as tours of their facilities.

Since 1988, the Missouri Agribusiness Academy has graduated more than 1,060 students through a competitive application and interview process. The first portion of the 2023 MABA will be held June 5-9, and marks the program’s 36th year. Students interested in participating must submit an application by Feb. 1, 2023.

For applications and guidelines, as well as more information on the Missouri Department of Agriculture and its programs, visit the Department online at [Agriculture.Mo.Gov](https://www.moh.gov).

## **Budget Leaders Join Governor Parson to Announce FY 2024 Consensus Revenue Estimate**

Budget leaders from the House and Senate recently worked with Governor Mike Parson to develop the state’s Consensus Revenue Estimate (CRE) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024.

The annual CRE is a figure established by state budget experts and is one of the basic assumptions used by the governor and legislative leaders to build and balance Missouri’s budget.

The key figure in the CRE is the projected general revenue collections. Net general revenue collections in FY24 are expected to be \$13.2 billion. This represents a 0.7 percent net general revenue growth over the estimated revenue for FY23.

The revised estimate for the current fiscal year (FY23) assumes a 1.4 percent increase to \$13.1 billion in net general revenue collections. FY22 general revenue collections increased by 14.6 percent compared to FY21 collections.

"We appreciate the House and Senate, our state budget team, and other state partners for helping develop this year's revenue estimate," Governor Parson said.

He added, "In the coming fiscal year, state revenues are expected to grow once again, even after passing the largest state income tax in history and returning some of Missourians' hard-earned dollars back to them. This shows that we can continue historic investments in education, infrastructure, mental health services, and public safety just as we have done. We've set a new standard in this state, and we aren't done. We will continue to do more and do better in this year's budget proposal."

The Governor will detail his proposed budget for FY24 during the State of the State address in January. Lawmakers will begin their work on the state budget during the 2023 legislative session that convenes January 4.

## **State Treasurer Encourages Missourians to Check for Unclaimed Property**

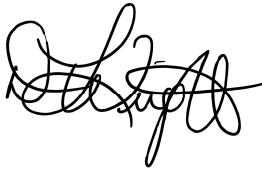
The holiday season is here and once again the Missouri State Treasurer reminds Missourians to check the Unclaimed Property list. The MO Treasurer social media accounts encourages Missourians to search the Unclaimed Property database for their names and others they know.

The Treasurer's Office currently manages over \$1 billion in unclaimed assets in more than five million owner accounts. Unclaimed Property is waiting for one in ten Missourians, and the average return is nearly \$300. Missourians can search and claim Unclaimed Property year-round at **ShowMeMoney.com**.

“We want to return it to rightful owners—especially as we approach the holidays and a little extra money can be helpful,” said State Treasurer Scott Fitzpatrick. He said he hopes “Missourians will take a serious look and maybe find an unexpected holiday gift.”

State law requires financial institutions, insurance companies, public agencies and other business entities to turn over unclaimed assets to the Treasurer's Office. Most Unclaimed Property consists of cash from bank accounts, stocks, bonds, and contents of safe deposit boxes that have been abandoned. It can also include uncollected insurance policy proceeds, government refunds, utility deposits, and wages from past jobs.

My best to all of you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Fitzpatrick', written in a cursive style.