



RURAL PHILANTHROPY SUMMIT

PRESENTED BY



COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
of the OZARKS



PHILANTHROPY
MISSOURI



*Philanthropy Missouri (“PhilMO”) is
the statewide membership organization for grantmakers.*

Mission

To equip, connect, and energize our Members and partners for thoughtful action and greater impact.

Vision

We envision a thriving and equitable Missouri, served by a collaborative, purpose-driven, and effective philanthropic sector.

PhilMO Members include:

- Community Foundations
- Health Conversion Foundations
- Corporate Foundations / Giving
- Private Foundations
- Family Foundations &
- Donor-Advised Funds
- Federated Funds
- Giving Circles
- Public Religious Charities
- Publicly Funded or Tax-Supported Grantmakers
- + Associate Members (Professional advisors who support grantmaking)
- + Regional Partners



Intersection of Philanthropy + Rural Missouri



1970-2020

Occasional, Member-Prompted Discussion



2021-2022

Pivots: Statewide Service + Center Equity

National landscape survey

Apply for first national grant



2023

1st Rural Philanthropy Summit

Rural LISC Report (recommendations...)

National grants + in-state sponsorship



2024-2025

Establish Annual Rural Philanthropy Summit

1st Rural Site Visit

Pilot Rural Funder Network

This Moment







Member-Advisors

- Amy Stringer-Hessel
HRJ
- Emily Stuart
Marillac Mission Fund
- Alice Wingo
Community Foundation of the Ozarks



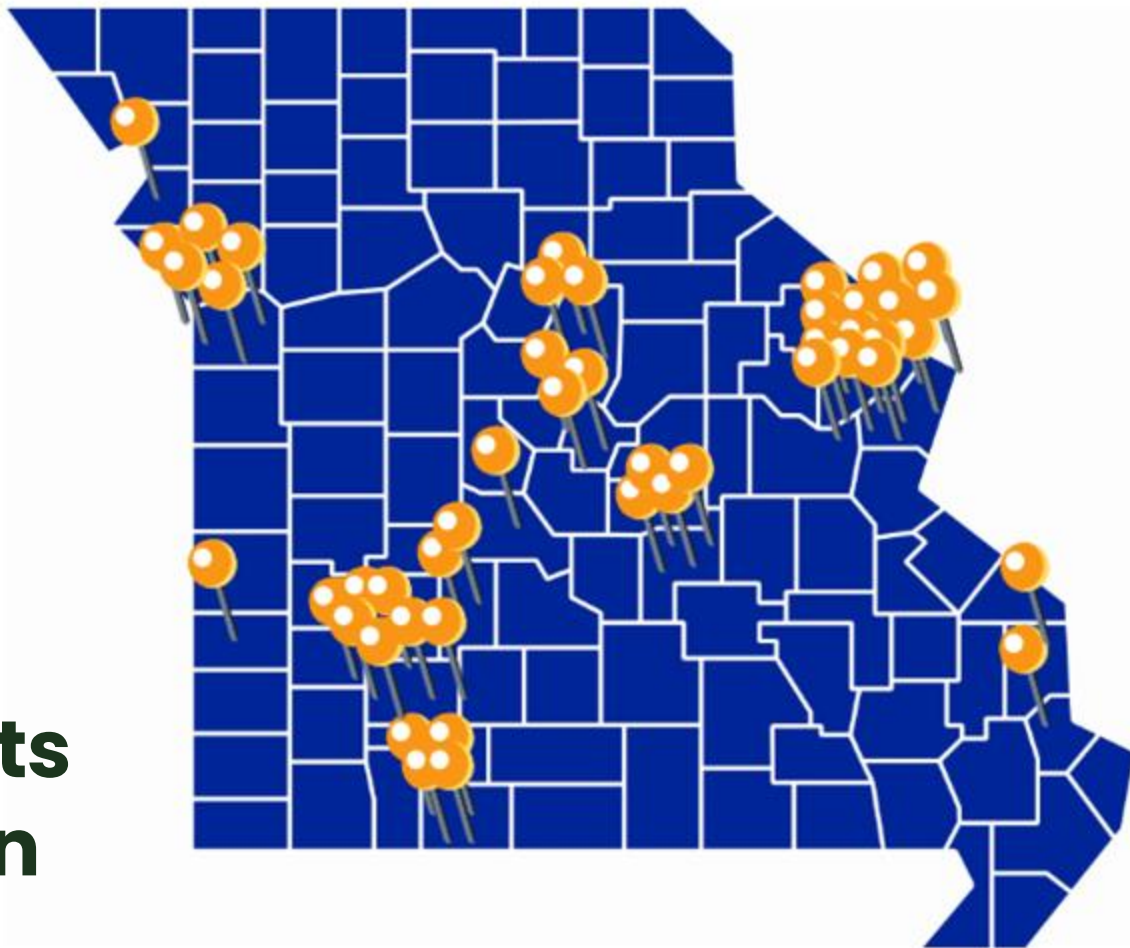
Rural Funder Network Objectives

PhilMO's Rural Funder Network supports the philanthropic work of Missouri's funders who invest in rural areas, or who are interested in learning more. As a Network, we desire to:

1. Build trusting relationships with peer rural funders.
2. Share values-aligned, effective, and innovative rural philanthropic practice among and beyond this Network.
3. Grow in our understanding of equitable rural philanthropic practice and the lived experience of rural Missourians.
4. Enjoy learning experiences that are full and don't feel rushed.
5. Support local businesses when visiting rural communities.
6. Explore regional and/or statewide collaborations that will help build awareness of, cultivate capacity in, and bring more resources to rural communities.
7. Unite as a strong voice for rural philanthropy in Missouri.

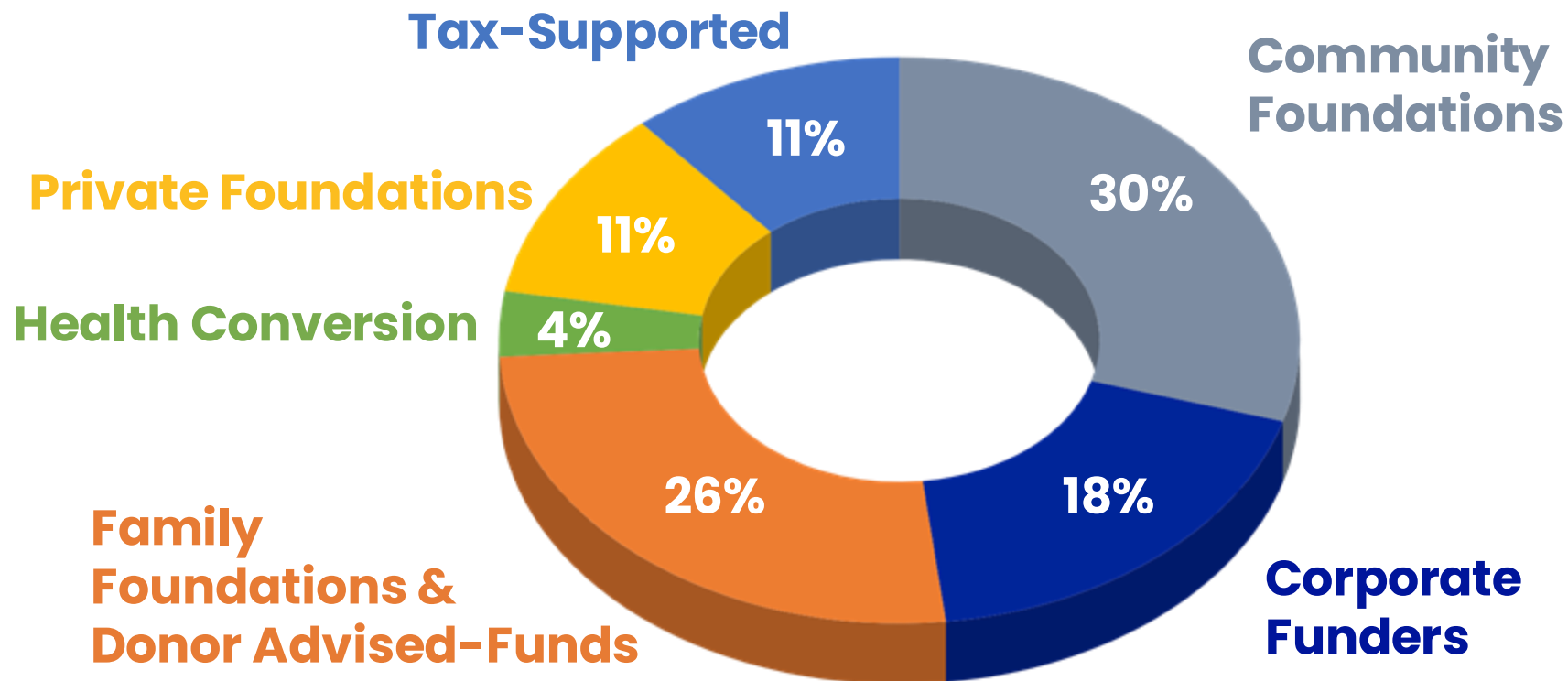


Network Participants by Location





Types of Grantmakers in the Network





WHERE is the Network learning?



4 – King City

5 – Maysville

3 – St. Joseph

2 – Eldon

1 – Buffalo

7 – Sikeston

6 – Hayti



City of Eldon

MISSOURI







June 2025





LEARNING + ACTION AGENDA

Learning Agenda

1. Understand what other Network participants are doing/funding
2. Explore examples of rural communities who have successfully interrupted persistent poverty and the specific strategies they have used
3. Understand and be able to implement community-driven and trust-based philanthropy models in a rural context.

Action Agenda

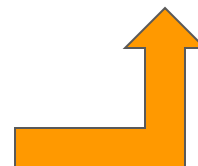
1. Engage in pooled and/or collective (or aligned) funding
2. Intentional—as individuals and organizations—engagement and participation in rural communities
3. Shared resource platform



Interested in Learning More?



**Share your
interest here**



Part of the National Conversation



of Missouri residents live in rural areas, and 18 percent of them live in a higher share than urban residents of the state. Yet of the more than \$21 billion in philanthropic spending in Missouri from 2017 to 2022, only \$21 million — or one-half of 1 percent — went to rural areas, according to a survey by Philanthropy Missouri.

Philanthropy Missouri says the state realize they need to do more. [Philanthropy Missouri](#) was founded in 1971, but for the first 50 years of its existence, but in 2021, the association made a renewed commitment to the entire state. The organization hired its first full-time member, Amy Wescott, whose focus includes rural outreach.

Wescott says, "That is something our partners in the state have been working on in the last

Philanthropy Missouri and the Community Foundation of the Ozarks have hosted a statewide [Rural Philanthropy Summit](#).



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Hollie Elliott, executive director of the Dallas County Economic Development Group, leads a site visit in Buffalo, Mo., during Philanthropy Missouri's Rural Philanthropy Summit this spring.