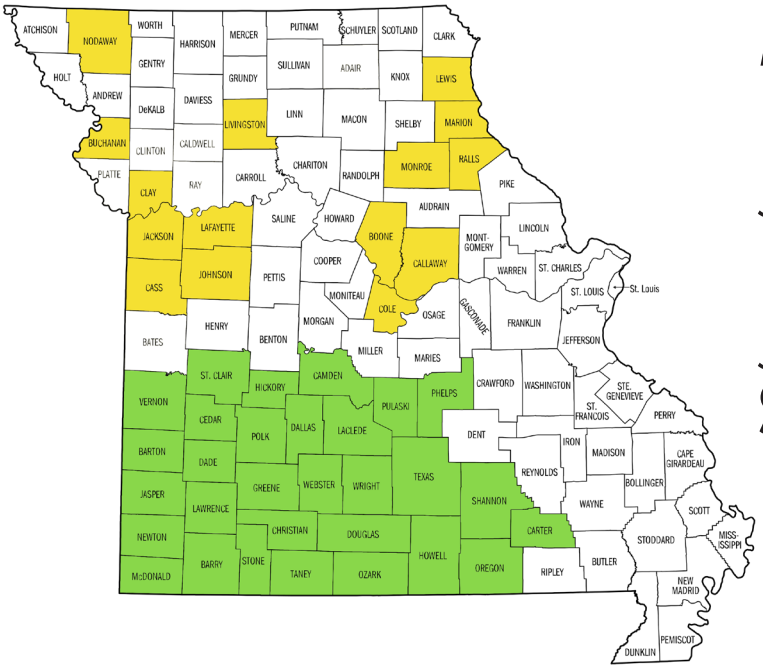
Good Dads Missouri Snapshots · 2025



Robust
Economies

Safe
Neighborhoods

Strong
Schools

Map: Good Dads Missouri Snapshots is a collection of relevant research about dads in 45 counties to highlight the nonprofit's impact.

Region 4 Contract Area

Additional Counties Receiving Good Dads Services

Missouri Quick Facts

New Pathways for Good Dads has an enormous return on the state's investment.

Since 2018, New Pathways program participants contributed more than **$3.5 million** to their child support cases. Last year, Good Dads hosted more than three-dozen classes in more than a dozen communities throughout the state. More than 200 men enrolled in the NPGD program in Southwest Missouri alone.

In 2022, the average child support payment in Missouri was $183.25 a month, though most owe much more.

This average is lowered by those who don't pay anything at all, which account for more than half (55%) of all cases. Many cannot pay the full amount they owe. Fathers enrolled in New Pathways for Good Dads are more likely to pay child support: 70.7% of dads in our program paid last month—and they paid more, a monthly average of $203.22. Even when Good Dads makes only a small difference in child support payments, the financial benefits to a community are impressive.

The Region 4 contract area alone has more than 45,000 active child support cases.

According to the Missouri Department of Social Services caseload counter, there are 281,825 active child support cases as of January 2025. Each of Missouri's five regions is eligible for an annual contract up to $162,000 to run Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood Initiatives. Good Dads is the Region 4 contract holder; this region spans 30 counties.

A community committed to dads enjoys stronger economies.

Good Dads graduates pay more in child support, are more likely to have well-paying jobs, perform better at work and are less likely to commit crimes or recidivate.

A community committed to dads enjoys safer neighborhoods.

Good Dads program participants report gaining communication skills, learning to manage one's anger and overall are better equipped to handle the challenges of fatherhood. Additionally, children with involved fathers are at a lower risk for poor outcomes, like substance use, criminal activity and incarceration, emotional problems, poverty and suicide.

A community committed to dads enjoys robust schools.

School-age children likely benefit from responsible fatherhood more than anyone else. In fact, kids with actively involved fathers get better grades, have stronger verbal skills, fewer behavior problems in school and greater potential for success in adulthood.

Good Dads builds better communities.

Starting a Good Dads initiative in your area is the best choice for communities to thrive. Get started with *Good Dads Great Communities*, a Good Dads program designed for stakeholders to discover the most effective ways to foster father engagement in their communities.