



The [Missouri Department of Social Services](#) was constitutionally established in 1974 to provide appropriate public welfare services to promote, safeguard and protect the social well-being and general welfare of children; to help maintain and strengthen family life; and to provide such public welfare services to aid needy persons who can be so helped to become self-supporting or capable of self-care.

The department has six divisions (Children's Division, Family Support Division, MO HealthNet Division, Division of Youth Services, Division of Finance and Administrative Services, and Division of Legal Services) and four offices (Human Resource Center, Missouri Medicaid Audit and Compliance, State Technical Assistance Team, and Strategic Performance and Innovations) reporting to the Office of the Director.

Mission

We will lead the nation in building the capacity of individuals, families, and communities to secure and sustain healthy, safe, and productive lives.

Office of the Director and Supports

The Division of Finance and Administrative Services and Division of Legal Services support the work of the program divisions. These support functions include budget, contract management, accounts payable, federal grants management, audit and compliance, facilities, legal advice, administrative hearings, and participant/staff investigations. Additional teams working to support the program divisions include the Human Resource Center managing all human resource needs and conducting investigations into claims of civil rights violations; the Missouri Medicaid Audit and Compliance Unit managing Medicaid provider enrollment and provider audits; the State Technical Assistance Team, a law enforcement unit that investigates child abuse, child neglect; and the Strategic Performance and Innovations Unit managing performance improvement, transformation, research/data, and innovation efforts.

Family Support Division

Determines eligibility for and administers many of the needs-based, income tested programs including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamp), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (cash assistance), Medicaid eligibility, child care subsidy eligibility, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, Rehabilitation Services for the Blind, Blind Pension, and the Community Services Block Grant. Families may also apply with the division for child support services, including paternity and/or support order establishment and collection services.

MO HealthNet Division

Administers the state's Medicaid program for low-income Missourians, including the elderly, the disabled, children, parents and pregnant women. While states must meet certain minimum criteria to receive federal Medicaid funding, each state can establish eligibility guidelines, benefit packages, and provider payment rates for its program. Health care provider claims adjudication; care management through contracted health plans and health homes; and establishing edits and prior authorization policies to ensure quality care are focal to the Medicaid program's work.

Children's Division

Delivers services to protect Missouri's children and to provide them a safe and stable environment. A 24-hour hotline is available for the public to report alleged incidents of child abuse and neglect, and these reports are followed up on by state staff, often in coordination with law enforcement. Children in the custody of the state are placed in foster care homes or residential facilities. Children who cannot return home may be adopted or placed in a guardianship home. The division also administers the child care program and other abuse and neglect prevention programs.

Division of Youth Services

Provides residential treatment, case management, community care, and aftercare to youth committed to the state's custody for various offenses. The division model is an internationally known treatment-focused model, contrary to the typical penal system. The Juvenile Court Diversion Program works with local communities to help prevent juvenile offenses and provide treatment for youth in their own communities.