



NORTH CENTRAL REGION COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EXTENSION IMPACT REPORT 2025

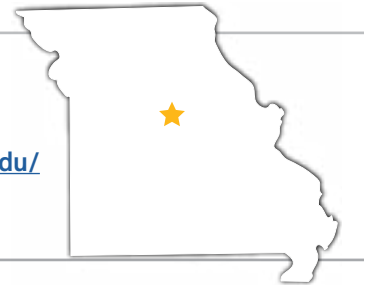
UNIVERSITY
OF MISSOURI



MISSOURI



Location; Columbia, MO
<https://extension.missouri.edu/>



82,655



EDUCATIONAL CONTACTS

22,780



VOLUNTEER HOURS

for community generated work



\$700 THOUSAND

GRANTS & RESOURCES
generated by communities

IMPACT INDICATORS

Educational Contacts	82,665
Number of community or organizational plans/policies developed	39
Number of community or organizational plans/policies adopted or implemented	26
Number of participants reporting new leadership roles and opportunities undertaken	90
Number of volunteer hours for community generated work	22,780
Dollar value of organization and/or community-generated volunteer hours based on Independent Sector hr value	\$492,406
Dollar value of grants and resources leveraged/generated by communities	\$713,785

IMPACT STATEMENTS

Missouri Good Neighbor Week 2025

Created by MU Extension Community Development Field Specialist David Burton and officially recognized by the Missouri Legislature in 2022, [Missouri Good Neighbor Week](#) celebrates acts of kindness and connection that strengthen local neighborhoods.

In 2025, Missourians once again demonstrated the power of neighborliness during Missouri Good Neighbor Week (Sept. 28–Oct. 4, 2025), an annual statewide celebration of everyday kindness and connection coordinated by University of Missouri Extension and supported by The Hopeful Neighborhood Project.



According to the official report, 42,134 acts of neighborliness were documented this week through 433 different neighboring actions, pledges, campaigns, and proclamations — making this Missouri’s largest civic engagement event focused on building stronger communities.

Reports were submitted from 110 cities and 86 counties across both urban and rural Missouri. Participants ranged from large cities like Springfield, Kansas City, and Manchester to smaller communities like Cardwell, Hume and Fremont Hills.

In addition to acts of kindness and block gatherings, more than 100 Missourians took the Engaged Neighbor Pledge, committing to ongoing efforts to get to know their immediate neighbors and care for their local communities year-round.

County Extension Councils and 4-H clubs across the state also participated at a high level this year, accounting for over 19,000 of the reported acts of neighboring. County Extension Council volunteers hosted movie screenings about neighbors, hosted meal events and community socials, funded and packed various items for food pantries and made a positive impact in their respective communities during the week.

Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities Conference: Excelsior Springs, Missouri

The 2025 [Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities \(CEC\) Conference](#) held in Excelsior Springs, Missouri demonstrated significant reach and influence across Missouri and neighboring states, reinforcing its role as a cornerstone convening for entrepreneurial ecosystem builders. Preconference registration data reflects participation from 46 unique Missouri counties, with strong representation from Clay, Boone, and Jackson counties, underscoring both geographic diversity and concentrated engagement in key regions. Attendees represented 94 unique ZIP codes, with 86% based in Missouri and 14% from out of state, illustrating the conference’s expanding regional pull.



2025 CEC attendees in Excelsior Springs, MO

or independent practitioners (10). This diverse mix strengthened opportunities for cross sector collaboration, peer learning, and alignment among organizations working to support entrepreneurs and small businesses.

Attendance data highlights strong loyalty and sustained value. Forty attendees were repeat participants, many of whom have attended multiple CEC conferences over several years, signaling continued relevance and impact. The top drivers of attendance — MU Extension communication channels, repeat participation, and social media promotion — reflect effective outreach strategies and a trusted reputation within the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

The CEC Conference successfully convened a broad cross section of organizations essential to entrepreneurial development. Participants included educational institutions (26), associations and networks (25), nonprofits (18), chambers of commerce (15), and consultants

Overall, the [2025 CEC Conference](#) reinforced a robust statewide network of ecosystem leaders, expanded regional connectivity, and deepened collaboration across sectors, contributing to stronger, more coordinated entrepreneurial communities throughout Missouri and beyond.