

## VISION

All poor and underserved people in our community will have quality health care.

## MISSION

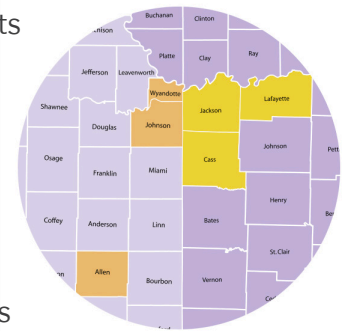
To advance equity in health care coverage, access & quality for poor and underserved people.

## WHO WE ARE

The REACH Healthcare Foundation is a nonprofit charitable organization dedicated to advancing equity in health care coverage, access and quality for poor and underserved people. The foundation was established in 2003 with monies that resulted from the sale of a regional nonprofit health care and hospital system.

## WHAT WE DO

The REACH Foundation awards approximately \$5 million annually in grants and provides other support to increase access to health care coverage and quality health care services in the foundation's six-county service area. Our primary interests are helping people secure affordable health coverage; closing the coverage gap that leaves people without dependable sources of care; and strengthening the safety net that is a significant resource of primary care, oral health and mental health services for the region's uninsured.



## HOW WE OPERATE

The REACH Foundation is governed by a Board of 17 individuals elected by the members who live in the REACH service area. These volunteers bring breadth of professional experience, interest in health issues and commitment to improving the quality of life of people in the region. An appointed Community Advisory Committee serves to identify and nominate candidates to the Board. The foundation's grant making, program development, community engagement and other daily operations are managed by a staff of nine.



### BRENDA R. SHARPE

President and CEO  
brenda@reachhealth.org  
@sharpieblue

6700 Antioch Road, Suite 200, Merriam, Kansas 66204 | (913) 432-4196

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# 2017 MISSOURI POLICY AGENDA

The REACH Healthcare Foundation was established in 2003 with a mandate to improve the health of uninsured and medically underserved individuals in our service area. To accomplish this, we believe it is essential to support public policies that increase access to health coverage and strengthen the health care safety net system that serves our region's people.

## CLOSE THE HEALTH COVERAGE GAP

The REACH Foundation supports expansion of Medicaid or adoption of a state-based solution to close the health coverage gap that affects thousands of low-income, working adults and families in Missouri.

- Nearly 300,000 Missourians are left out of health coverage because lawmakers have opted not to expand Medicaid.
- In Missouri, non-disabled childless adults cannot qualify for Medicaid - no matter how poor. For those with children, eligibility is capped at 19% of the federal poverty level, the lowest level in the nation.
- Starting in 2017, the federal government will cover 95% of the cost of coverage for new enrollees, higher than the current Medicaid match rate. Thirty-two other states have expanded their Medicaid programs, allowing them to reallocate some of their state general funds to meet other critical needs.

## PROTECT FUNDING FOR ORAL HEALTH CARE

The REACH Foundation urges lawmakers to preserve permanent funding for adult dental benefits under Missouri HealthNet as a health priority with significant health and workforce productivity benefits to residents and the state.

- Missouri has restored dental benefits for adults after eliminating coverage a decade ago. This decision will improve health and employability for adults, and reduce reliance on emergency departments for dental care.
- Government leaders can advance the oral health of vulnerable Missourians by implementing statewide public education efforts about the importance of oral health and the availability of dental benefits for Medicaid-eligible adults.

## ENACT FISCAL POLICIES THAT HELP FAMILIES & COMMUNITIES THRIVE

The REACH Foundation encourages state government leaders to enact sound tax and budget policies that preserve core services and ensure the availability of a dependable safety net system that provides critical assistance for families in need.

- While median income has increased and poverty has declined since 2014, more than one in 10 Missouri families - including more than one in five children - struggle to meet their basic needs. Despite improvements, the poverty rate is 14.8%, still higher than pre-recession levels.
- Policies such as a Missouri Earned Income Tax Credit and Medicaid expansion could relieve the strain on families, health and social services and communities to allow for growth and recovery.