



## CARING FOR KIDS

*CCRB Monthly News & Updates*

**December 2025**

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### Happy Holidays from CCRB!

My friends know that I am not a fan of cold weather. I much prefer the warmth of summer and being outdoors. But there's one thing I love about this time of year: the holiday season. My favorite tradition is driving around with my family in a toasty warm car, taking in the glow of holiday lights, and marveling at the creativity and beauty. It feels magical every time and never fails to bring me joy.

A close second? Baking holiday treats for friends, family, and co-workers (and doing plenty of taste-testing along the way).

As we celebrate this season, my hope is that each of us finds moments filled with joy and wonder. May you have time to do the things you love most.

The CCRB team will be taking some much-needed time to rest and recharge for the year ahead. Our offices will be closed from **December 24 through January 2**. When we return, we'll be ready to make 2026 an incredible year—continuing our work with Partner Agencies to help youth and families across St. Charles County build a brighter tomorrow.

***Cheers to a joyful holiday season and an amazing year ahead!***



Melinda McAliney

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

✉ mmcaliney@sceekids.org

## Reasons CCRB Appreciates our *Partner Agencies*

They offer a strong collaborative network of support for each other

They see opportunity where others see obstacles

In their eyes, no barrier is too big - everyone has potential for growth

They remind us, each day is a chance to learn and grow

They use creativity and resources to help all who want it

They create visible impact in St. Charles County

## Staff Updates

**CCRB Office Closed for the Holidays.** Our offices will close Wednesday, December 24, 2025 through Friday, January 2, 2026. CCRB staff will take some time to rest and recharge! However, staff will check email and voicemail daily and can answer any questions.

As we close out a whirlwind year, we're excited about what's ahead. Our 2026 funding cycle is already in motion, and Group 1 funding decisions were finalized at the December board meeting.

**Thank you** to our Board and Agency Partners for making this progress possible—we couldn't do it without you! We look forward to continuing this journey together in the year ahead.

We happily showered Taylor with baby books and other fun items. Baby Carson is expected to arrive soon!



**What's on CCRB's holiday wishlist? Watch the video!**



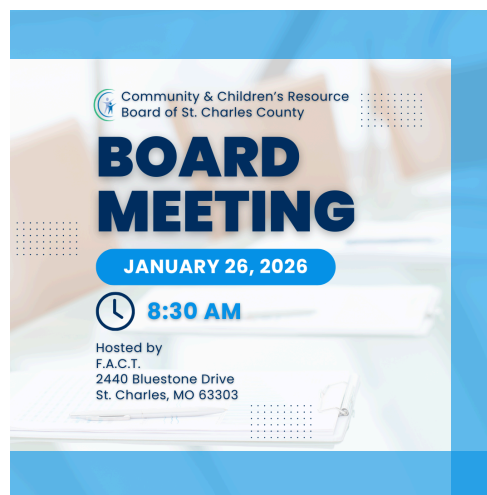
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## Monthly Board Meeting

The public and interested parties are invited to CCRB's monthly Board meeting on **January 26, 2026, at 8:30 AM.**

Meeting Host:  
F.A.C.T. - Family Advocacy & Community Training  
2240 Bluestone Drive  
St. Charles, MO 63303

The **meeting agenda** is available 48 hours in advance.



## Services Spotlight

Psychological evaluations play a critical role in understanding a child's emotional, behavioral, and cognitive development. These assessments help identify learning challenges, mental health concerns, or developmental delays early—before they become barriers to success.

Some of the benefits of psychological evaluations are:

- **Early Intervention:** Detecting issues early allows families and professionals to provide targeted support, improving long-term outcomes.
- **Personalized Support Plans:** Evaluations guide individualized strategies for learning and emotional well-being.
- **Peace of Mind for Families:** Understanding a child's needs reduces uncertainty and empowers caregivers to make informed decisions.

By investing in psychological evaluations, CCRB ensures children receive the right resources at the right time—building a foundation for resilience and success. Here are two of our CCRB-funded services that offer psychological evaluations:

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**Center for Behavioral Health** at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, offers high-quality, comprehensive evaluation services for children aged 18 and younger who require a psychological evaluation due to a suspected mental health condition.

**Partners In-Kind** provides psychological evaluations for children with significant behavioral and emotional challenges. Evaluations offer diagnostic clarification and actionable recommendations for treatment, educational accommodation, and home interventions.

## Opportunities



**COLD WEATHER AHEAD**

**Emergency Warming Response Helpline**  
**636-344-0177**

Volunteer-run shelters open when when overnight temps are 20 degrees or below

St. Charles • Warren • Lincoln Counties

**Mid-November through mid-March**

The St. Charles, Lincoln and Warren County Continuum of Care works with area churches to provide the **Emergency Weather Response** program (EWR). This program provides overnight safe sleep locations at local churches, when the weather is predicted to be 20 degrees or below.

Community members can find out if the program is activated by calling **636-344-0177** after 3PM on the night the safe sleep location is needed. A recording will provide the location and open times for safe sleep. If transportation assistance to the safe sleep location is needed, volunteer transportation dispatchers will return calls later in the day and arrange transportation to the open shelter. [Learn more about the program.](#)

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The holidays bring joy, connection, and celebration—but they can also come with stress and emotional strain. December is Seasonal Affective Disorder Awareness Month, a reminder to care for your mental health and check in on others. And don't forget, the kids in your life feel the weight of the season too. Check out this handy [fact sheet](#) that's perfect for sharing.

[Learn More about SAD](#)



## Nonprofit Finance Training Series

Join **Network for Strong Communities** for one or all three engaging sessions where attendees will explore key financial management principles tailored specifically for non-profit leaders. Gain the knowledge and confidence to make informed financial decisions, ensure accountability, and maximize the impact of every dollar received.

### Session One: Basics of Financial Management

Tuesday, February 10 from 9:00-11:00 a.m.

### Session Two: The Foundations of Financial Forecasting and Budgeting

Tuesday, March 10 from 9:00-11:00 a.m.

### Session Three: Presenting a Budget and Planning for Expansion

Tuesday, April 14 from 9:00-11:00 a.m.

These courses will be delivered virtually. [Learn more and register here.](#)

## Applications Open for Capacity Building

**Network for Strong Communities** announces **TWO** cohorts for the year of the Capacity Building Scholarship program! The year-long, no cost comprehensive capacity building program is accepting applications for 2026.

Each organization will receive a capacity assessment and a customized program that includes free training, services, and peer mentoring. Areas addressed can include board work, fundraising, leadership development, human resources, marketing, volunteer coordination, fiscal management, evaluation, collaboration, and administrative support.

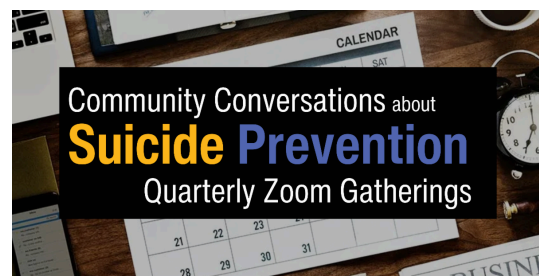
Applications are open now and due by **January 16, 2026.**

More information is available on NSC's [website.](#)

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**First Community Conversation of 2026 – Registration Now Open!**

The **Missouri Suicide Prevention Network** is excited to kick off the new year with their first **Community Conversation About Suicide Prevention**. These quarterly gatherings bring together survivors, supporters, advocates, and professionals to foster connection, learning, and hope within our communities. Conversations are held virtually from 9 AM to 10:30 AM on these dates.



- January 26, 2026
- April 17, 2026
- July 17, 2026
- October 16, 2026

**Registration** is now open, and interested parties are encouraged to register. Join MSPN as they continue building a compassionate space for conversation, healing, and suicide prevention efforts across Missouri.

**Looking to amp up prevention efforts in your community?** The Missouri Suicide Prevention Network is offering support funds for registered MSPN Suicide Prevention Coalitions. Funds may be used for local suicide prevention events, reducing access to lethal means, postvention efforts, and more. **Learn more and apply here!** A limited amount of funds are available. **Applications are due by December 31, 2025.**

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## Tracking Cuts to Federal Funding for Kids

This year's federal funding cuts have significantly impacted programs and services for children and youth nationwide. The latest update of **Children's Funding Project Federal Funding Streams for Children and Youth Services database** highlights new details about how these cuts and recent policy changes affect the programs kids need. The updated database offers additional analyses about federal money for kids, and provides deeper insights for local leaders and advocates to better inform their funding strategies for children and youth during these turbulent economic times.

[Check out the Database](#)

A dark blue graphic with a white speech bubble icon in the top right corner. The text reads "2026 Ethics Trainings" in large white font. Below it are three items, each with a circular icon: "March 4th - Prevention Ethics" (with a blue icon of a person), "June 2nd & December 4th - Cannabis" (with a green icon of a cannabis leaf), and "August 6th - Digital Implications" (with a blue icon of a globe).

**2026 Ethics Trainings**

- March 4th - Prevention Ethics
- June 2nd & December 4th - Cannabis
- August 6th - Digital Implications

**PreventED** will host four virtual trainings for professionals seeking to learn about the ethical decision-making framework used in scenarios they commonly face. Events begin March 2026. Visit the links below to register and learn more.

- **March 4th - Prevention Ethics for Substance Use Professionals**
- **June 2nd - Conversations about Cannabis: Navigating Ethical Dilemmas**
- **August 6th - The Changing Landscape of Ethics: Implications of the Digital Age**
- **December 4th - Conversations about Cannabis: Navigating Ethical Dilemmas**

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## NEW NAMI Family Caregiver HelpLine Available

Caregiving can be hard. The **NAMI Family Caregiver HelpLine** is easy. Providing care to someone with a mental health condition comes with unique challenges: Seeing someone you love in pain, navigating red tape and confusing systems, fighting stigma and myths about mental illness, and advocating for your loved one when no one else will. To be a caregiver is to practice resilience, strength, and compassion, braving challenge after challenge. With the new NAMI Family Caregiver HelpLine, you can find support rooted in lived experience and designed to help you access resources and find hope. Take a moment today to connect with the **NAMI Family Caregiver HelpLine** at **1-800-950-NAMI (6264)**. Press “4” to connect with a skilled Family Caregiver HelpLine Specialist.

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## New Season, New Skills: Professional Development at Washington University Brown School

The Brown School's **Professional Development** program supports and inspires the community to creatively envision and achieve more effective practice through skill-building learning opportunities, thereby encouraging positive social change. January learning opportunities include:



- **Youth Suicide Prevention: Counseling, Intervention Strategies, and Safety Planning with Adolescents**
- **Leveraging Supervision to Avoid Burnout and Model Self-Care**
- **How to Avoid the 5 Most Common Leadership Mistakes**
- **Culturally Competent Practice with Refugee and Immigrant Populations**

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## 2026 Missouri Crisis Conference - Call for Proposals



MISSOURI BEHAVIORAL  
HEALTH COUNCIL

The **Missouri Department of Mental Health (DMH)** and the **Missouri Behavioral Health Council (MBHC)** invite you to submit a proposal to share your experience and expertise at the 2026 Missouri Crisis Conference, August 6-7, 2026 in Columbia, MO.

The behavioral health crisis system is rapidly evolving across the nation, with 988, mobile crisis response, and crisis stabilization services emerging as the essential components of crisis care. Missouri is committed to advancing these efforts, and this conference will serve as a key opportunity to highlight innovation, collaboration, and lessons learned in building a comprehensive crisis system. All presenters are expected to attend and deliver their presentations on site. Proposals must be submitted by **January 30, 2026**.

Learn more and submit proposals [here](#).  
Contact [events@mobhc.org](mailto:events@mobhc.org) with any questions.

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## Call for Proposals Open for AAS May 2026

The **American Association of Suicidology (AAS)** is thrilled to invite submissions for the **AAS26 - 59th Annual Conference** held in St. Louis, Missouri, from May 18th - 22nd 2026. This year's theme is *Moving Forward Together: Advancing Suicide Prevention Through Science & Lived Experience*. The annual conference will feature a comprehensive lineup, including pre-conference workshops, 3 days of inspiring keynotes and breakout sessions, and concluding with the Healing After Suicide Loss Summit. Continuing education credits will be available across multiple professional tracks.

Pre-Conference Day, May 18  
Annual Conference, May 19 - 21  
Healing After Suicide Loss Summit, May 22

The American Association of Suicidology's (AAS) Annual Conference serves as a dynamic platform for exchanging expertise and insights within the suicidology community. We welcome the participation of academics, researchers, clinicians, crisis specialists, individuals with lived experience, loss survivors, advocates, and volunteers who are deeply committed to advancing the work of suicide prevention.

[Learn more](#)

**CCRB**  
the community and children's  
resource board of st. charles county

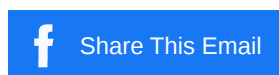
**About CCRB**  
**Contact Us**

Using a voter-approved 1/8 cent sales tax, the **Community and Children's Resource Board (CCRB)** funds local nonprofits to provide essential mental health and substance use treatment services for children 19 years of age or younger in St. Charles County. Our mission is to build and sustain a comprehensive system of services for children and families in need, preparing them for a brighter future.

CCRB-funded programs and services aim to:

- Improve child emotional and mental wellbeing
- Strengthen and stabilize children and families
- Respond to the shifting mental health needs of youth

Over the past two decades, key indicators of youth and family health in St. Charles County have shown positive changes. We are committed to continuing our investment in effective mental and behavioral health services. Together, we are creating a community where every child and family can thrive.



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