

2025

Annual
Report

ofrpc

OZARK
FOOTHILLS
REGIONAL
PLANNING COMMISSION



July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025



mission statement

The **Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission** improves the quality of life in, and promotes the development of Butler, Carter, Reynolds, Ripley and Wayne Counties through social, cultural, educational, public infrastructure, housing, economic development and recycling programs.

history

The OFRPC was designated by the Governor of the State of Missouri in 1967 under Missouri's State and Regional Planning and Community Development Act.

The Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission was created to facilitate the cooperative effort of its member municipalities and

counties in solving problems and planning the future development of human, natural, and economic resources of the Ozark Foothills region. The Commission serves as a guide to local units of government in accomplishing a coordinated and efficient development of the region and the promotion of its public

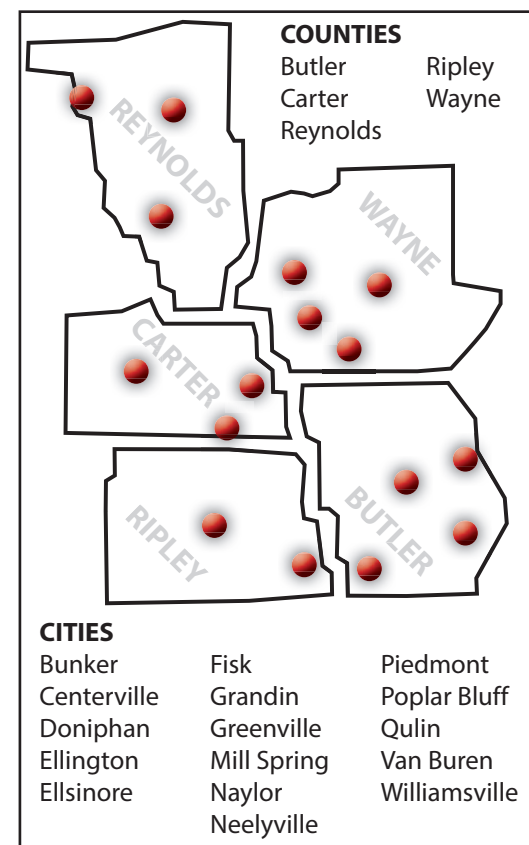
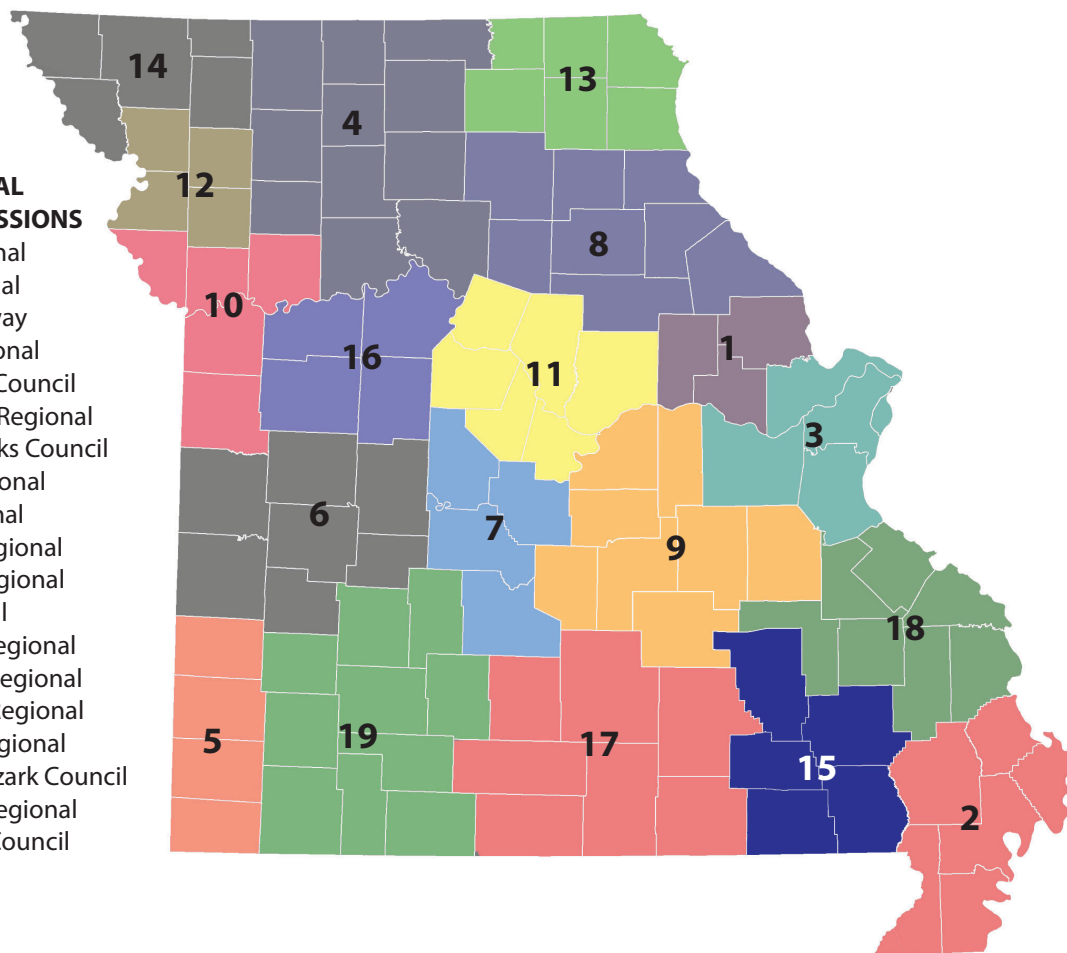
health, safety, general welfare, and economic prosperity in accordance with the area's existing and future needs.

In an effort to comply with these provisions, the Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission has developed a number of associated organizations.

ozark foothills service area

MISSOURI REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSIONS

- 1 Boonslick Regional
- 2 Bootheel Regional
- 3 East-West Gateway
- 4 Green Hills Regional
- 5 Harry S Truman Council
- 6 Kaysinger Basin Regional
- 7 Lake of the Ozarks Council
- 8 Mark Twain Regional
- 9 Meramec Regional
- 10.. Mid-America Regional
- 11.. Mid-Missouri Regional
- 12.. Mo-Kan Regional
- 13.. Northeast MO Regional
- 14.. Northwest MO Regional
- 15.. Ozark Foothills Regional
- 16.. Pioneer Trails Regional
- 17.. South Central Ozark Council
- 18.. Southeast MO Regional
- 19.. Southwest MO Council



what we do

The Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission (OFRPC) manages its internal activities, as well as the activities of the



Ozark Foothills Development Association,
the **Ozark Foothills Regional Community Foundation,** the
Ozark Foothills Solid Waste Management District Materials
Recovery Center and the **Ripley County Public Housing**
Agency.



The OFRPC's core service is providing grant preparation administrative and planning services to its five member counties and 16 member cities.



During Fiscal Year 2025, OFRPC staff prepared



68 grant applications and brought **\$18,676,508**
in grant awards into the Ozark Foothills Region.



committee membership

Vince Lampe, Butler County

Shane Cornman, Poplar Bluff

Nancy Kay, Fisk

Rhonda Burson, Neelyville

Justin Parks, Quilin

Ron Keeney, Carter County

Dawn Hood, Ellsinore

Diana Brower, Grandin

John Bailiff, Van Buren

Steve Chitwood, Reynolds County

Gary Conway, Jr., Bunker

Stanley Barton, Centerville

Darrell Dement, Ellington#

Jesse Roy, Ripley County *

Dennis Cox, Doniphan

Ron Rupp, Naylor

JoAnne Brandon, Minority

Chad Henson, solid waste management +

Brian Polk, Wayne County

Jason Hill, Greenville

William Kirkpatrick, Piedmont

Angela Clyburn, Mill Spring

Lee Hillis, Williamsville

Jennifer Williams, agriculture

Steve Foster, agriculture

Paul Johnson, retired/senior services ***

Bill Moriarty, retired/senior services

Gary Emmons, business

Russell French, professions

Dr. Jim Jones, professions

Brandon Woolard, finance

Margaret Carter, finance +

Rebeca Pacheco, social agency **

Sandra Shockey, social agency

Leann Clark, education

*Chairman

**First Vice-Chairman

***Second Vice-Chairman

#Secretary/Treasurer

+Executive board member

goals and progress

GOALS

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Maintain 100% Membership

✓ **100% MEMBERSHIP MAINTAINED**

Complete grant proposals for member communities & nonprofits

✓ SUBMITTED **68** GRANT PROPOSALS FOR A TOTAL REQUEST OF **\$74,191,902** FOR OUR REGION.

Increase investment within the region

✓ BROUGHT **\$18,676,508** INTO REGION BY **23** FUNDED PROPOSALS.


Conduct staff retreat

✓ STAFF RETREAT HELD IN MAY 2025.

grants, contracts received

APPLICANT	FUNDING AGENCY	PROJECT	AMOUNT
OFRPC	MoDOT	Planning	\$85,260
Poplar Bluff	MoDOT TAP	East Pine Crosswalk-Linc Park Connector	\$300,784
Qulin	DHSS	Active Transportation Plan	\$15,000
Ripley County	MO DED CDBG-DR	Downpayment Assistance	\$987,780
Doniphan	MO DED CDBG-DR	Multi-Family Housing	\$1,808,658
Doniphan	MO DED CDBG-DR	Multi-Family Housing	\$2,205,500
Carter County	MO DED CDBG-DR	Downpayment Assistance	\$740,700
Carter County	MO DED CDBG-DR	Multi-Family Housing	\$2,783,813
Van Buren	MO DED CDBG-DR	Multi-Family Housing	\$1,637,201
Van Buren	MO DED CDBG-DR	Multi-Family Housing	\$2,265,248
OFRPC	FHWA	SS4A	\$116,000
Carter County	MO DED CDBG-CF	Grant amendment - gap funding repair ceiling grid	\$2,733
Ripley County R-I	MO DED CDBG-CF	Grant amendment - gap funding Career Center	\$55,384
Carter County	DRA SEDAP	Paving County Road 330 - Royal Oak	\$490,000
Naylor	MO DED CDBG-CF	Grant amendment - gap funding Sr. Ctr. Construction	\$12,200
Poplar Bluff	DRA PWEAA	Butzen Road Repair	\$1,979,437
Butler County	MO DED CDBG-GI	Paving CR 650	\$191,058
Ellsinore	MO CDBG-GI	Street Paving	\$347,027
Bunker	MO DED CDBG-GI	Street Paving	\$620,168
Fisk	MO DED CDBG-GI	Street Paving	\$622,449
Qulin	MO DED CDBG-CF	Nutrition Center Expansion	\$547,764
RCPHA	HUD	FSS Coordinator (2)	\$112,344
Van Buren	MO DED CDBG	Wastewater System Upgrades	\$750,000

Robert's Adventure Playground



We are excited to introduce our fundraising campaign, dedicated to building an inclusive and accessible playground where children of all abilities can play together. Your support through our various giving levels will help turn this dream into a reality, creating a joyful and safe space for every child in our community.

Robert's Adventure Playground is a major contributor to the CFO, opening an account with \$1500 in April 2024 which has now grown to surpass its goal of raising \$150,000.

Robert's Adventure Playground is an All-Abilities Playground at McLane Park in Poplar Bluff. It is named for former resident, Robert Rowland, 17, who passed away in 2016 from Duchenne's Muscular Dystrophy.

foundation

The **Ozark Foothills Regional Community Foundation (OFRCF)**, established in 2011 as the charitable arm of the Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission, is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for current & future residents. By reinvesting in the five counties & sixteen cities within our region, the Foundation has built a lasting legacy of community investment & impact. As of the close of the fiscal year in June 2025, OFRCF reported a balance of

\$3,185,469.58 and has awarded more than

\$2,003,221.78 in grants since its establishment.

At the heart of this work is the **Ozark Foothills Regional Endowment Fund**, managed under the Foundation's umbrella. The endowment is overseen by a nine-member board of directors, chaired by Russell French, and provides annual grant awards that are reinvested directly into the local community.



development

The Ozark Foothills Development Association is an IRS-defined nonprofit charged with enhancing economic development in the five county region. The association administers the **Ozark Foothills Business Incubator**.

The Small Business Incubator, constructed in 1988 and expanded in 2018, provides 30,000 square feet of affordable operating space to start-up or expanding enterprises.

During FY2025, the Ozark Foothills Development Association maintained **94%** occupancy within its original 7-unit incubator space and **73%** within the 4-unit expansion area .



GOALS

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Maintain ???%
Incubator occupancy

✓ 83% OCCUPANCY MAINTAINED.

Ensure lease
agreements are
current for all tenants

✓ LEASE AGREEMENTS EXECUTED
WITH 9 OF 9 TENANTS DURING FY 2025

recycling



In October 2024, the Recycling Center installed an upgraded gate to its facility fencing. The addition offers a more secure entrance and exit to the site.

recycling

The **Ozark Foothills Solid Waste Management District**, Region Q and

Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission, in partnership with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, funds the Ozark Foothills Materials Recovery Facility (Recycling Center). In doing so, it provides region-wide recycling services to Butler, Carter, Reynolds, Ripley and Wayne Counties. During FY 2025, the

Ozark Foothills Recycling Center diverted **782.39** tons of aluminum, tin, plastic, cardboard, newspaper, white paper, white goods, tires and magazines from landfills.



GOALS

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Continue solid waste management in region

✓ SUBMITTED A SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM CONTINUATION PROPOSAL TO MDNR

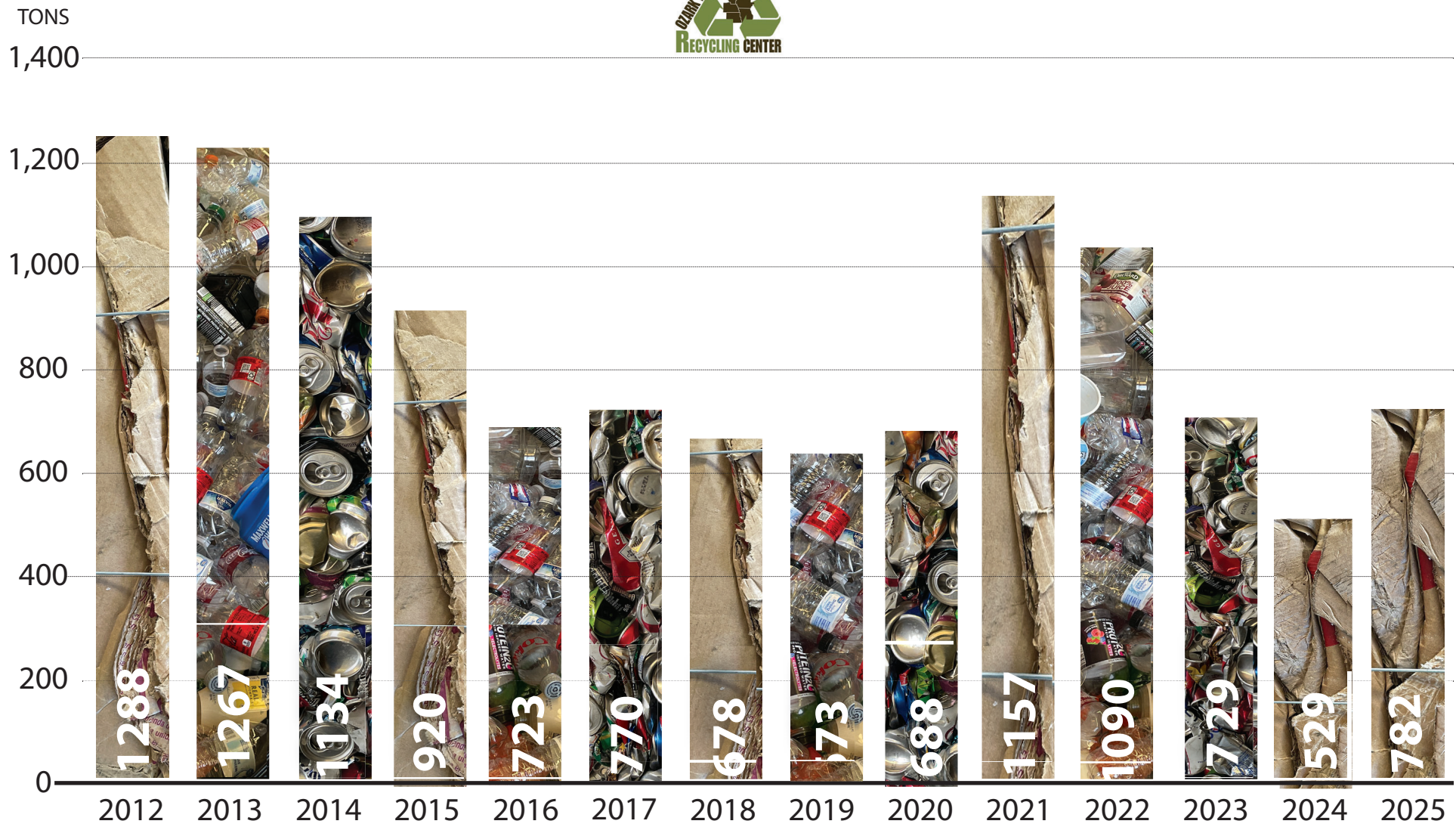
Continue to support region-wide solid waste diversion

✓ PROVIDED GRANT FUNDING TO OFRPC FOR OPERATION OF RECOVERY FACILITY

Conserve limited grant resources by minimizing expenses

✓ CONTINUED CONTRACT WITH OFRPC FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES ON AN ACTUAL COST REIMBURSEMENT BASIS

solid waste tonnage diverted from landfills



housing

The **Ripley County Public Housing Agency** is authorized to provide HUD Section 8 rental and, if applicable, utility subsidies to **476** families throughout the five-county service area. As of June 30, 2025, there were **56** families enrolled in the agency's Family Self-Sufficiency and **8** families enrolled in Homeownership Programs, while **397** families were receiving Section 8 rental assistance.



GOALS

Maintain number of Section 8 vouchers when funding permits

Maintain maximum monthly administrative fee eligibility

Maintain family participation levels above required minimum within the FSS program

Conduct an internal program review

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

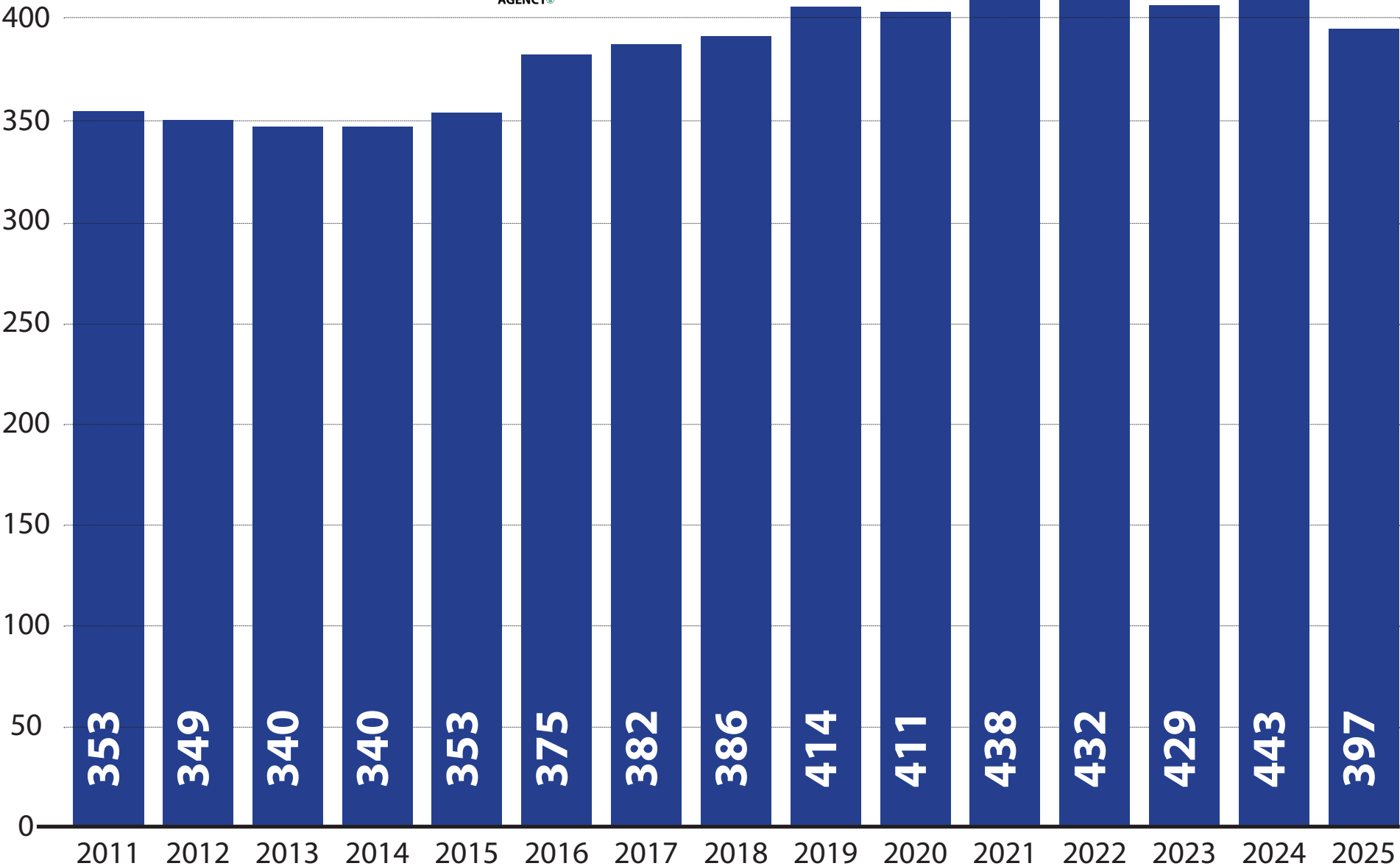
✓ NUMBER OF VOUCHERS INCREASED BY TWO DURING FY25.

✓ MONTHLY ADMIN FEE ELIGIBILITY AVERAGED \$32,146 WHILE AVERAGE EXPENSES TOTALED \$31,724

✓ FSS CASELOAD DECREASED FROM 64 FAMILIES TO 56 FAMILIES.
MINIMUM CASELOAD REQUIREMENT MAINTAINED

✓ REVIEW COMPLETED - MTW AGENCIES ARE NOT REQUIRED TO COMPLETE ANNUAL SEMAP REVIEW.

families served



transportation

The **Ozark Foothills Transportation Advisory Committee** (TAC) consists of 30 members, including a multi-modal member from each county, who meet quarterly to identify, discuss and prioritize the region's transportation needs. Prioritized needs are relayed to MoDOT for potential inclusion within the five-year Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), which is updated annually.

GOALS	ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Continue regional transportation planning program	✓ FY 2025 MODOT WORK PLAN SUBMITTED AND APPROVED FOR \$85,260.40
Maintain a full-time transportation planning coordinator	✓ FULL-TIME TRANSPORTATION PLANNING COORDINATOR MAINTAINED
Conduct quarterly TAC meetings	✓ FOUR TAC MEETINGS HELD
Solicit public input regarding regional transportation needs	✓ PUBLIC COMMENTS COLLECTED AT FIVE PUBLIC HEARINGS
Conduct regional project prioritization	✓ SUBMITTED A REGION-WIDE PRIORITIZATION OF POTENTIAL PROJECTS TO MODOT



Ozark Foothills Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) **FY2025 REGIONAL PROJECT PRIORITIES**

- 1. Widen shoulder on Highway 106 in Reynolds County**
- 2. Highway 34 East of CR236 approximately 300 yards, small bridge replacement over Gizzard Creek in Wayne County**
- 3. Turning lane, west bound Highway 60 at both Business 60 and James Street in Van Buren in Carter County**
- 4. (Tie) 4-lane Highway 67 from Highway 160 to the state line in Butler County & Highway 21 South at Briar Creek - Bridge Replacement in Ripley County**

Ozark Foothills Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) **"Multi-Modal Needs" List (Adopted July 11, 2024)**

- 1. (Tie) Sidewalk repair/construction in City of Ellington in Reynolds County & Sidewalks on Highway 142 E(Walnut Street) and west on Washington Street to Courthouse in City of Doniphan in Ripley County**
- 2. (Tie) Extend the Poplar Bluff airport runway in Butler County & Sidewalk construction on Cemetery Road in City of Williamsville in Wayne County**
- 3. Construct new helipads in Carter County**

staff

AGENCY ADMINISTRATION

Alan Lutes	Executive Director
Andrew Murphy	Assistant Director & Transportation Planning Coordinator
Camille Donnell	Fiscal Officer
Brooke Hinklin	Executive Secretary
Amy Baugus	Project Officer
Rachel Coleman	Project Officer
Amber Hornbeck	Project Officer
Raamin Burrell	Community Development Specialist
Felicity Ray	Contracted Planner
Misty Edwards	Disaster Recovery Coordinator
Hannah Barnett	Contracted Disaster Recovery Coordinator
Brian Rosener	Disaster Recovery Coordinator
Robert Augsdorfer	Community Planning Specialist
Carolyn Meeks	Environmental Review Specialist

RENTAL ASSISTANCE & FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Niki Harp	Housing Coordinator Supervisor
Ilene Ward	Housing Coordinator
Erica Kingery	Housing Coordinator/FSS Coordinator
Julianne Brady	FSS Coordinator
Carolyn Weeks	SPC Coordinator

RECYCLING CENTER

Jamie Lansford	Recycling Supervisor
Davey Hicks	Recycling Technician
Richard Ketchum	Recycling Technician

annual staff retreat

May 14, 2025
Elephant Rock State Park, Ironton

Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission

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