

James S. McDonnell Foundation (JSMF) Overview



At JSMF, we want to help build prosperity that works for St. Louis. What follows is an overview of how we will advance our vision for shared prosperity and quality of life for the St. Louis region, with inclusive and equitable economic growth as our north star. In alignment with this framework, we will engage in both grant-making and impact investing in support of organizations and institutions.

Vision

We envision a thriving St. Louis region where inclusive growth elevates shared prosperity and quality of life.

Mission

We invest in organizations and initiatives focused on improving economic mobility for St. Louisans facing the starkest disparities.

Guiding Principles

- Convening and collaboration
- Responsive to the community
- Authentically advancing equity
- Evidence-based approach
- True partnership

Priority Populations

- Black and other historically marginalized groups (e.g., immigrants)
- City of St. Louis and North St. Louis County
- Low-to-moderate income individuals & families

Areas of Focus

Our Areas of Focus are deeply interconnected, mutually reinforcing, and offer a chance to collaborate for positive change.

- Increasing opportunity for the region's workforce and enhancing workforce systems
- Supporting small and midsize businesses to scale
- Supporting efforts to help individuals and communities build and protect wealth
- Strengthening regional leadership capacity and civic infrastructure



Our Story

Investing in impactful work has always been central to our story. From the earliest days of the foundation, James S. McDonnell, our namesake and founder of McDonnell Aircraft Corporation, **supported work with the goal of having a positive impact for generations to come.**

Today, we carry that legacy forward with a new commitment to our local community.

We've always called St. Louis home. **Now, it is our sole focus.**

This is a region filled with brilliance, creativity, and strength. Over many decades, we've seen it held back by long-standing economic dysfunction and inequities. But even in the midst of these complex issues, **we see room for hope.**

There are many people and organizations who have spent decades listening to, partnering with, and advocating for our neighbors who have been intentionally excluded from opportunity for too long. We are inspired by and eager to join those doing the hard work in this space. **Our role is one of support.**

We believe this work is both just and vital for the growth of the place we call home. This region will grow and prosper when, and only when, it does so for all of us. And we know that this is only achieved **when we work together.**

JSMF. Prosperity that works for St. Louis.