



Inspired in part by the hit TV show "Shark Tank" and other similar competitions, the **Show Me Challenge** is a new way for employees of Missouri's 17 executive departments to compete to identify solutions that improve how we serve out citizens, cut out unnecessary bureaucratic work, and/or save time and money.

To compete in the Show Me Challenge, please do the following:

1. Complete all fields of the below template. *(help guide is available at showmechallenge.mo.gov/resources)*
2. Submit your pitch via www.showmechallenge.mo.gov/pitch-form.html

Pitch submission deadline: June 10, 2025

Note: must be state employee at time of winning to be eligible for prize money.

TEAM INFORMATION

OpEx Coach name:

Email:



Team Member Name and Email

ex: *Mo Mule, Mo.Mule@oa.mo.gov*

Department (select)

Administration

Division (type)

Commissioner's Office



- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.



PITCH

Pitch name

What is the problem you are addressing? *(no more than 200 words)* 

What is the root cause of the problem? *(No more than 200 words)* 

What is the potential solution? *(No more than 100 words)* 



Which area of impact is your primary focus? *(choose one - if other, please specify)*



What is your primary measure for impact?
(measures should follow SMART principles: Specific - Measurable - Actionable - Relevant - Time Bound)

Primary Measure

Current Status

Target

What is the suggested benefit? *(less than 100 words)*



PROJECT PLAN

What are the major activities and milestones to deliver your solution?*(If additional room is needed, please attach a separate document).*



Milestone/Deliverable



Activity



Due Date





REQUIRED RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

What is the expected project duration? *(choose one)*

Does your project require any specialized skills to complete? If so, list.

Does your project require a statutory change to complete? If so, explain. *(less than 100 words)*

Can you implement your project with your current resources? If not, explain. *(less than 100 words)*
strongly recommended: provide a cost breakdown in your additional materials.

Are there other factors critical to design and implement your project? *(no more than 50 words)*



ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

Please list any additional materials you have provided.



OUR TEAM:



Jessica Martin
Senior Program Specialist



Rachel Davis
Human Trafficking Unit Manager



Jennifer Menz
Senior Program Specialist



Cheri Norton
Senior Program Specialist



Emma Bruns
Social Services Assistant



Rene' Brinkman
Older Youth Unit Manager



Melissa Selsor
Senior Program Development Specialist



[illegible]

TRAUMA RESPONSES

EMOTIONAL

- Fear
- Anxiety
- Anger
- Guilt
- Hopelessness
- Distrust
- Disconnected
- Shame
- Isolation
- Mood Swings
- Paranoia

BEHAVIORAL

- Running away
- Hypervigilant
- Substance Use
- Suicidal
- Reduced impulse control
- Self-harm
- Aggression
- Self-sabotage
- Hyper Compliance
- Parentified
- Lying

PHYSICAL

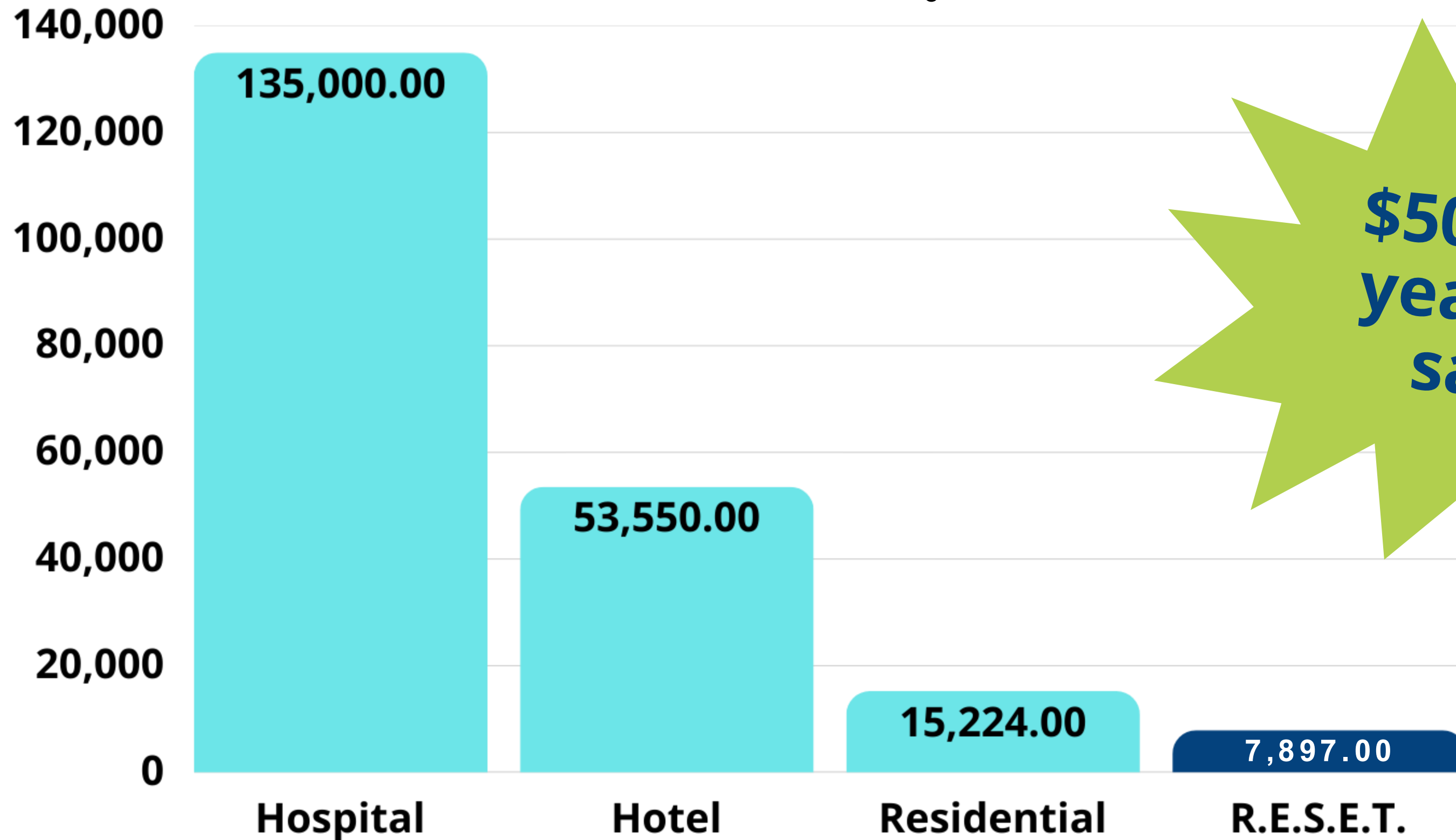
- Chronic pain
- Eating Disorder
- Sexually Transmitted Infections
- Reproductive issues
- Easily startled
- Poor hygiene
- Injuries
- Scars
- Sleep disruption
- Dissociation
- Sensory issue

HEALING



COST COMPARISON

Estimated Cost Per Child, Per 90 Days in Placement



**\$500,000 in
yearly cost
savings**



R.E.S.E.T. means making the
invisible **visible**
and offers an opportunity to
stop adding weight and start
lifting it.

FOSTER PARENT DEVELOPMENT

R.E.S.E.T.



Specialized Foster Homes

Specialized foster homes for children in foster care at risk of trafficking or exhibiting targeted behaviors.



Targeted Behaviors

- Sexual activity with adults
- Online sexual relationships
- Sharing explicit photos/videos
- Substance abuse disorder
- Runaway children
- Foreign national children



Training

Foster parents must complete 9 hours of specialized training focused on caring for children exhibiting targeted behaviors or those who have been trafficked.

This training is developed and updated by the Trafficking Prevention Unit to ensure its relevance and appropriateness.



In-Home Services

Foster parents and child will receive up to 10 hours of tailored coaching, and in-home services, weekly for 90 days when accepting a child with targeted behaviors. The contractor also offers 24-hour crisis support.



Placement Stability

Placement stability for children in foster care will improve and run behavior will decrease by developing homes with personal connections to these children. Providing training, coaching, and support to foster homes in the first 90 days is particularly effective.

New Placement

Children placed in inadequate homes or facilities often leave due to unmet complex needs. Child leaves placement.

Child Enters Run Status

Child is reported as missing to the police and the search begins to recover the child.

Placement Disruption Cycle

Child is Located

Child cannot return to previous placements, emergency shelters lack beds for them, and no emergency residential options meet their needs, leaving the child without a stable and supportive placement.

Child is Victimized

Children are at high risk of assault and trafficking due to vulnerabilities and homelessness, often falling victim to traffickers.

COST COMPARISON



Residential Facilities

Daily Rate: \$169.16

Total Per Child Per 90 Days:
\$15,224.40



Hotel

Daily Rate + Staff Overtime:
\$595

Total Per Child Per 90 Days:
\$53,550.00



Hospital

Daily Rate for beyond medical necessity: \$1,500 - \$5,000

Total Per Child Per 90 Days:
\$135,000.00



R.E.S.E.T. Specialized Foster Homes

Monthly Rate: \$2,632.26

Total Per Child Per 90 Days:
\$7,896.78

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

R.E.S.E.T.



PROBLEM

Children in foster care are disproportionately impacted by human trafficking; traffickers prey on vulnerable and marginalized populations. Half of all human trafficking victims experience re-victimization. This highlights the need for a more robust prevention and support system for these children. **Research indicates that caregivers are the most impactful in terms of protecting children from human trafficking.** Missouri does not currently have dedicated, trauma-informed, foster homes for children who have been recovered from human trafficking. Current placement options are not designed to address the intense and immediate needs of these children.

There is a critical gap in early stabilization and support, which limits our ability to stop the cycle of running and exploitation; this can worsen outcomes for these children and increases their risk for further victimization.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

Develop a specialized foster home program that encompasses human trafficking training and intensive in-home supports for families caring for children with a history of human trafficking. Foster parents will be equipped with training and knowledge of prevention, trauma, and risks of re-victimization.

Specialized foster homes will be supported with intensive in-home services specific to human trafficking and child sexual exploitation.



SPECIALIZED FOSTER HOMES



INTENSIVE IN-HOME SERVICES

BENEFITS

Specialized foster homes for trafficking victims represents a critical effort to address the unique vulnerabilities of children in the child welfare system and support their recovery.

- Supporting trafficked children is challenging due to the lack of community-based services
- The R.E.S.E.T. program equips foster homes with tools to aid these children while they await services
- Intensive support efforts aim to reduce re-victimization and improve outcomes for trafficked children
- There is a call from federal lawmakers for a comprehensive systems-level approach to human trafficking
- Missouri will be the first state, in our region, to develop this type of program, which will make Missouri a leader in its work to combat trafficking and break the cycle of victimization

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

In 2024, 30 Missouri children, with an indicator for human trafficking, were placed in hospitals as there were no available, less restrictive placements, that could meet their needs. These hospital placements cost the state approximately \$1.5 million dollars. If these same children could have been placed in a foster home that specializes in human trafficking, **the state could have saved \$552,264.00.**



**COST MISSOURI
\$1.5 MILLION**

COLLABORATION OCCURRED WITH:

The Department of Mental Health
The Department of Corrections

Children's Division
Cornerstones of Care Run Response Coordinator





DATA SUPPORTS SPECIALIZED HOMES

**17% OF THOSE FOSTER
CHILDREN WERE PLACED IN...**



3,656

children in foster
care as of 2024



Juvenile
Detention



Residential
Facilities



Medical
Facilities



Other*

*Could include temporary stays in hotels

ZOOM INTO TRAFFICKING

From November 2024 to April 2025, the Children's Division received **184 reports** alleging human trafficking.

25%

of these reports
involved children
already in CD custody.



At risk children in foster care run more frequently due to placement instability, which increases their risk of being trafficked.



Older children are placed in restrictive or temporary placements **due to a lack of homes to meet their needs.**

60%

of children currently
missing from foster care
have run from care at least one time prior.

TARGETED REGION

The R.E.S.E.T. Program will be piloted before statewide implementation. The St. Louis Region provides an opportunity for this pilot. From November 2024 to April 2025:

60

children from St. Louis had
been placed on **run status**
at least one time.

NEARLY 50%

of those children were placed in residential
facilities, hospitals, or Juvenile Detention
facilities upon recovery.

9

reports were received alleging
sex trafficking of children
already in foster care.