

LAW & SOCIAL POLICY

★ LEGACY AWARD ★

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Missouri Workers Center to Receive 2025 Law & Social Policy Legacy Award

*\$10,000 awarded to organization fighting for racial and economic justice
for Missouri's low-wage workers*

WASHINGTON — Economic Opportunity Funders (EOF) today named the [Missouri Workers Center](#) (MWC) the recipient of the 2025 Law & Social Policy Legacy Award.

Established in 2020, the annual Law & Social Policy Legacy Award recognizes organizations defending and advocating for low-wage workers' rights and aims to increase knowledge of this work in the philanthropic community.

MWC was selected for its bold and sustained effort to organize low-wage workers across Missouri to fight racism and win economic justice. Through workplace organizing, policy advocacy, and legal strategies, MWC has driven significant systemic change—securing higher wages, safer working conditions, and stronger protections for workers statewide.

"We're honored to receive this award and grateful to EOF for recognizing the value of worker-led movements," said Jeremy Al-Haj, executive director of MWC. "In just a few years, we have seeded the ground for the strong multiracial, working class movement that Missouri — and the country — needs to fight racism, win good jobs for all, and secure democracy for everyone, on and off the job. Being recognized in this way gives us extra momentum to continue our fight to win a Missouri and America that works for all of us, regardless of where we're from or what we look like."

MWC was one of 20 strong nominations for the \$10,000 award. Nominees were evaluated on three criteria: significance, collaborative approach, and systemic impact.

MWC's work spans each of these categories. It has significantly improved the lives of low-wage workers, involves direct and sustained collaboration with community members and leaders, and has transformed the state's system to raise labor standards and expand access to economic opportunity for all residents.

"We were deeply impressed and inspired by MWC's success in empowering workers to advocate for fair wages, safe working conditions, paid sick leave, and more," said Cema Siegel, co-director of Economic Opportunity Funders. "By leading a powerful, worker-driven movement, MWC embodies the principles the Law and Social Policy Legacy Award was created to honor and uplift."

Since its founding in 2021, MWC has quickly achieved substantive wins for Missouri workers and residents. MWC played a critical role in passing Proposition A, which raised Missouri’s minimum wage to \$15 per hour and secured paid sick leave for hundreds of thousands of workers. In Kansas City, the organization helped defeat a \$2 billion corporate subsidy for a new stadium project that lacked strong community benefits for workers. Through worker-led organizing, MWC has pressured Amazon, fast-food chains, and transit employers to improve pay and working conditions, while also advocating for policies like Clean Slate legislation to automatically expunge criminal records, expanding access to jobs and housing.

Across St. Louis and Kansas City, MWC has mobilized thousands of workers—helping Amazon warehouse employees demand safer conditions and higher pay, fast food workers fight for fair wages, and tenants secure legal protections against eviction.

MWC will be recognized and receive the award at EOF’s [2025 Annual Budget and Tax Briefing](#). The \$10,000 [Law & Social Policy Award](#) will be given by EOF with support from the [Public Welfare Foundation](#) annually until 2030 as a part of its legacy investment in advancing workers’ rights. Previous winners of the award include Make the Road New Jersey (MRNJ), the New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty (NMCLP), the Northwest Workers’ Justice Project (NWJP), and Centro de los Derechos del Migrante, Inc. (CDM).

Learn more about MWC at <https://www.moworkers.org/>.

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Established in 1992, [Economic Opportunity Funders](#) is a network of national, regional, and local level funders working to advance economic equity and opportunity in the United States. We believe in building an economy that works for all, regardless of race, ethnicity, immigration status, education, income, religion, gender identity, disability, or age. We support a strong public sector and policies that create a healthy, fair, and just economy where opportunity and prosperity are broadly shared.

EOF focuses its work on three key and intersecting areas: poverty and opportunity, protecting and supporting workers, and tax and budget policies. We provide a platform for funders to share information, exchange ideas and best practice, and collaborate around identified areas of interest.