



WE WANT TO BE THE BEST.

Missouri has the potential to be an economic powerhouse. To seize this potential, the Hawthorn Foundation, Missouri Department of Economic Development, the Missouri Department of Higher Education and Missouri Development Finance Board are partnering on [Best in Midwest](#) and [Talent for Tomorrow](#), two initiatives that will transform Missouri into a top state for economic and workforce development.

BEST IN MIDWEST

Best in Midwest is an initiative to transform Missouri's Department of Economic Development into the top economic development agency in the Midwest. The Best in Midwest initiative will create a new statewide strategy for economic development, led by DED. The initiative will focus extensively on helping businesses grow and create jobs and helping workers access training and acquire skills to find employment. Addressing this need will require DED to review its programs and structure, ensuring services are aligned with the business community's needs.

PROCESS



TALENT FOR TOMORROW

The Department of Economic Development, the Department of Higher Education, and the Hawthorn Foundation are launching an initiative that will fundamentally reset Missouri's approach to meeting our state's workforce needs. The final product will include an assessment of our current workforce and how well it matches our needs, deep dives into target economic sectors, economic scenario analysis, identification of pilot projects, and recommendations for an overall workforce strategy.

PROCESS

