Innovative Partnership History

1979 Voters approve tax that creates PLB
1980 PLB funds its first 10 projects
1982 PLB funds the operation of St. Louis County Recreation Council, a cooperative of non-profits, park districts and state and local governments
1983 First scattered site group home opens in St. Louis County
1984 Goodwill Industries and McDonalds begin training and employing individuals in the first PLB funded competitive employment program
1984 St. Louis County begins setting aside a portion of funds to pay for transportation to and from sheltered workshops - SB3 Funds
1987 PLB creates the Special Offenders Project - "Options for Justice"
1988 PLB and St. Louis Community College develop seminars for direct support staff
1989 Aging program for individuals over 55 years old is established with a PLB grant
1992 PLB and Special School District partner to create a transition project from school to employment
1993 PLB works with the County Housing Authority and Neighborhood Housing services to produce affordable and accessible housing
1996 PLB, St. Louis Arc, Schnuck’s Markets agree to put a Job Specialist in Schnuck’s Employment Office
1996 PLB Board Member walks into the audience during the open comment session to ask rest of Board about their assurance of health and safety in PLB funded programs
1997 Summer Work Experience Program & Neighborhood Experience Programs begin
1998 PLB starts pilot QESE training of agencies
2002 PLB funds 6 Sheltered Workshop’s new marketing collaborative called “Mid America Pro Pack”
2003 4 Sheltered Workshops receiving funding to expand their facilities
2008 PLB, UCP, local school districts develop employment opportunities
2010 PLB begins investment in Sheltered Workshop Collaborative Automation Project
2011 One Time Funding Grants to 11 Agencies (includes a food truck to be known as Destination Desserts)
2012 44 One Time projects funded to improve quality and outcomes of services
2013 SUCCEED post secondary collaborative with UMSL and St. Louis Arc that provides a residential experience and job skills development
2015 PLB establishes the Adaptive Equipment Lending Library
2016 One Time Capacity Building Grants to all 36 agencies ($1.8 million)
2017 PLB provides technology infrastructure supports to selected agencies

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much”  - Helen Keller