## Public Libraries Support Business and Workforce Development

There are 363 tax-supported public libraries in Missouri, compared to only 35 Missouri Career Centers. Missourians use their local public library to help with business and workforce development through:

- Reference services to help identify and navigate the wealth of available information
- Research resources to find ideas, business plans, market research and more
- Computers for online learning, test taking, job searches, resume writing, submitting job applications, etc.
- Basic and advanced computer and other workforce skills development classes
- National Career Readiness Certificate program support
- Test proctoring
- Meeting room space

Library resources needed to provide these services include:

- Library staff and training facilitators
- Computers with strong Internet connectivity\*
- Databases and other research tools
- Meeting room facilities

At a cost of only \$42.88 per capita for public library services, public libraries are a great return on investment!

<sup>\*</sup>In some communities, the public library is the sole source of adequate, free broadband access.

