

Jeff Smith

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JEFFERSON CITY

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## Area Program for Disabled Youths Receives \$125,000 in Tax Credits

JEFFERSON CITY — State Sen. Jeff Smith, D-St. Louis, today announced a St. Louis youth project has qualified for \$125,000 in state tax credits. The funds will be used to establish a new Catch a Falling Star recreational and learning center for children with disabilities.

"Catch a Falling Star offers outstanding services for area youths with disabilities," Smith said. "I congratulate everyone involved for obtaining these valuable funds."

The new recreational and learning center will be available for children ages 2-14 with any nature of disability. Catch a Falling Star will emphasize the physical and social growth of these children by offering special services such as tutoring and occupational, speech and behavioral therapy.

Catch a Falling Star received the credits from the Missouri Department of Economic Development's Youth Opportunities Program. The program is designed to broaden and strengthen opportunities for positive development and participation in community life for youths and to discourage them from engaging in negative behavior.

"By giving young people an opportunity to contribute to our community, we can improve the lives of citizens throughout our area," Smith said. "I know by expanding the services of Catch a Falling Star, our children can only benefit."

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