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Alan Spell is an Assistant Extension Professor at the University of Missouri, specializing in industry analysis and economic impact studies. His recent projects include evaluating the impacts of broadband expansion and other infrastructure improvements. Before joining MU, Alan spent two decades at the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC), within the state's economic development department, where he conducted numerous economic and fiscal impact studies. Alan has worked in economic development research for over 25 years and is a [Certified Economic Research Professional](#).