



KANSAS HEALTH
FOUNDATION

As the Kansas Health Foundation (KHF) works to improve the health of all Kansans, both health equity and racial equity are at the center of our efforts.

Data shows that Communities of Color experience the lowest life expectancies and the greatest health disparities in Kansas. In addition, many Kansas families every day face economic challenges, food insecurity, lack of affordable housing and limited or no access to health care – all which play a significant role in overall health. If we are to address these issues and disparities, and work toward a more equitable Kansas, we must identify and remove barriers – including systemic racism.

While KHF partners and invests in communities to improve health and economic opportunities for families, we realize that nonpartisan advocacy in the policy arena is critical for sustainable, systemic change. KHF looks forward to building relationships, serving as a resource and advocating for policies that improve the health and quality of life for Kansans.

Our KHF policy team includes:

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KHF 2022 Policy Priorities

Medicaid Expansion:

- KHF supports Medicaid expansion, to provide access to affordable, quality health coverage to individuals and families who fall into the coverage gap (low-income, working Kansans). KHF supports and funds the Alliance for a Healthy Kansas to advance this effort.

Civic Engagement:

- Improve voter access and reduce barriers to make voting/registration more accessible, specifically for historically disenfranchised communities.
- Support a redistricting process that is transparent, provides opportunities for engagement without barriers and results in fair maps that represent the interests of communities.

Criminal Justice:

- Support policies addressing disparities in traffic stop frequency among drivers of color, addressing fines and fees and reducing suspension of licenses from failure to pay.
- Support efforts to simplify the expungement process.
- Support efforts to protect funding for youth justice supports and programs (including substance abuse treatment, mental health services and legal defense).
- Back efforts to amend the statute that requires citizenship for law enforcement officers, aligning requirements with U.S. military standards for service.
- Support efforts to review, improve and revise law enforcement training procedures and increase diversity efforts.

Family Supports:

- Back policies and funding that strengthens access to child care, supports education needs with remote learning, digital connectivity and expands economic opportunities for families.
- Support policies that maintain and enhance federal Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits and school-based meal programs that reduce food insecurities for low-income residents and families.

Health and Racial Equity Issues:

Advocate for policies that reduce health disparities and promote health equity (in access and participation) by race and ethnicity, income and geographic location.

- Support fiscal policies that create greater equity and transparency and reduce barriers for underserved populations.
- Back policies that improve public health systems and the continued response and prevention efforts for COVID-19, specifically for Communities of Color.

