

# NEW RECOMMENDATIONS IN THIS REPORT

The Commission issued an interim report on the Social Determinants of Health in July 2021. The contents of that report are included in the December 2021 report. Below, find a summary of the recommendations that are new or updated in the December 2021 report.

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## *EARLY CHILDHOOD AND CHILD CARE*

EC.5: Implement a DC:0-5 Crosswalk

EC.6: Provide resources to support the use of therapeutic pre-schools that are equipped to support the healthy development of all children.

EC.7: Ensure quality initiatives in childcare systems include equity indicators in areas such as curriculum, pedagogy, inclusion, and behavior management.

## *MAXIMIZING FEDERAL FUNDING*

MFF.1: Repeal restrictions that prevent families from accessing TANF and SNAP benefits and disproportionately impact families of color.

MFF.2: Focus on Social Determinants of Health and equity in the KanCare Managed Care re-procurement process.

MFF.3: Explore opportunities for innovation and improvements within the KanCare program.

MFF.4: Improve use of care teams and alternative providers.

## *TAX POLICY*

TP.2\*: Eliminate the sales tax on food.

TP.6: Expand the Homestead Property Tax Credit to include renters.

## *TEACHER DIVERSITY*

TD.5: Incentivize second-language fluency for teachers and other staff in educational institutions.

TD.6: Increase and fund pathways for individuals employed in school districts.

TD.7: Collaborate with local educational associations or other groups who can help provide equity training and assist with recruitment efforts.

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\* This represents an updated version of a similar recommendation in the July report.

TD.8: Provide incentives and structures to engage teachers as mentors and encourage mentorship by teachers who come from underrepresented groups.

TD.9: Develop programs that incentivize the hiring of individuals who live and work in the neighborhoods where they teach.

TD.10: Districts should create policies that support and protect diversity among students, teachers, and staff.

## *POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION*

PSE.6: Create an improved Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) completion process for students and to ensure a smoother process for students from a two year college to increase access to baccalaureate programs.

PSE.7: Encourage initiatives aimed at providing more access to college for incarcerated individuals.

## *UNIVERSAL EQUITY POLICIES*

UE.1: Encourage government policies and enact legislation that requires bias and equity analysis of policy decisions and legislation at all levels.

UE.2: Encourage government entities to incorporate land acknowledgements in their facility planning efforts.

UE.3: Provide language interpretation and translation services so that Kansans have access to their government.

## *HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS*

HH.1: Explore community land trusts as a path to making homeownership more accessible.

HH.2: Develop stipend or loan programs for code enforcement and small replacements.

HH.3: Explore options to assist homeowners in paying for utilities and property taxes.

HH.4: Explore options to provide access to counsel for individuals involved in eviction cases.

HH.5: Update discrimination statutes to include protection against income discrimination.

HH.6: Address the appraisal process to allow a more cohesive understanding of a buyer's position in the housing market as compared to their surrounding area and competition.

HH.7: Hold banks responsible for foreclosed properties and their upkeep.

HH.8: Support the use of the Collective Impact Model to reduce homelessness through intentional partnerships.

HH.9: Replicate and fund models with a proven track record of reducing homelessness.

HH.10: Braid Medicaid funding with other federal and state funding, including prevention investments by MCOs, to support access to safe, adequate, permanent housing as a foundational social determinant of health.

HH.11; Encourage lending entities to allow individuals with employment authorization to seek a home loan.

## *BROADBAND*

BB.1: Support the Kansas Office of Broadband Development in its efforts to expand broadband access across the state.

BB.2: Maintain a perspective that supports equity in the implementation of broadband development.

## *WAGES AND LENDING PRACTICES*

WL.1: Increase the state minimum wage and index it to adjust for inflation.

WL.2: Establish limits on high-cost lending practices in Kansas.

WL.3: Create stipend opportunities with realistic repayment forms while holding loan recipients accountable to reduce the risk of program exploitation.

## *WORKFORCE*

WF.1: Support recommendations in the Kansas Registered Apprenticeship (RA)/Work Based Learning Expansion Initiative Report.

WF.2: Invest in a culturally competent and diverse workforce, particularly in the healthcare sector.

WF.3: Update statute to allow for hiring of more Kansans in healthcare fields.

WF.4: Build systems and structures to support deployment of Community Health Workers to bridge access gaps in underserved communities.

## *ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE*

AH.1: Expand Medicaid.

AH.2: Collect data in the state around racial equity and access to healthcare services.

AH.3: Improve language access and interpretation services in the healthcare field.

AH.4: Support express lane eligibility to streamline access to Medicaid and CHIP.

AH.5: Eliminate the five-year waiting period for legal immigrant children and pregnant women to access Medicaid and CHIP.

## *FAMILY PLANNING*

FP.1: Ensure the availability of affordable and accessible contraceptive care and contraceptive methods.

FP.2: Increase eligibility for family planning services under Medicaid to 171% of the Federal Poverty Level.

FP.3: Improve access to contraception under private health insurance plans.

## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

BH.1: Expand telehealth access and codify regulations that expanded telehealth for mental health.

BH.2: Utilize app-based mental health services in Medicaid to improve access for young adults.

BH.3: Support and finance the use of mobile crisis response models, including co-responder and virtual co-responder models to assist law enforcement in responding to behavioral health calls and stops. *(Ref Governor's Commission on Racial Equity and Justice Report, December 2020)*

BH.4: Increase use of Mental Health First Aid Training, Crisis Intervention Training, and other behavioral health trainings for new and existing officers. *(Ref Governor's Commission on Racial Equity and Justice Report, December 2020)*

BH.5: Build relationships between local governments, law enforcement agencies, and other entities to provide robust behavioral services in communities.

BH.6: Improve access to mental health care in educational settings.

*BH.7: Research and develop strategies to successfully integrate mental and behavioral health services with physical health care.*

BH.8: Ensure confidentiality is maintained for all Kansans seeking behavioral health care.

BH.9: Employ strategies to broaden coverage so that Kansans have access to preventative behavioral health services.

BH.10: Conduct a statewide assessment to identify gaps in funding and services as well as best practices and proven models.

BH.11: Assist individuals seeking behavioral health to enroll in Medicaid if eligible.

BH.12: Improve data tracking and coordination between systems within behavioral health.

BH.13: Increase the availability of infant/early childhood mental health consultation services in the state.

See recommendation WF.2 on workforce diversity, to include behavioral health workforce.

## ACEs AND INTERFAMILY VIOLENCE

ACE.1: Improve coordination and partnerships to increase prevention services and guard against ACEs.

ACE.2: Support the social and emotional development of young children and their caregivers to prevent and respond to ACEs.

ACE.3: Invest in building resilience to address ACEs in Kansas children.

ACE.4: Create guidance and structures for all program types to reach and support families that use a language other than English at home.

ACE.5: Provide accessible screening of parents and children for behavioral health and development needs.

ACE.6: Engage strategies to specifically address interfamily violence.

## *JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM*

JJ.1: Eliminate “zero tolerance” policies and promote alternatives to suspensions for discipline such as alternative schools, behavioral interventionists, family case managers, and restorative justice programs.

JJ.2: Remove subjective language such as “disobedience,” “intolerance,” and “disrespect” from school and school district behavior matrices or discipline codes of conduct.

JJ.3: Disaggregate statewide juvenile detention center data by race and county to further examine the pipeline and to invest supports and education efforts in schools in neighborhoods feeding the pipeline.

JJ.4: Encourage partnership and mentoring between schools that feed the pipeline and educators who work in the Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex.

JJ.5: Support and promote pilot and proven programs to help individuals in the juvenile justice system and reduce recidivism upon which offenders re-enter the criminal justice system.

JJ.6: Expand the investment in mental health resources at schools in Kansas.

JJ.7: Invest in early childhood development programs.

JJ.8: The legislature should gain a better understanding of problems facing juveniles by setting regular meetings with school counselors.