

A FOUNDATION FOR GROWTH

Kansas Action for Children's blueprint for success

Every Kansas child—from birth to elementary school—should have access to high-quality early education, nurturing places and spaces, and routine health care. These investments in the early years create a **rock-solid foundation** for growth and development that lasts a lifetime.

The **decisions and investments** we make today determine whether Kansas kids have that foundation and are able build upon it in decades to come. KAC also recognizes that we can't achieve our vision of making Kansas the best place to raise and be a child without tackling the legacies of unfairness created by systemic racism.

The state's families, schools, and businesses depend on all of us coming together to **put kids first**.

Our Goals



HIGH-QUALITY EARLY EDUCATION is formal and informal learning delivered by qualified and fairly-compensated professionals in home, center, and school settings. Children's critical early years are not the time to take shortcuts, but such high-quality programs can consume 20 percent or more of a family's annual income.



NURTURING PLACES AND SPACES start with parents and caregivers but don't end there. We want children to have healthy diets and opportunities for physical activity, as well as responsive relationships with caring adults at home, school and in their communities.



ROUTINE HEALTH CARE is necessary for children and adults, and untreated illness can cost money and lives. It starts with ensuring access to care for expectant moms to improve their health and ensure strong starts for Kansas babies. It continues with making certain Kansas' littlest residents receive routine care.

Our Plans

KAC will deploy our **comprehensive advocacy strategy** that includes government relations, research and analysis, and strategic communications. We support:



AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE

High-quality child care is unaffordable or inaccessible for many families in Kansas. We will work with lawmakers and agency leaders to make it easier for low- and moderate-income families to access effective early care and education opportunities through the state's child care assistance program.



PAID FAMILY LEAVE

Workers without paid leave face an impossible choice. They either don't focus on caring for a family member—a new child or ailing relative—or they don't work. That means lost wages or lost employment. We will make the case to lawmakers and businesses across the state that paid leave affirms our shared humanity—and makes good economic sense, too.



INFANT AND MATERNAL HEALTH

Kansas must ensure access to health care for expectant moms, improving birth outcomes and ensuring strong starts for Kansas kids. We should then make certain Kansas' littlest residents receive routine care. Officials should remove barriers to ensure the health of two generations: parents and children.

In our 40 years of advocating for children and families, we have notched **major accomplishments**, such as overturning destructive tax policy and defending the state's main funding mechanism for early childhood programs. But all of that is only a prologue. Given the threats, maintaining past gains isn't enough. We must build a solid foundation for our children and communities, starting today.

Our kids can't wait.