

2024 State Policy Agenda

Mid-America Regional Council

September 2023 Draft





Transportation

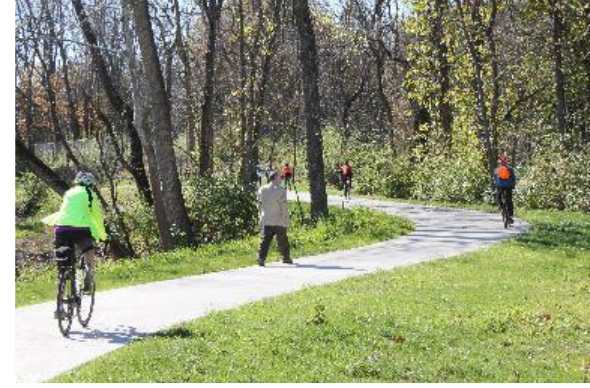


Key Policy Position:

- Support maintenance of existing transportation funding programs and expansion of public transit funding.



Climate Adaptation



Key Policy Positions:

- Encourage greater investment in energy conservation, renewable energy and energy-efficient technologies
- Support policies and regulations that enable local governments to address solid waste and recycling
- Support the Kansas City region's efforts to reduce ozone and fine particulate matter (PM2.5) pollution and maintain its status as a Clean Air Region



Early Education, including Head Start

Key Policy Positions:

- Support local and state actions to create affordable child care
- Support strategies to develop a pipeline of human capital, including certification, recruitment, retention and funding to support higher compensation
- Promote strong families with increased access to evidence-based home visitation programs





Broadband Infrastructure and Digital Equity



Key Policy Positions:

- Kansas and Missouri should invest a portion of federal infrastructure funding to address the needs in the region for anchor institutions to improve access to reliable, quality broadband
- Support digital access for low-income households, older adults and other target populations for education, employment, telehealth, civic engagement and social interaction



Affordable Housing



Key Policy Positions:

- Support policy and innovative strategies to achieve safe, stable and attainable housing
- Support the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program for the acquisition, rehabilitation and construction of rental housing for lower-income households
- Support policy and innovative strategies that lower the cost of housing through energy efficiency and transportation improvements



Safe, Secure, and Healthy Communities



Key Policy Positions:

- Support reimbursement payments and program regulations that enable EMS agencies to provide the highest quality pre-emergency care.
- Support the full implementation of the essential elements of an integrated crisis system, including the 988 call centers, mobile crisis response teams and crisis stabilization facilities
- Support allowing agencies that use community health workers to be reimbursed through Medicaid and other public health care programs.



Older Adults



Key Policy Positions:

- Provide additional funding and flexibility for regional and local agencies to respond to specific needs within their service areas
- Restore programs important to older adult health and well-being that have been demonstrated to be effective
- Continue to support enrollment in the federal SNAP and WIC programs to enable low-income families and seniors to afford healthy food



Questions/Discussion

1. Are there specific issues that should be included in the policy agenda?
2. Are the suggested issues and statements appropriate or how might they be modified?
3. Are there priorities among the issues?