

# 2025 State Policy Agenda

Mid-America Regional Council  
September 2024 Draft



# Local Government Authority

Key policy position:

- Maintain home rule authority for local governments to allow cities and counties to budget for and use tax and other resources without further restrictions by legislation or regulation.



# Transportation

## Key policy positions:

- Support maintenance of existing transportation funding programs and expansion of multi-modal transportation funding, including for public transit and active transportation.
- Continue to strengthen policies and funding to address transportation safety.



# 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.



# Climate adaptation

Key policy positions:

- Encourage the development of plans and investments in infrastructure to protect water resources.
- Support the Kansas City region's efforts to reduce ozone and particulate matter (PM2.5) pollution and maintain its status as a Clean Air Region.



# Early education

## Key policy positions:

- Support increased access to child care subsidies (KS) and increase subsidy reimbursement rates. Enable child care workers to access subsidies for their children in care.
- Support workforce strategies to develop a pipeline of human capital, including certification, recruitment, retention and funding to support higher compensation.



# Early education

Key policy positions:

- Promote strong families with increased access to evidence-based home visitation programs.



# Economic development

Key policy positions:

- Support regional economic development projects in key industries that offer the opportunity to transform regional and state economic prosperity.
- Provide state matching resources for regional initiatives to enable securing federal grants consistent with state and federal economic development priorities.





# Broadband Infrastructure and Digital Equity

Key policy positions:

- 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 for local housing development tools 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.



# Affordable housing

Key policy positions:

- 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:

- Continue to support Next Generation 911 and fund the establishment of a statewide emergency services network to improve 911 interoperability.



# Safe, secure and healthy communities

Key policy positions:

- Support reimbursement payments and program regulations to allow EMS agencies to provide the highest care.
- Support the integration of the regional EMS system with the developing network of Behavioral Health Centers.
- Support time-critical diagnosis programs and community paramedic programs.



# Safe, secure and healthy communities

Key policy positions:

- Support the full implementation of an integrated crisis system, including the 988 call centers, mobile crisis response teams and crisis stabilization facilities.



# Safe, secure and healthy communities

Key policy positions:

- Support investment in a strong state and local public health infrastructure.
- Maintain adequate regulatory authority to respond to possible public health emergencies.
- Support allowing agencies that use community health workers to be reimbursed through Medicaid and other public health care programs.



# Safe, secure and healthy communities

Key policy positions:

- In Missouri, support full implementation and funding of MO HealthNet and timely review and approval of applications for eligible families and children.
- In Kansas, authorize the expansion of Medicaid and enable Medicaid reimbursement for community health worker services.





# Thriving older adults and communities

Key policy positions:

- Support additional funding and flexibility for regional and local agencies to respond to specific needs of older adults within their service areas.
- In Missouri, maintain and fully fund the Missouri Senior Services Growth and Development Program to serve older adults at risk of abuse.



# Thriving older adults and communities

Key policy positions:

- Restore effective programs important to older adult health and well-being, such as the Missouri Rx Program. Continue to support the Kansas Rural Transit Assistance Program.
- Fully fund critical Long-Term Care Ombudsman programs.



# Thriving older adults and communities

Key policy positions:

- Identify additional state funding to expand access to healthy foods and support for local farmers and grocers through the Double Up Food Bucks program.
- Continue strong support of statewide congregate and home-delivered meals infrastructure enhancements and food access solutions.



# 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?