

BLUEPRINT FOR A HUNGER-FREE KANSAS

1 IN 8
KANSANS
are food insecure

KANSAS RANKS
28th
IN THE NATION
for overall health

1 IN 5
KANSAS KIDS
are facing hunger

Kansas is a state that feeds the nation. Our agricultural heritage, our commitment to community, and our deep-rooted values of resilience and generosity make us uniquely positioned to lead the fight against hunger. And yet, one in eight Kansans worry about where their next meal will come from, a troubling reality that stands in stark contrast to our potential.

Addressing hunger and food insecurity requires more than isolated efforts—it requires a unified vision; foundational federal, state and local support; and partnership across all sectors. This blueprint was developed through a rigorous, collaborative process that includes input from more than 100 organizations and institutions in Kansas concerned about the issue and the individuals and families negatively impacted. It's not a master plan on hunger, but rather a strategic and concerted attempt to accelerate progress—an actionable plan with goals and strategies that elected officials, policymakers, organizations, and communities can enact. This blueprint is an invitation to Kansans from all walks of life to come together with shared purpose towards a hunger-free future.

GOALS AND STRATEGIES

- **Goal #1** is to improve data and technology
- **Goal #2** is to enhance service quality and access
- **Goal #3** is to support target populations

IMPROVING DATA & TECHNOLOGY

STRATEGY #1 | FOOD SYSTEM MAPPING

Develop a statewide, interactive mapping system that layers data with geographic locations to easily generate customized visualizations of the food system and provide users with a more detailed, nuanced analysis of the strengths and challenges within.

STRATEGY #2 | INTEGRATED DATA

Collaborate with local and state government to establish interagency data-sharing agreements for safely and securely merging data sets, enabling users to better understand service utilization, conduct thorough and efficient eligibility verification, minimize errors and fraud, and gain new insights on program effectiveness.

STRATEGY #3 | WEB-BASED APPLICATIONS

Assist state agencies with modernizing web-based applications to minimize waste, reduce processing time, and improve user experience.

ENHANCING SERVICE ACCESS & QUALITY

STRATEGY #4 | LOCAL FOOD PLANNING

Partner with communities to integrate food access into existing local planning efforts, ensure local food security experts are utilized and informing the planning, and provide support in developing the best process and structure to meet community needs.

STRATEGY #5 | RESOURCE & REFERRAL TOOL

Populate the state's resource and referral tool, [Unite Kansas](#), with all food access points and food-related service providers to improve coordination with service providers on the platform and reduce burden on the individuals they serve.

STRATEGY #6 | FOOD IS MEDICINE

Develop Kansas' model for implementing and scaling Food is Medicine to treat and prevent the progression of chronic, diet-related diseases.

STRATEGY #7 | NUTRITION & MEAL SITES

Build on existing technical assistance offerings for food pantries and other entities within the charitable food system to identify ongoing needs and implement best practices.

SUPPORTING TARGET POPULATIONS

STRATEGY #8 | COLLEGE STUDENTS

Create a grant program for colleges and universities to provide enhanced supports to both traditional and nontraditional students experiencing food insecurity.

STRATEGY #9 | PRODUCERS, PROCESSORS, & GROCERS

Establish regional grocery hubs across Kansas that enable existing and new grocers to address issues with purchasing and distribution, and equip producers and processors with resources needed to sell and distribute locally.

STRATEGY #10 | RURAL COMMUNITIES

Launch a stabilization grant program for rural grocers at risk of closure to purchase equipment, establish new lines of business, and implement store-retention and/or succession plans.

CONTACT INFORMATION: To learn more or get involved, visit www.kansashealth.org, or contact Hunger Free Kansas Executive Director, Erika Debrick Kelly – erika@hungerfreekansas.org.