

2023

**Kansas
Statewide
Homeless
Coalition**

**Annual
Report**



Letter from the Executive Director

For 21 years, the Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition (KSHC) has embodied our mission to be the catalyst for safe, appropriate, and affordable housing for all Kansans in collaboration with local, state, and national partners. During those two plus decades, we have steadily increased this organization's capacity to support our partners who help Kansans escape the tragedy of being without a place to call home but 2023 was a particularly challenging year to do our work.

The Kansas State Legislature considered legislation that would make solving homelessness more difficult and would create legal hurdles for both those experiencing homelessness and the communities working to find solutions. In response, we mobilized with our colleagues across Kansas to draw upon our collective experience and knowledge to oppose this ill-considered and unhelpful legislation. We also learned that we were not alone, but rather we were part of a national movement fighting the criminalization of homelessness.

The bill introduced in Kansas mirrored bills introduced in several other states. The legislative proposals were not based on science or peer reviewed studies but driven in part by the lobbying of an out-of-state think tank which contends that HUD policies are ineffective and ideologically driven, and that homeless service system naturally perpetuates homelessness to keep Federal funds flowing to their entities. KSHC, however, believes in science-based programs, data-informed solutions, and good public policy, implemented by hardworking, caring, effective service providers. We believe that Kansans, working together, can solve homelessness. It is our hope that Kansas' current and future elected officials believe the same.

Along with stepping up our advocacy efforts, we continued our normal work. With that, we present our 2023 Annual Report.

Christy McMurphy, MS

About Us

KSHC: Leading the Kansas BoS CoC

The Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition (KSHC) is a dedicated non-profit organization committed to ending homelessness across the state of Kansas. As a central figure in the fight against homelessness, KSHC provides advocacy, training, education, and support to communities, helping to develop and implement effective strategies to assist those in need.

Our mission is rooted in the belief that housing is a basic human right, and we strive to ensure that all families and individuals have access to safe and stable housing. In addition to our advocacy work, KSHC serves as the Collaborative Applicant for the Kansas Balance of State Continuum of Care (KS BoS CoC). This crucial role involves coordinating and submitting the consolidated application for federal funding on behalf of the CoC, which spans 101 primarily rural counties in Kansas.

As the Collaborative Applicant, KSHC is responsible for organizing the annual Point-in-Time (PIT) homeless count and the Housing Inventory Count (HIC), both of which are essential for understanding the scope of homelessness in our state. We also lead the Coordinated Entry System (CES), ensuring that individuals and families experiencing homelessness can access the resources and support they need through a streamlined and efficient process.

“ To be the catalyst for safe, appropriate, and affordable housing for all Kansans in collaboration with local, state, and national partners. ”



EDUCATE

In 2023, the Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition launched an educational opportunity site for homeless service providers and community partners. By implementing a Learning Management System (LMS), we offer accessible, high-quality training and resources to enhance skills and knowledge, ensuring effective support for individuals and families experiencing homelessness across Kansas.



ADVOCATE

The Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition tirelessly advocates for policies and programs that support individuals and families experiencing homelessness. By raising awareness, engaging with policymakers, and amplifying the voices of those affected, we strive to drive systemic change and ensure that homelessness is addressed with the urgency and resources it deserves.



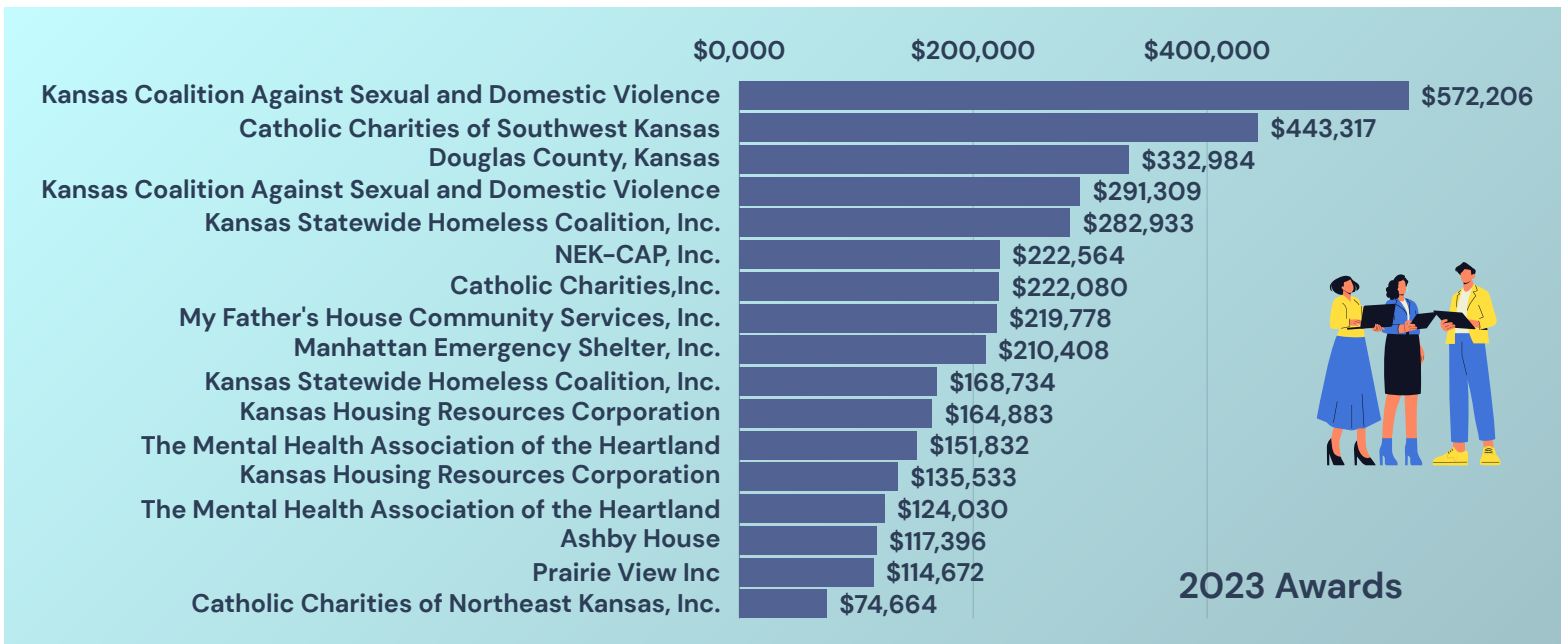
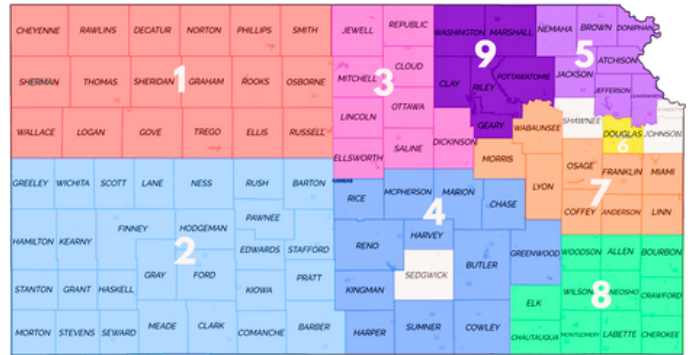
COLLABORATE

The Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition fosters strong partnerships with local organizations, service providers, and community stakeholders across Kansas. By working together, we enhance resource coordination, streamline services, and develop innovative solutions to effectively address homelessness, ensuring comprehensive support for those in need.

Balance of State IMPACT

Empowering Communities Through Collaborative Action

In 2023, the Kansas Balance of State Continuum of Care (BoS CoC) successfully secured HUD NOFO (Notice of Funding Opportunity) funding, reinforcing our commitment to ending homelessness across Kansas. This vital funding supports a range of programs and initiatives, enabling us to enhance services, expand resources, and improve housing solutions for individuals and families in need. The award reflects our collaborative efforts to address homelessness.



Performance-Driven Strategies Housing Stability

The NOFO is a competitive process, within the CoC and nationally, and is largely based on system performance measures of how communities with the CoC are functioning and if they have deployed the right combination of strategies and resources.

HUD outlines three Measures, which together summarize how well the community is helping people become quickly and stably housed:

- Length of time persons remain homeless
- Extent to which persons who exit homelessness return to homelessness
- Successful placement from Street Outreach and successful placement in or retention of permanent housing.

KSHC, as the Collaborative Applicant for the BoS CoC, works with the entire CoC to improve the homelessness response system by using these Measures in strategic decision-making, particularly through the NOFO process.

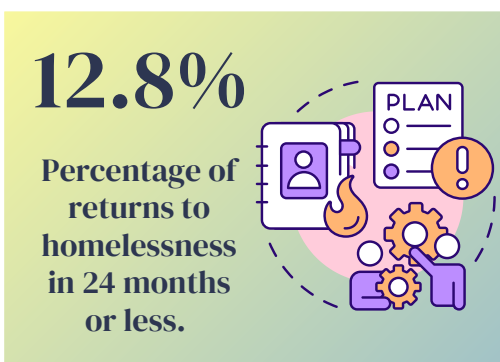
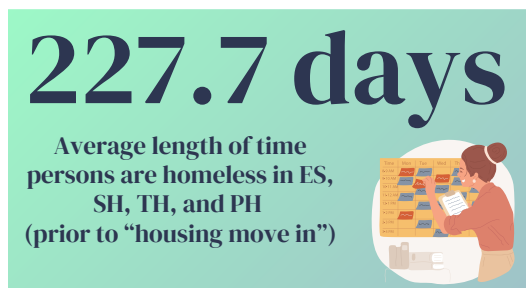
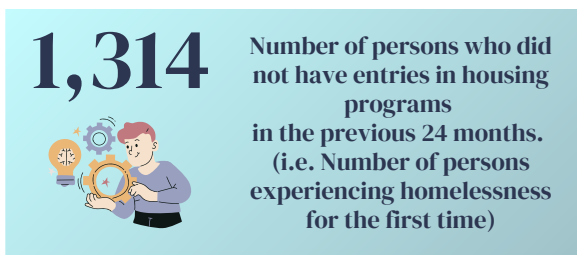
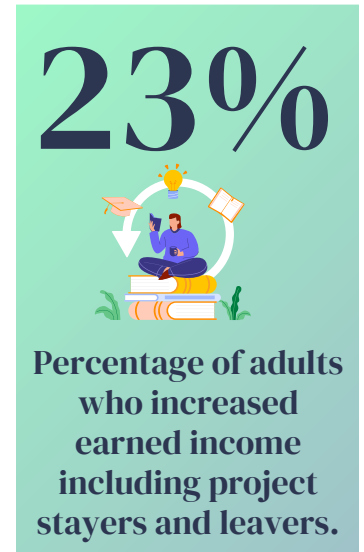
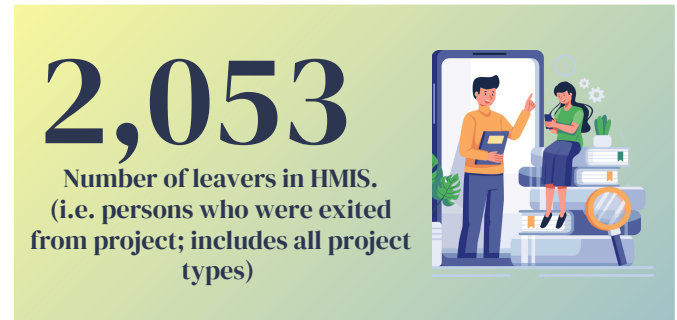
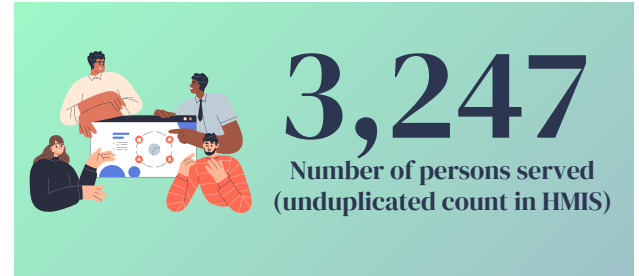
System Performance Measures

2023 Data Used for Enhancing Program Effectiveness

The System Performance Measures or SPM report is part of HUD's effort to assess the performance of homeless services and programs within a CoC. The SPM focuses on analyzing the outcomes of persons served by the programs within a specific CoC. Here are some of the key aspects of the SPM report:

- **Outcome Measurement:** The SPM report measures various outcomes related to homelessness services, including the effectiveness of programs in helping individuals achieve stable housing and improved self-sufficiency.
- **Data Collection:** It collects data on different segments of the homeless population, such as those in emergency shelters, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing, to evaluate how well these programs meet their goals.
- **Performance Metrics:** The report includes performance metrics such as the length of time individuals stay in programs, the rate at which they achieve permanent housing, and the extent to which they remain housed over time.
- **Program Improvement:** By analyzing these outcomes, the SPM report helps identify areas where programs may need to improve or adapt to better meet the needs of those they serve.

These aspects are highlighted in the snapshots of data included on this page.



Coordinated Entry System

Enhancing Access and Support in 2023

In 2023, enhancing access and support for Coordinated Entry System (CES) end users was our top priority. A key achievement was launching a custom-built CE Assessment on October 1, 2023, replacing the VI-SPDAT. This significant upgrade, made possible through strong collaboration with partner agencies, improved service delivery and ensured more individuals received timely and appropriate support through the CES.

Another key focus was on enhancing access and support for Coordinated Entry System (CES) end users. We conducted numerous training sessions, resolved help desk tickets promptly, and developed new training materials to ensure users had the resources they needed. By improving our response times and managing user accounts effectively, we facilitated better service delivery and ensured that more individuals received timely and appropriate support through the CES.

“ Equitable and efficient, Coordinated Entry Systems improve outcomes for vulnerable populations. ”

79



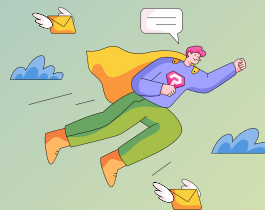
Number of Coordinated Entry Assessment Trainings Provided. Ensuring consistency and quality in the assessment process is crucial for individuals seeking services. Building capacity among service providers helps them conduct thorough and effective assessments.

640



Number of referrals processed through CES. The referral process connects individuals and families experiencing homelessness with vital services and housing solutions.

590



Resolved helped desk tickets, providing essential support and troubleshooting for our service providers and users. This efficient resolution rate underscores our dedication to maintaining a responsive and effective Coordinated Entry System.

Homeless Management System

Strengthening Data Integrity and Growth in 2023

The Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition (KSHC) proudly serves as the system administrator for the Balance of State's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), tasked with collecting and managing critical data on individuals experiencing homelessness throughout Kansas. This role is essential in fulfilling HUD requirements and ensuring that data-driven strategies are employed to address homelessness effectively.

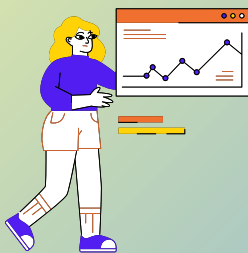
In 2023, KSHC expanded its responsibilities by forming a new partnership with the Johnson County Continuum of Care (CoC) and becoming their lead agency and HMIS system administrator. This collaboration enhances our ability to unify data collection and reporting efforts across a broader geographic area, strengthening our collective impact on homelessness.

Our HMIS team has dedicated a significant amount of time and effort to ensuring data accuracy and reliability. This has involved extensive data cleaning processes to correct and refine data entries, which is vital for generating accurate reports and insights. Additionally, the team has provided comprehensive training programs to equip users with the knowledge and skills needed to utilize the HMIS effectively. These training sessions have been supplemented with the development of detailed resources and instructions, ensuring that all users can consistently maintain high data quality standards.

“ Our HMIS team's expertise is crucial in making informed decisions that enhance the effectiveness of our programs and interventions. ”

1029

Number of Help Desk Tickets Resolved for HMIS: The total number of support requests addressed and resolved for the Homeless Management Information System, ensuring smooth operation and user satisfaction.



5

New Agency Onboardings



109

Trainings Provided



85%

The satisfaction rate of the training program designed by KSHC for new users working in HMIS.



2023 Summit on Homelessness & Housing

Empowering Communities: Highlights from the 2023 Summit on Homelessness and Housing

In May 2023, the Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition hosted the 2023 Summit on Homelessness and Housing at the Prairie Band Casino & Resort in Mayetta, KS. The event gathered 175 Kansas homeless service providers to engage in discussions and learning sessions focused on addressing homelessness in the state. The summit featured notable keynote speakers, including:

- Sam Tsemberis, a clinical-community psychologist and originator of the "Housing First" approach, spoke on the first day, emphasizing the importance and effectiveness of Housing First in increasing housing stability and community integration for individuals experiencing homelessness.
- Kathleen O'Hara, PhD, MSW, known for her work at the intersection of mental health, health, and housing research, also contributed to the keynote on the first day.
- Julia Orlando, Director of the Bergen County Housing, Health and Human Services Center in Hackensack, NJ, addressed attendees on the second day. She shared insights from her successful efforts to end veteran homelessness in Bergen County and sustain zero chronic homelessness for over four years.

The summit included over 30 learning sessions primarily conducted by Kansas providers, sharing their expertise on serving and housing persons who are unhoused. The event sold out in March 2023, underscoring the high level of interest and commitment among service providers in Kansas



Marion Nichols Award

The Marion Nichols award, a prestigious recognition for outstanding contributions to the field of homelessness services, was awarded to Rob Santel from Cross-Lines Community Outreach in Kansas City, KS, during the 2023 Summit on Homelessness and Housing.

This award highlights Rob Santel's significant impact and dedication to alleviating homelessness in Kansas City, exemplifying the values and mission of the Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition.



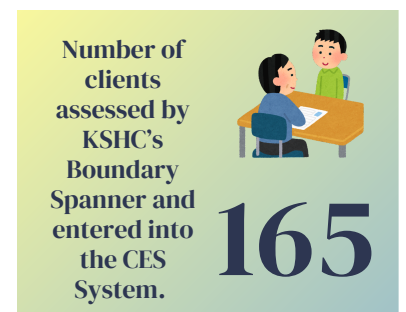
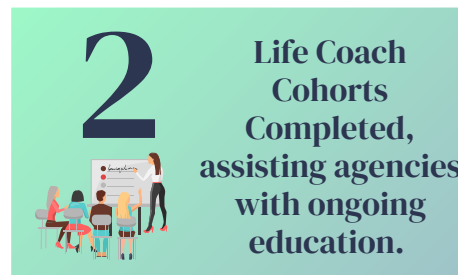
Statewide Initiatives

Key Initiatives for Community Stability

The Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition (KSHC) is dedicated to addressing youth homelessness through comprehensive and innovative programs. Our Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) Seminar Series is designed to empower young individuals, aged 18-24, with the knowledge and resources they need to transition into stable housing and independence. Through these seminars, youth receive critical education on life skills, housing options, and employment opportunities, helping them build a secure and self-sufficient future.

KSHC's Boundary Spanner plays a pivotal role in bridging the gap between individuals experiencing homelessness and essential medical care. By connecting our clients with medical providers, we ensure that their health needs are met, which is a fundamental step towards achieving long-term stability and well-being.

Additionally, our Destination Home initiative provides crucial training for agencies and service providers, enhancing their capacity to support individuals in overcoming barriers to stable housing. This program ensures that service providers are well-equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to assist clients effectively in their transition into permanent housing.



2023 Financials & Outcomes

Driving Positive Change Through Effective Management

In 2023 Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition had many partners in our efforts to make homelessness rare, brief and non-reoccurring. Each funder shares our vision where every Kansan has a home. We are grateful for their partnership and their faith in us. Below are some funding partners we had in 2023:

U.S Department of Urban Development

Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services

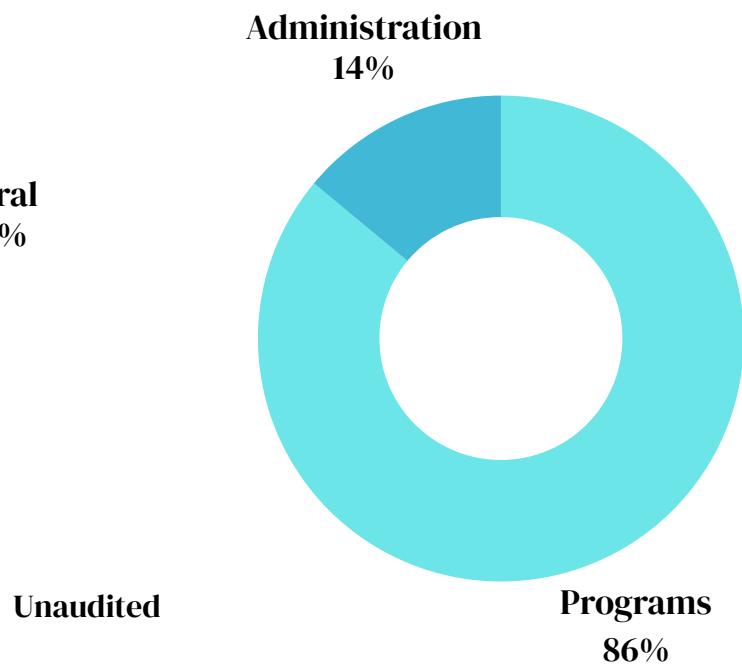
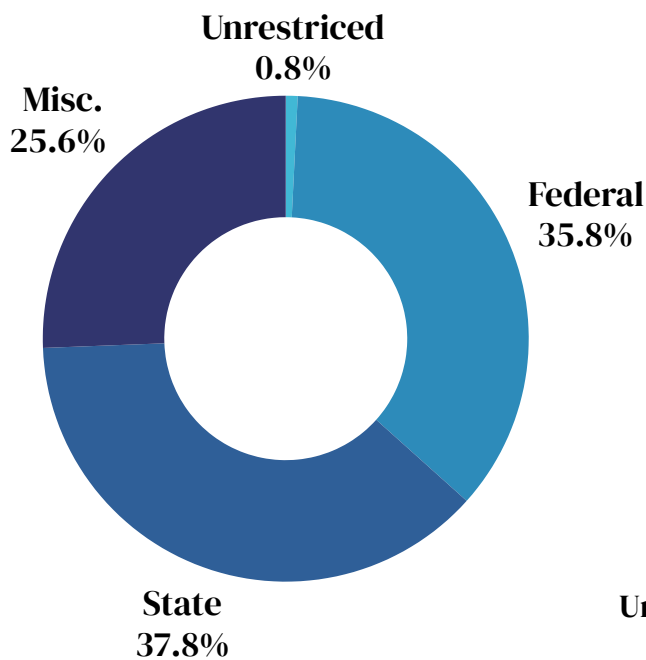
Kansas Housing Resources Corporation

Douglas County

Aetna Better Health/CVS

Healthy Blue

MidAmerica Resource Council/United Community Services/Johnson County Continuum of Care



The Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition (KSHC) is dedicated to transparency and responsible financial stewardship, ensuring that every dollar received is maximized for impact. As the collaborative applicant for HUD funds and the Balance of State Continuum of Care (CoC), KSHC plays a critical role in coordinating and supporting programs across Kansas to address homelessness effectively. We pride ourselves on being exemplary stewards of the funds entrusted to us. Our financial practices adhere to strict grant requirements and a commitment to transparency. We allocate resources strategically to ensure that service providers can operate efficiently and deliver critical services to those in need.

2023 Leadership and Team

Guiding our Mission with Dedication and Expertise

Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition Team Members

Christy McMurphy
Executive Director

Shanae Eggert
Director of CES & HMIS

Eric Arganbright
Director of Community Outreach

Molly Mendenhall
Director of Destination Home

Shaelin Ulsh
HMIS Administrator

Dylan Woods
HMIS Administrator

Brianna White
CES Administrator

Jaylee Getten
CES Administrator

Kristen Egan
Douglas County Regional Coordinator

Ti Martin
Housing Crisis Counselor

Alicia Flint
*Transitional Aged Youth
Training Specialist*

The Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition thrives under the dynamic leadership of a dedicated team committed to ending homelessness across the state. Our leadership team, composed of experienced professionals and passionate advocates, brings a wealth of knowledge and a collaborative spirit to the forefront of our mission.

In 2023, our team's innovative strategies and unwavering dedication have driven significant progress in our efforts to provide housing and support services to those in need.

We pride ourselves on fostering a culture of inclusion, empathy, and relentless pursuit of solutions that empower our community and enhance the quality of life for all Kansans.

Board of Directors

Sarah Robinson
Board Chair

Lori Howard
Board Vice Chair

Jill Jolicoeur
Board Treasurer

Monica Murnan
Board Secretary

Valorie Sanders

Robert Deleon

Brandon McGuire