



## **LeadingAge Kansas 2025 Legislative Priorities**

### **LEAD**

#### **Nursing Facility, HCBS, PACE and Hospice Funding for State Fiscal Year 2026**

**Position:** Medicaid funding for SFY2026 must comply with rate rebasing laws, and the Kansas Legislature must fully fund our reimbursement formulas to assure quality long-term care for frail elderly Kansans.

### **ENGAGE**

#### **State Investments in Health and Human Services Workforce Training and Recruitment**

**Position:** Health and human services are in critical need of a stable, well-trained workforce. We support state-funded grants for tuition assistance, easing faculty barriers, and incentivizing preceptors to expand the workforce pipeline.

#### **Temporary Agency Staffing in Long Term Care**

**Position:** We support legislation for regulatory oversight of temporary healthcare staffing agencies to protect the public, ensure transparency, and safeguard the financial stability of Medicaid providers and the program.

#### **State Fire Marshal Reform**

**Position:** The State Fire Marshal's office lacks expertise in the needs of long-term care and human services settings, causing unnecessary administrative burdens and impacting care quality. We support granting full licensure authority to the Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services, narrowing the Fire Marshal's scope in these settings, and requiring training on person-centered care, dementia care, and I/DD services.

### **MONITOR**

#### **Enhancing Benefits and Services to Aging Kansans**

**Position:** We support enhancing oral health benefits and senior nutrition program access to aging Kansans. Supports and benefits such as these go a long way to addressing basic needs, maintaining dignity, and preventing unnecessary future healthcare costs.

#### **Aging and Disability Resource Centers Contract Bids and Transition Planning**

**Position:** We are concerned about delays in the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services bidding process and transition planning for ADRC services. These delays affect timely assessments, provider funding, and resident care. We urge a seamless transition to prevent disruptions.

#### **Involuntary Discharge Appeal Rights for Assisted Living Residents**

**Position:** We have serious concerns regarding legislation granting appeal rights to residents who have been involuntarily discharged from an assisted living or other state-licensed adult care homes. Assisted living facilities per Kansas regulations are intended to be part of a larger continuum of care and provide personal care assistance at an affordable cost until a resident's needs rise to the level of nursing care. We believe appeal delays will place residents and provider operations in jeopardy.

#### **Minimum Staffing Ratios for Long Term Care**

**Position:** We oppose mandated staffing ratios in long-term care, as resident and facility needs vary. Addressing the healthcare workforce shortage is key to improving care quality for residents and families.