

LeadingAge Kansas 2026 Legislative Priorities

LEAD

Nursing Facility, HCBS, PACE Funding for State Fiscal Year 2027

Position: We support fully funding Medicaid in SFY 2027 in compliance with rate rebasing laws, including permanent nursing facility rate improvements, continuation of the Medicaid add-on, and updated property fees. We also support funding the HCBS-FE waiver to prevent waitlists and rebasing PACE rates, recognizing that fully funding the entire continuum allows Kansans to age where their needs are best met.

ENGAGE

State Fire Marshal Reform

Position: We support efforts to streamline government efficiency and ensure consistent application of regulations, including clear processes to resolve interagency conflicts, without weakening life safety protections. We also support a holistic approach that balances life safety, health and regulatory compliance, and resident rights.

Temporary Agency Staffing in Long Term Care

Position: We support minimum standards and oversight for healthcare staffing agencies and platforms, consistent with Missouri's approach, to protect patients, ensure transparency of Medicaid dollars, and maintain fair competition and worker choice.

State Survey Agency Reform

Position: We support an independent IDR process, a multidisciplinary survey model to address vacancies and expertise gaps, and clear waiver authority for the KDADS Secretary to resolve regulatory conflicts, creating a more balanced and efficient survey system.

State Investments in Health and Human Services Workforce Training and Recruitment

Position: Health and human services urgently need a stable, well-trained workforce. We support reducing faculty barriers and incentivizing preceptors through HB2392 and HB2163 to strengthen the pipeline, improve retention, and protect access to care for older Kansans.

MONITOR

Involuntary Discharge Appeal Rights and Dementia Care Licensure for State Licensed Only Facilities

Position: We support continued monitoring of involuntary discharge data, which current information shows are rare. We have concerns with creating new appeal rights that could delay necessary discharges and risk resident safety, assigning future data collection to the Ombudsman's office given its non-objective role, and establishing a separate dementia care license that adds cost and complexity without improving care, as existing regulations already address dementia services.

Pharmacy Provider Choice Fees

Position: We support resident pharmacy choice while ensuring facilities can meet federal requirements and maintain medication safety without risking regulatory noncompliance.

Enhancing Benefits and Services to Aging Kansans

Position: We support strengthening senior nutrition programs to eliminate waitlists, increasing the long-overdue personal needs allowance, and expanding Medicaid oral health provider availability to better support older adults' health and aging in place.

Continuing Care Retirement Community Statute Definition Changes

Position: We support preserving the integrity of the CCRC model and addressing any remaining oversight clarifications through regulation, not statute, while maintaining that it is the continuum of services and housing that ensures continuity of care.