



WHAT ARE THE SOLUTIONS TO HOMELESSNESS?

kansas  housing
— advocacy network —

Homelessness in Kansas is temporary and solvable. It is directly tied to our inadequate housing supply, which affects all Kansans. By acting now, we can support attainable and appropriate housing for all – retirees, veterans, workforce, families and those experiencing homelessness. This complex problem requires the three-part solution below.

THREE-PART SOLUTION TO REDUCE HOMELESSNESS

1

BUILD & MAINTAIN ATTAINABLE HOUSING WHERE KANSANS NEED IT

- Reduce regulatory burdens and enhance property rights to encourage housing development in areas where there is demand for more housing
- Continue and expand funding initiatives like the state Housing Trust Fund to stimulate workforce and attainable housing
- Sustain initiatives like the low-income housing tax credit (LIHTC) and the Affordable Housing Tax Credit Act (AHTCA)

The AHTCA, a state match to the federal LIHTC, resulted in a >400% increase in new affordable units being supported in Kansas in 2023

- Ensure units are affordable for extremely low-income households, like Kansans who live on Social Security Disability.
- Expand support for maintaining aging housing stock so Kansans can safely age in place
- Support local autonomy by allowing localities to require affordable housing in new developments

2


ACT UPSTREAM TO PREVENT VULNERABLE KANSANS FROM LOSING HOUSING

- Ease property tax burdens for all Kansans and exclude social security income from Kansas income tax
- Expand access to Medicaid, which would:
 - Support early healthcare intervention for low-income individuals and families, preventing health issues from escalating into crises that threaten housing stability
 - Increase access to mental health and substance abuse treatment that supports stable employment and housing
 - Provide financial protection from catastrophic medical bills that can lead to eviction or foreclosure
- Increase access and availability of critical safety net supports like SNAP, TANF, WIC and childcare assistance
- Ensure full use of housing vouchers by prohibiting discrimination on the basis of payment type and provide support for eviction expungement

3

INVEST IN CRITICAL SERVICES AND HOUSING SUPPORTS

- Strengthen the existing HUD-approved homeless data management system with state funding so all housing providers across the state can collect and report data in the same system.
- Address underlying contributing factors to homelessness by increasing investment in and availability of mental and behavioral health services across the state
- Increase housing supports, such as transitional housing programs, supportive housing and full deployment of housing choice vouchers
- Increase targeted investment in existing effective housing stability and self-sufficiency supports such as Supportive Housing Funds (SHF), Projects for Assistance in Transition of Homelessness (PATH) and SSI/SSDI Outreach Access and Recovery Services (SOAR)



In Kansas, we're focused on economic growth – and homes must be part of that. Homes are where our jobs go at night. By filling these gaps in housing, we can build a brighter future, one home at a time.