



## Kansas Public Health Association

- Promoting and Improving Population Health in Kansas

# The Bridge for A Healthier Kansas

## The Issue:

The State of Kansas is in a position to make health care coverage accessible to approximately 150,000 people whose household income status places them in the gap between Medicaid (KanCare) eligibility and commercial marketplace affordability. Because they have better access to primary and preventive care, covered individuals and families tend to be healthier and more productive than people who lack health care coverage. Kansans without affordable insurance can experience a delay in care and have worse outcomes for many chronic diseases and acute illnesses. The public health system has always served as a safety-net for the underserved, uninsured, and under-insured, either by providing direct clinical services or arranging for access to care by other providers. KHPA supports solutions that work to improve population health, by improving access to care, in Kansas.

Policymakers have an opportunity to adopt The Bridge to a Healthy Kansas, which creates a unique path to health through personal responsibility for low-income, working Kansans by expanding KanCare coverage the “Kansas way.” The Bridge to a Healthy Kansas is budget-neutral and does not require the use of State General Funds. KanCare is already seeing marked improvement in health outcomes, and The Bridge program will allow the state to address more of the public health issues facing our state.

## 2016 Advocacy Priorities

To ensure the goals of KanCare are realized, KPHA:

Support the Kansas Department of Health and Environment in its work with stakeholders to develop detailed strategies to address access to efficient and effective health care services.

Support policies at the state and local level that improve access to quality of care for Kansas’ vulnerable populations. This includes increased public health funding through services that benefit KanCare consumers.

Advocate for the passage of The Bridge to a Healthy Kansas program in collaboration with other advocates who represent consumers and providers.