



SOCIAL JUSTICE & HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS

National, State and Local Resources
for Eastern Kansas and Western Missouri

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Edward Scanlon
Rachel O'Flanagan

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WELCOME AND OVERVIEW

Social work educators often assign students to become involved in community change activities, and the question inevitably arises: How do you find out about such things? Are there specific groups who advocate for changes that align with social work values and if so, who are they? Despite the advances of the internet and online search engines to help us find the resources we need in our practice lives, it is often difficult to find a centralized list of advocacy organizations that is current, comprehensive, and which contains information about national, state, local and regional activities. This reference manual is a modest attempt to fill that void. We are grateful to the KU School of Social Welfare's Center for Community Engagement and Collaboration (CCEC) for allowing us to publish this resource as part of the Center's work.

To create this document, we have looked for resources in a wide range of social activism, advocacy, community development and community organizing to determine some of the key organizations, coalitions and others advocating at the national level, and at the state and local level in Kansas and Missouri. We also have located local advocacy organizations in the Greater Kansas City/Overland Park metropolitan area and some in Topeka and Lawrence, KS. For each, we list the name of the organization, their mission statement, and their website.

The document is arranged alphabetically by topic areas of interest to social workers, people in human service work, and those interested in good government and improved social infrastructure generally. Some of the organizations are listed more than once, as many are multi-issue groups working to have impact on several interrelated areas of policy. While we identified numerous topics, we recognize that the topical list is not exhaustive, nor have we identified all the groups and organizations involved in each area we have identified. Further, as identification of advocacy organizations begins—as does all social work and any social change effort—from one's own positioning, there are likely omissions that reflect our own social networks, perspectives, and identities. Thus, we also are open to suggestions for additions to the handbook both in terms of advocacy areas and specific agencies involved in the areas we have identified. This list is not an endorsement of the quality of the work being conducted by any of these agencies nor the alignment of all their campaigns and tactics with social work ethics; while we are familiar with some, the breadth of the organizations is simply too wide for us to be familiar with, or to have vetted all of them. If anyone has suggestions that an organization might be problematic in some way, we will welcome that feedback so we could do further research into whether it should be included in the list.

We hope that you find this Handbook helpful, and that it motivates your involvement in advocacy, coalition building and social change. We wanted to create a social justice resource handbook which reflects and amplifies the KU School of Social Welfare's Mission, Values, and Goals and wished to help to operationalize the school's goals of ... "transforming lives and social contexts and promoting social,

economic, and environmental justice in Kansas, the nation and the world.” There is much work to be done to ensure a society that is more equitable, more inclusive, and that gives everyone a voice in policy, laws, and community decision making. Our society is much improved when all of us have a voice and a seat at the table, and we hope this will help you to find ways to amplify your voice and the voices of populations about whom you care.

In solidarity,

Edward Scanlon, Associate Professor and DSW Program Director, KU School of Social Welfare and
Rachel O’Flanagan, KU School of Social Welfare macro alum (MSW 2024)

AGING AND SENIOR SERVICE ADVOCACY

AARP Kansas

AARP is a nonprofit advocacy organization that focuses on the needs of those over 50 years of age. AARP Kansas is its Kansas state chapter.

[AARP Kansas website](#)

AARP Missouri

AARP is a nonprofit advocacy organization that focuses on the needs of those over 50 years of age. AARP Missouri is its Missouri state chapter.

[AARP Missouri website](#)

Missouri Association of Area Agencies on Aging

This group describes itself as the leading voice for service, information, and advocacy to improve the lives of older Missourians.

[Missouri Association of Area Agencies on Aging](#)

Kansas Advocates for Better Care

Kansas Advocates for Better Care is dedicated to improving the quality of long-term care for older Kansans, at home and in residential care settings.

[Kansas Advocates for Better Care](#)

Kansas Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities

K4ad monitors legislation on the state and federal levels and provides testimony on various priorities, related to program funding and care resources for older adults and those with disabilities to thrive in their communities.

[Kansas Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities](#)

Kansas Silver Haired Legislature

Created by an Act of Congress in 1969, each state was encouraged to create a body of Seniors who would identify issues important to older Kansas adults 60+ and to educate the Kansas Legislature about those issues. KSHL works to identify priority concerns of Kansans over 60 years of age, develop bills and resolutions designed to address those identified concerns; and to present those resolutions to the Kansas Legislature & Governor as recommendations for state policy.

[Kansas Silver Haired Legislature](#)

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE/DEMENTIA

Heart of America Alzheimer's Association

This group leads the charge on Alzheimer's research, service, and advocacy. The Heart of America Chapter represents 65 counties in Kansas and Missouri.

[Heart of America Alzheimer's Association](#)

ANIMAL RIGHTS

Animal Action

This Kansas City, Missouri group describes itself as a friendly, compassionate, and accepting community dedicated to acting for animals by demonstration, education, petition, leafleting, and outreach.

[Animal Action](#)

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

P.E.T.A. is the world's largest animal rights organization that focuses on the ethical treatment of animals particularly in testing, laboratories, the food industry, etc.

[People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals](#)

American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

The ASPCA works with local, state, and federal legislators to help enact meaningful protections for animals. They also offer advocacy training and support for citizens who wish to engage in grassroots lobbying.

[American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals](#)

ARTS ADVOCACY

The Arts Council of Johnson County/Kansas Arts Council Network

This group advocates for the arts in Johnson County, the KC metro area, and the state of Kansas, with a belief that creativity and creative expression increase inclusion.

[The Arts Council of Johnson County/Kansas Arts Council Network](#)

Missouri Advocates for the Arts

Missouri Citizens for the Arts is a non-partisan, statewide, grassroots organization that advocates to secure stable financial support for the arts to benefit Missouri and its citizens.

[Missouri Advocates for the Arts](#)

BUDGETING AND TAXATION FAIRNESS

Kansas Action for Children

Kansas Action for Children's mission is to shape health, early education, and economic policy that will improve the lives of Kansas children and families. They work to demystify budget and tax issues so all Kansans can participate and the budget reflects the values of the people.

[Kansas Action for Children](#)

Missouri Budget Project

This group looks at how revenue is brought into the state and weighs in on expenditures, providing oversight of the Missouri Legislature's taxation and spending priorities and promoting progressivity and fairness in spending.

[Missouri Budget Project](#)

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

This is a national project that focuses on fiscal and policy issues related to taxation and expenditures, pointing the way toward a more just society that works for all to have access to employment, income, housing and health care.

[Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#)

CHILD WELFARE AND CHILDREN'S ISSUES

Children's Defense Fund

The CDF works to promote all children having a good start to life and to promote child well-being across multiple issues, including child poverty, children's health, child welfare, childhood education, youth justice and gun violence prevention.

[Children's Defense Fund](#)

Communities Creating Opportunity

Our organization serves residents by fighting for public policy changes at the local, state, and federal levels, but also by connecting or even providing residents with direct services. CCO has six campaigns: healthcare access, racial equity, violence prevention, economic dignity, early childhood education, and civic engagement.

[Communities Creating Opportunity](#)

Kansas Appleseed

Kansas Appleseed is a statewide advocacy organization dedicated to the belief that Kansans, working together, can build a more thriving, inclusive, and just Kansas. Among Kansas Appleseed's current issues are child welfare and youth justice.

[Kansas Appleseed](#)

Kansas Action for Children

Kansas Action for Children is the state's primary child advocacy organization, working not only to advance tax and budget policy aligned with policies to meet children's needs but also advancing policies in health and early childhood education that will improve the lives of Kansas children and families. (See also, Kansas Action for Children, in Budgeting and Taxation Fairness.)

[Kansas Action for Children](#)

Kansas Racial Equity Collaborative

The collaborative is a research, education, and advocacy project based in the KU School of Social Welfare. It is a statewide effort to understand the history of racial inequities in child welfare and to define the problem through a shared language and shared understanding so that we all advocate for racial equity.

[Kansas Racial Equity Collaborative](#)

KC Healthy Kids

KC Health Kids' mission is to advance the health and well-being of children and families through community-driven initiatives and advocacy where they live, learn, work and play.

[KC Healthy Kids](#)

Kids Win Missouri

This group advocates for early childhood issues, food security for families, children's development accounts, school-based health care, and child abuse prevention. Their staff includes policy analysts and advocates across the state.

[Kids Win Missouri](#)

CIVIL RIGHTS, CIVIL LIBERTIES, AND RACIAL EQUITY

The American Civil Liberties Union

The national organization of the ACLU, the country's oldest civil liberties and civil rights organization advocates and litigates on behalf of myriad issues. The national organization's website can be found here, and state chapters, which take on state and local issues, exist in both Missouri and Kansas.

[The American Civil Liberties Union](#)

Black Lives Matter

BLM is a national movement to stop violence against people of colour by the police and vigilantes. Their goal is to build local power to intervene on behalf of communities impacted by such violence.

[Black Lives Matter](#)

CAIR (Council on American-Islamic Relations)

The Council on American-Islamic Relations focuses on the civil liberties of Muslims in America, with local chapters throughout the country.

[Council on American-Islamic Relations](#)

Communities Creating Opportunity

Our organization serves residents by fighting for public policy changes at the local, state, and federal levels, but also by connecting or even providing residents with direct services. CCO has six campaigns: healthcare access, racial equity, violence prevention, economic dignity, early childhood education, and civic engagement.

[Communities Creating Opportunity](#)

Jewish Community Relations Bureau

The Jewish Community Relations Bureau leads advocacy and education programming to combat anti-Semitism, oppose racism, and advance civil rights.

[Jewish Community Relations Bureau](#)

Movement for Black Lives

MB4L is a space for Black organizations across the country to debate and discuss the current political conditions, develop shared assessments of what political interventions are necessary to achieve key policy, cultural and political wins, and convene organizational leadership to debate and co-create a shared movement-wide strategy.

[Movement for Black Lives](#)

CRIMINAL JUSTICE/PRISON REFORM/DEATH PENALTY

Decarcerate KC

This group aims to raise awareness, build power, and create change around issues of incarceration and policing in Kansas City. We are a multiracial, multigenerational organization that centres on those impacted by incarceration and policing to end the reliance on incarceration and policing and build a safer Kansas City for all.

[Decarcerate KC](#)

Empower Missouri Community Justice Coalition

Empower Missouri has, among its policy priorities, reform of the criminal justice system. The Community Justice Coalition works to end mass incarceration and educate the public while promoting reform across all the stages of the criminal justice system.

[Empower Missouri Community Justice Coalition](#)

Kansas City Law Enforcement Accountability Project (LEAP)

This organization provides support and material aid to people who have experienced violence at the hands of law enforcement. Their goal is to support victims and hold police accountable.

[Kansas City Law Enforcement Accountability Project](#)

Kansas Coalition Against the Death Penalty

This coalition organization has a list of regional agencies advocating for the abolishment of the death penalty.

[Kansas Coalition Against the Death Penalty](#)

Missourians Against the Death Penalty

MADP is a statewide organization attempting to repeal the death penalty in Missouri and to educate citizens and lawmakers about the costs and consequences of capital punishment.

[Missourians Against the Death Penalty](#)

Missouri Clean Slate Campaign

The MCSC is a coalition of activists attempting to help more Missourians access expungement of their felony records so they can have a second chance at employment, housing, and other social resources.

[Missouri Clean State Campaign](#)

MORE2

The Metro Organization for Racial and Economic Equity has task forces in both Missouri and Kansas that work to dismantle mass incarceration, address unjust policing practices, and increase opportunity for those touched by the criminal justice system. MORE2 also works to advance equitable access to health care and quality education, for all students.

[MORE2](#)

DIGITAL ACCESS

KC Digital Drive

KCDD is an organization seeking to reduce the digital divide between socio-economic groups and to make Kansas City a digital access leader.

Website: <https://www.kcdigitaldrive.org/about/>

The National Digital Inclusion Alliance

This organization supports community groups across the country advocating for digital inclusion and encourages and equips legislators to act to support policies that reduce barriers to online access.

Website: <https://www.digitalinclusion.org/>

DISABILITIES

Disability Rights Center of Kansas

Advocates on a variety of issues of interest to people with disabilities, including 1. Serious abuse, neglect, or exploitation, 2. Community-based services and healthcare, 3. Employment, 4. Community Integration, 5. Accessibility, 6. Special Education, 7. Fair Housing, 8. Accountability of Guardians and other Legal Decision Makers, and 9. Education and Outreach.

[Disability Rights Center of Kansas](#)

The Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities

The Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities is appointed by the Governor of the state. The organization advocates for and helps to empower people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families to advocate for policies and resources that allow them to live full and inclusive lives.

[The Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities](#)

The Whole Person

The Whole Person is a Kansas City, MO based organization that advocates for the civil rights and equality of people with disabilities through personal, legal, and legislative advocacy.

[The Whole Person](#)

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

Kansas Coalition against Sexual and Domestic Violence

This organization is a statewide coalition that acts as a voice for survivors of sexual and domestic violence and assault. The group is a coalition of 25 member organizations that train professionals and advocate at the community and legislative levels to prevent and eliminate sexual and domestic violence.

[Kansas Coalition against Sexual and Domestic Violence](#)

MOCSA (Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault)

MOCSA's mission is to improve the lives of those impacted by sexual abuse and assault and to prevent sexual violence in our community, through the provision of direct services and policy advocacy efforts. Together we can create a community free from sexual assault and abuse.

[MOCSA](#)

MOCADSV (Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence)

A vital role MOCADSV members play is meeting and advocating with their legislators, virtually or in-person, about the policy priorities of survivors and the agencies they rely on for help.

[MOCADSV](#)

EDUCATIONAL ACCESS AND EQUITY

American Federation of Teachers

The American Federation of Teachers is a union of professionals that champions fairness; democracy; economic opportunity; and high-quality public education, healthcare and public services for our students, their families and our communities. We are committed to advancing these principles through community engagement, organizing, collective bargaining and political activism, and especially through the work our members do. AFT has Missouri (<http://mo-aft.org>) and Kansas (<http://ks.aft.org/>) chapters, representing their members and lobbying for policies that advance their interests in each state.

[American Federation of Teachers](#)

Kansas and Missouri Dream Alliance

The Kansas/Missouri Dream Alliance exists to serve and advocate for immigrant rights and higher education for undocumented youth regardless of citizenship status, sexual orientation, race, color, gender, and national or ethnic origin.

[Kansas and Missouri Dream Alliance](#)

MORE2

MORE2, a multi-issue justice organization, has an education task force that promotes equitable, quality public education for ALL students. This includes equitable funding, quality governance, and fair creation and implementation of policies that impact students and their families.

[MORE2](#)

National Education Association

A professional association that represents educators across the United States. With over 3 million members, they are the largest professional association in the country and advocate for teachers, students, and sound educational policy.

[National Education Association](#)

ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION

Bridging the Gap

While not engaged in much policy advocacy, this organization provides education and volunteer opportunities to improve the natural environment in the KC area through the promotion of tree planting, litter cleanup, cleaning streams and waterways, conservation, and the promotion of green businesses. Advocates wanting to take direct action as a coping strategy for managing their concerns about the environment may find common cause with other members here.

[Bridging the Gap](#)

Citizens' Climate Lobby

Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots advocacy climate change organization focused on national policies to address the national and global climate crisis. There are multiple chapters in both Kansas and Missouri, including Lawrence and the Kansas City Metro.

[Citizens' Climate Lobby](#)

Sierra Club

Founded in 1892, the Sierra Club is the oldest and most enduring climate advocacy organization in the US. They are a grassroots organization of millions of members who advocate on behalf of nature and the environment.

[Sierra Club](#)

Sunrise Movement

Sunrise Movement works for the "climate revolution", using grassroots organizing, lobbying, and direct action to build momentum for decisive action in response to the climate crisis. There are chapters in Lawrence, the Kansas City metropolitan area, and in communities around the country.

[Sunrise Movement](#)

The Nature Conservancy

The Nature Conservancy is dedicated to preserving nature and preventing climate change throughout the United States. They engage in advocacy and volunteerism to build healthy lands, waterways, and communities.

[The Nature Conservancy](#)

World Wildlife Fund

The mission of the Swiss based NGO WWF is to conserve nature and reduce the most pressing threats to the diversity of life on earth. They engage in advocacy, conservation and education to preserve water, climate, animals, forest, food and climate.

[World Wildlife Fund](#)

FOOD POLICY AND HUNGER ADVOCACY

Cultivate KC

Cultivate Kansas City is a locally grown nonprofit working to grow food, farms, and communities in support of an equitable, sustainable and healthy local food system for all.

[Cultivate KC](#)

Empower Missouri Food Security Coalition

Food access is foundational to living a long and successful life. We are dedicated to making sure every household in Missouri has healthy meals. Empower Missouri maintains a focus on food security, among other policy priorities.

[Empower Missouri Food Security Coalition](#)

Feeding America

Feeding America advocates for funding in programs that help people facing hunger and federal tax policies that enhance nonprofit giving tax incentives.

[Feeding America](#)

Food Research and Action Center

FRAC works to improve the nutrition and health of low-income people in the US through advocacy for bold and equitable policy solutions to eliminate hunger and food insecurity.

[Food Research and Action Center](#)

Greater KC Food Policy Coalition

The coalition convenes diverse stakeholders to advocate for an equitable, sustainable and resilient food system in greater Kansas City and promote policies for the nutritional, economic, social and environmental health of the community.

[Greater KC Food Policy Coalition](#)

Harvester's Community Food Network

In addition to providing food through its food bank operations, Harvester's advocates for policies and programs that reduce food insecurity in the long term.

[Harvester's Community Food Network](#)

Hunger Free America

Hunger Free America is a nonpartisan, national nonprofit group working to enact the policies and programs needed to end domestic hunger and ensure that all Americans have sufficient access to nutritious food.

[Hunger Free America](#)

Kansas Appleseed

Kansas Appleseed is a statewide advocacy organization dedicated to the belief that Kansans, working together, can build a more thriving, inclusive, and just Kansas. They believe that all Kansans deserve access to the resources they need to support themselves and raise healthy families. Current issues: Food Assistance. Child Nutrition Programs.

[Kansas Appleseed](#)

HEALTH CARE

Alliance for a Healthy Kansas

This is a coalition of Kansas organizations committed to advocating for Kansas to engage in Medicaid expansion as part of the Affordable Care Act.

[Alliance for a Healthy Kansas](#)

Kansas Advocates for Better Care

Mission: Kansas Advocates for Better Care is dedicated to improving the quality of long-term care for older Kansans, at home and in residential care settings. Their vision is for all older Kansans to receive good quality long-term health care in the setting of their choice.

[Kansas Advocates for Better Care](#)

Capper Foundation

The Capper Foundation is engaged in advocating and educating public policy makers about the challenges and needs of people with disabilities and service providers.

[Capper Foundation](#)

Community Care Network

This group is a network of health care and community health clinics which supports and strengthens its member organizations through advocacy, education, and communication. The group educates lawmakers on health access issues.

[Community Care Network](#)

Communities Creating Opportunity

Our organization serves residents by fighting for public policy changes at the local, state, and federal levels, but also by connecting or even providing residents with direct services. CCO has six campaigns: healthcare access, racial equity, violence prevention, economic dignity, early childhood education, and civic engagement.

[Communities Creating Opportunity](#)

Kansas Academy of Family Physicians

Kansas Academy of Family Physicians advocates in Topeka and Washington, DC in the interest of the speciality of family medicine, on behalf of our members and aligned with the organization's mission.

[Kansas Academy of Family Physicians](#)

Kansas Action for Children

Kansas Action for Children's mission is to shape health, education, and economic policy to improve the lives of Kansas children and families. Recent work has included promoting an expansion of Kansas Medicaid, increasing Medicaid coverage postpartum, and promoting access to, and education about, vaccines.

[Kansas Action for Children](#)

Health Forward Foundation

In addition to providing philanthropic support, the Health Forward Foundation seeks to achieve health equity and secure a fair and just region through leadership, advocacy, and resources.

[Health Forward Foundation](#)

Sunflower Foundation

Through capacity building, support of the built environment, advocacy, investment in healthy food access, integrated health care, collaborative learning and strengthening access to quality health care, the Foundation's work reflects its responsiveness to the health needs of Kansans in three strategic areas – Healthy Communities, Health Systems, and the Sunflower Nonprofit Center.

[Sunflower Foundation](#)

HIV/AIDS

amfAR

amfAR, or The Foundation for AIDS Research, is one of the world's leading nonprofit organizations dedicated to the support of AIDS research, HIV prevention, treatment education, and advocacy. Since 1985, amfAR has invested more than \$635 million in its programs and has awarded more than 3,800 grants to research teams worldwide.

[amfAR](#)

BlaqOut

BlaqOut offers easily accessible, no-cost services and five distinct programs focused on turning the tide against the HIV/AIDS epidemic and improving overall health outcomes for Black people of queer and trans experience in the Greater Kansas City Metropolitan Area. Its approach looks at all aspects of the lives of Black LGBTQ+ people and addresses issues of societal inequity and injustice in our local community.

[BlaqOut](#)

The Center for HIV Law and Policy

CHLP fights stigma and discrimination at the intersection of HIV, race, health status, disability, class, sexuality and gender identity and expression, with a focus on criminal and public health systems. As part of this work, they support movement building that amplifies the power of individuals and communities to mobilize for change rooted in racial, gender and economic justice. They work through legal advocacy, high-impact policy initiatives, and the creation of cross-issue partnerships, networks, and resources.

[The Center for HIV Law and Policy](#)

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

Alliance to End Homelessness

The Alliance advocates for public policy to end homelessness and analyzes data and policy proposals to inform legislators and citizens about best practices in the area.

[Alliance to End Homelessness](#)

Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness

Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness serves to unify and connect organizations and people around the city so that they work together to serve more people and reach common goals.

[Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness](#)

KC Tenants

KC Tenants serves as a voice for renters in the Kansas City area to organize housing safety and affordability across generations, neighbourhoods, and racial groups.

[KC Tenants](#)

National Coalition for the Homeless

This group's mission is to prevent and end homelessness while ensuring the immediate needs of those experiencing homelessness are met and their civil rights protected.

[National Coalition for the Homeless](#)

National Low Income Housing Coalition

The National Low Income Housing Coalition is dedicated to achieving racially and socially equitable public policy that ensures people with the lowest incomes have quality homes that are accessible and affordable in communities of their choice. We educate lawmakers and the public about the need for affordable homes. We mobilize members and supporters across the country to advocate for good housing policy. The NLIHC seeks to shape public opinion of low-income housing issues.

[National Low Income Housing Coalition](#)

IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEE RIGHTS

American Civil Liberties Union

The national organization of the ACLU, the country's oldest civil liberties and civil rights organization advocates and litigates on behalf of myriad issues. The national organization's website can be found here, and state chapters, which take on state and local issues, exist in both Missouri and Kansas. The rights of immigrants and refugees are included in their extensive work

[American Civil Liberties Union](#)

ACLU of Kansas

The ACLU of Kansas is dedicated to expanding and protecting the rights of immigrants in this state, regardless of their citizenship status. The ACLU uses litigation, advocacy, public outreach, and education to work to lessen the hostility immigrants face daily on the state and local levels.

[ACLU of Kansas](#)

Advocates for Immigrant Rights and Reconciliation

AIRR is striving to create a network that supports and empowers the undocumented immigrant community in the greater Kansas City area. The network provides tools and resources for people to be able to navigate their lives with confidence and pride. No person should live in fear of being torn apart from their family or home. AIRR passed the Safe and Welcoming ordinance after 5 years of hard work and dedication and continues to work with communities and policymakers to advance its mission after the ordinance was vetoed.

[Advocates for Immigrant Rights and Reconciliation](#)

Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas

Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas helps to resettle and advocate for refugees and immigrants in this community. They advocate for those still displaced abroad and hold an annual World Refugee Day for those resettled here.

[Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas](#)

El Centro

El Centro's advocacy includes helping Latinos affect positive change in our communities by becoming informed, civically engaged, and participating in elections and policy initiatives. Their advocacy involves DACA clinics, citizenship assistance, "Know your rights," and voter registration & engagement.

[El Centro](#)

Jewish Vocational Services

JVS was established in 1949 to assist Holocaust survivors, refugees and veterans returning from WWII, enabling them to begin new lives in our community. Today, they welcome all persons from across the globe fleeing war and persecution in search of a better life, engaging, encouraging and empowering refugees and immigrants through a variety of programming and services designed to move our newest neighbors from "surviving" to thriving. JVS also advocates at the legislative level for a variety of issues related to immigration policy and the needs of immigrants once they have arrived in the U.S.

[Jewish Vocational Services](#)

Justice for Migrant Women

Justice for Migrant Women has been engaged in educating lawmakers and other officials globally and throughout the U.S. about the issues that prevent migrant women from reaching their full potential and, even worse, pose a threat to their safety and security. Their current focus pertains to anti-discrimination and anti-violence, equal pay and other general labor protections.

[Justice for Migrant Women](#)

Kansas Appleseed

Kansas Appleseed stands with immigrants and believes Kansas should welcome immigrants, with full participation in the life of the state. The organization partners with others to advocate for access to education, civil rights, and social services for immigrants in Kansas.

[Kansas Appleseed](#)

Kansas and Missouri Dream Alliance

The Kansas/Missouri Dream Alliance exists to serve, build power with, and advocate for immigrant rights and higher education for undocumented youth regardless of citizenship status, sexual orientation, race, color, gender, and national or ethnic origin.

[Kansas and Missouri Dream Alliance](#)

MORE2

MORE2's immigrants' rights task force works to address everything from comprehensive immigration reform in coordination with other Gamaliel organizations around the country to local issue involving interaction with immigrants and law enforcement. Their organizers played key roles in the passage of Wyandotte County's safe and welcoming ordinance.

[MORE2](#)

National Immigration Law Center (NILC)

This national organization advocates for fair, workable, and humane immigration policies and has a particular focus on policies that affect immigrants' rights to public benefits, language access, and education. Social workers can use NILC's materials to understand the rights of their immigrant clients, and to then advocate for benefits and services to which their clients are entitled.

[National Immigration Law Center](#)

Refugee and Immigrant Services and Empowerment

The Kansas City, MO Public Library's Refugee & Immigrant Services & Empowerment (RISE) program connects immigrant populations with the quality services, resources and lifelong learning opportunities of the Library through outreach, education, and advocacy.

[Refugee and Immigrant Services and Empowerment](#)

Unidos, US

Unidos is a national civil rights organization serving and representing Latinx individuals and communities around the country. Three organizations in the Kansas City metropolitan area (El Centro, Guadalupe Centers, and Mattie Rhodes Center) are Unidos US affiliates.

[Unidos](#)

LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS

AFL CIO

The American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations is the largest coalition of US labor unions, representing 60 unions and 12.5 million working people. They advocate for good working conditions, favorable trade agreements, and social investments.

[AFL CIO](#)

Kansas City Labor Council

The KC Labor Council is a local affiliate of the AFL CIO. They mobilize members and community partners to promote better living and working conditions for all people.

[Kansas City Labor Council](#)

Heartland Center for Jobs and Freedom

The Heartland Center advocates for workers and teaches them how to organize for their rights, realize their collective power, and develop leadership skills for progressive organizing. Committed to racial justice, they also advocate for consumer, tenant, and other rights, including by leveraging their legal representation to resist evictions.

[Heartland Center for Jobs and Freedom](#)

Missouri Jobs with Justice

This group works to organize workers and campaigns to ensure a more just world for people of all races. The organization is focused on workers' rights, economic justice, health care, and the support of democracy. Organizing committees are found throughout the state, including Kansas City, MO.

[Missouri Jobs with Justice](#)

Stand Up KC

Stand Up KC is a movement of fast-food workers in the KC area fighting for a living wage for workers in the industry. It is part of the Missouri Workers Center (<https://www.moworkers.org/>), which is a coalition of multiracial, urban, rural and suburban workers fighting for fair wages and a voice.

[Stand Up KC](#)

The Strategic Organizing Center

The SOC is an alternative to the AFLCIO, representing 2.3 million workers in SEIU, the Communication Workers of America, and the United Farm Workers. They describe themselves as utilizing research and cutting-edge campaigns to help workers and consumers in numerous industries.

[The Strategic Organizing Center](#)

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Lead Missouri

Among the various multi-issue organizing groups, Lead Mo is a 501c3 designed to cultivate a sustainable community around the human capital powering progress in Missouri. They are committed to building a state where all can thrive and work on issues such as health care, early childhood education, the environment, the right to organize and collective bargaining, and free and fair elections.

[Lead Missouri](#)

LGBTQIA RESOURCES

ACLU of Kansas

Since 1936, the ACLU has been a force for LGBTQ+ rights, and the organization is proud to keep that fight alive in Kansas. Kansans face discrimination because of their LGBTQ+ identities at their work, in their homes, and in the public sphere—and there are few laws in place to protect them. ACLU of Kansas has active litigation challenging anti-trans policies and practices, while also lobbying to oppose further threats to LGBTQIA rights.

[ACLU Kansas](#)

Athlete Ally

Athlete Ally believes that everyone should have equal access, opportunity, and experience in sports — regardless of your sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. The organization’s mission is to end homophobia and transphobia in sport and to activate the athletic community to exercise their leadership to champion LGBTQI+ equality.

[Athlete Ally](#)

Equality Kansas

Equality Kansas, formerly the Kansas Equality Coalition, was established in October 2005. Originally formed by the merger of independent LGBT advocacy groups in Topeka, Manhattan, and Wichita, Equality Kansas is a chapter-based grassroots organization that currently has 11 chapters and over 2000 members around the state.

[Equality Kansas](#)

GLSEN Kansas

The chapter supports students and educators locally, organizes around LGBTQ+-affirming public policy, plans teacher trainings, and hosts events for students, educators, parents and allies. Chapters play an important role in bringing GLSEN’s programs and visions to right where we live, work and learn.

[GLSEN Kansas](#)

Human Rights Campaign

HRC began a long period of robust growth and became respected as one of the largest and most effective mainstream advocacy organizations in the country. HRC envisions a world where lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people plus community members who use different language to describe identity are ensured equality and embraced as full members of society at home, at work and in every community.

[Human Rights Campaign](#)

LGBT Mid-America Chamber of Commerce

The Mid-America LGBT Chamber of Commerce is a proud affiliate of the National LGBT Chamber of Commerce, with a mission to advocate, promote and facilitate the success of the LGBT business community and their allies through the guiding principles of equality, inclusion, economics and education.

[LGBT Mid-America Chamber of Commerce](#)

National Center for Lesbian Rights

With a commitment to racial and economic justice and our community’s most vulnerable, NCLR is a leader at the forefront of advancing civil and human rights for LGBTQ individuals and their families through impact litigation, public policy, and public education.

[National Center for Lesbian Rights](#)

National Center for Transgender Equality

The National Center for Transgender Equality advocates to change policies and society to increase understanding and acceptance of transgender people. In the nation's capital and throughout the country, NCTE works to replace disrespect, discrimination, and violence with empathy, opportunity, and justice.

[National Center for Transgender Equality](#)

National LGBTQ Task Force

The National LGBTQ Task Force is dedicated to achieving freedom and justice for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer people, and their families through proactive, targeted, change-inducing initiatives.

[National LGBTQ Task Force](#)

PFLAG

Founded in 1973, PFLAG is the first and largest organization dedicated to supporting, educating, and advocating for LGBTQ+ people and their families.

[PFLAG](#)

PROMO

PROMO is a statewide organization in Missouri which confronts systemic inequities to liberate the full spectrum of the LGBTQ+ community from discrimination and oppression.

[PROMO](#)

SPARTA

A transgender military advocacy organization. SPARTA will advocate for inclusive military policy, provide peer support, and develop transgender military service educational resources on behalf of currently serving transgender military members.

[SPARTA](#)

Trans Student Educational Resources

Trans Student Educational Resources is a youth-led organization dedicated to transforming the educational environment for trans and gender non-conforming students through advocacy and empowerment. Founded in 2011, it is the only national organization led by trans youth.

[Trans Student Educational Resources](#)

MENTAL HEALTH

Association of Community Mental Health Centers

This organization promotes a fully resourced system that delivers efficient, effective, and accountable behavioral healthcare accessible to all Kansans through locally governed Community Mental Health Centers, subsidiaries, and strategic partners. The Association advocates not only for funding for CMHCs, but also for policies in housing, health care access, taxation, and suicide prevention that meet the needs of Kansans experiencing mental health challenges.

[Association of Community Mental Health Centers](#)

Greater Kansas City Mental Health Coalition

The Greater Kansas City Mental Health Coalition wants to engage social service agencies across the entire metro area to collaborate and support efforts that provide equal access to mental health education and prevention.

[Greater Kansas City Mental Health Coalition](#)

Mental Health America of the Heartland

MHAH is dedicated to promoting the mental health of the community and improving the quality of life of persons with mental illness through advocacy, education, and support.

Mental Health America of the Heartland

National Alliance for the Mentally Ill

NAMI is dedicated to improving the lives of people with mental illness through education, resources and advocacy. They use the power of lived experience to help advocate for better service access and support for people living with mental illness. NAMI has state and local chapters in both Missouri and Kansas.

Website: <https://mhah.org/>

PEACE AND DISARMAMENT

Peace Action

The nation's largest network of peace organizations envisions a world without war and one where people are free from nuclear weapons. The group organizes against pre-emptive wars, and advocate for the withdrawal of American troops and contractors from the endless wars across the Middle East through grassroot campaigns, lobbying, and direct action

[Peace Action](#)

Peaceworks KC

A Kansas City based organization that focuses on peace, accountability, and the abolition of nuclear weapons. They describe themselves as nonviolently embodying and empowering the community through organizing acts of civil resistance and working for peace.

[Peaceworks KC](#)

POVERTY

Community Change

Community Change is a DC based organization that organizes in low-income communities to help them to win on the issues of interest to them and increase their power at the ballot box. They are especially interested in helping communities of color, women, and immigrants make their voices heard and create communities where everyone can thrive.

[Community Change](#)

Empower Missouri

Empower Missouri works to secure basic human needs and equal justice for every person in our state through coalition-building and advocacy.

[Empower Missouri](#)

Kansas Action for Children

Kansas Action for Children's mission is to shape health, education, and economic policy that will improve the lives of Kansas children and families. Their policy priorities have particular focus on the needs of low-income families.

[Kansas Action for Children](#)

LGBTQ Poverty Initiative

Cofounded by the National Center for Lesbian Rights, LGBTQ Poverty Initiative addresses LGBTQ Poverty and Economic Justice for All. The mission of the Network is to end poverty in the U.S., advocate for economic justice, and pursue solutions to economic, racial, gender and social disparities as they specifically impact low-income LGBTQ people. It seeks to do this through research, organizing, learning, public education, and advocacy in coalition with organizations and individuals working within and outside of the LGBTQ movement.

[LGBTQ Poverty Initiative](#)

Missouri Community Action Network

This organization, made up of Community Action Agencies in Missouri, advocates for people in poverty, educates the public about its effects, and helps Community Action staff grow in their careers. They focus on five pillars of anti-poverty action: Economic and Family Security, Education, Food and Nutrition, Health, and Housing and Energy.

[Missouri Community Action Network](#)

Operation Breakthrough

Operation Breakthrough provides a safe, loving and educational environment for children in poverty and empowers their families through advocacy, emergency aid and education.

[Operation Breakthrough](#)

Results

RESULTS is a volunteer-led movement of people committed to ending poverty through civic action. Results identifies the highest-impact policy solutions to poverty and cultivates an advocacy movement that secures the political leadership, focus, and resources to get the job done.

[Results](#)

The Center for Law and Social Policy

The Center for Law and Social Policy is a national, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization advancing policy solutions for people with low incomes

[The Center for Law and Social Policy](#)

Communities Creating Opportunity

Economic dignity is among the issue priorities of this multi-issue organization, which fights for public policy changes at the local, state, and federal levels.

[Communities Creating Opportunity](#)

SUBSTANCE USE AND ADDICTION

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence

The council provides public policy advocacy at national, state and local levels, advancing investments in prevention, education, and treatment for individuals and communities dealing with substance use disorders.

[National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence](#)

NAADAC: The Association for Addiction Professionals

A professional association for treatment providers who also advocate on behalf of treatment professionals and for investments in substance use disorder treatment and recovery services.

[NAADAC](#)

KAADAC: The Kansas Association for Addiction Professionals

Kansas chapter of the Professional Association of Addiction Professionals, also advocating on behalf of substance use disorder services and funding.

[KAADAC](#)

Partnership to End Addiction

This national organization works to advance practice, research, and policy in the area of substance use disorders.

[Partnership to End Addiction](#)

Missouri Behavioral Health Council

A 33-member coalition that advocates with state and federal legislators to promote policy and funding for substance use and mental health services.

[Missouri Behavioral Health Council](#)

TRANSPORTATION

Mid-America Regional Council (MARC)

MARC works on healthy, safe, affordable transportation planning, including Complete Streets initiatives, public transit investments, and environmentally sustainable community planning to reduce transportation's impacts.

[MARC](#)

Sunrise Movement

Combining environmental action with advocacy for public transportation, the KC Chapter of this youth-led organization is advocating for Better Buses and expanded routes in the KC metro area.

[Sunrise Movement](#)

VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Ad Hoc Group Against Crime

This organization provides intervention and prevention services for those impacted by violence, monitors the civil rights of individuals in KC's entertainment district, and advocates for effective public policy to help crime victims. Ad Hoc also helps those citizens who feel their rights have been violated by area police officers to file concerns with the Office of Community Complaints.

[Ad Hoc Group Against Crime](#)

Center for Conflict Resolution

Works to promote solutions to conflict and to teach interpersonal skills to resolve rather than escalate conflicts. They provide training, mediation, skills workshops and interventions to promote restorative justice.

[Center for Conflict Resolution](#)

Everytown for Gun Safety

Everytown—the nation’s largest gun safety organization—has policy agendas focusing on ending gun violence. Issue priorities include domestic violence, school shootings, and city gun violence. Action alerts on the organization’s website and through its app direct advocates to engage in lobbying, regulatory influence, and grassroots organizing to reduce gun violence.

[Everytown for Gun Safety](#)

March for Our Lives

Founded by youth who survived a school shooting, March for Our Lives is known for direct action, focused lobbying, and media engagement to change gun laws and reduce gun violence. There is a March for Our Lives chapter in the Kansas City area.

[March for Our Lives](#)

Moms Demand Action

There are Moms Demand Action in every state, and they work on issues such as background checks and safe gun storage, through litigation, lobbying, direct action, and electoral engagement.

[Moms Demand Action](#)

VOTING RIGHTS

The Brennan Center for Justice

The Brennan Center for Justice focuses on democracy, criminal justice, securing the balance of power, and protecting fundamental freedoms while keeping Americans safe. A key focus of the Brennan Center is promoting voting rights access and protecting democratic processes in elections.

[The Brennan Center for Justice](#)

Kansas Appleseed

Kansas Appleseed is a statewide advocacy organization dedicated to the belief that Kansans, working together, can build a more thriving, inclusive, and just Kansas. Believing that all Kansans should be able to participate fully in their communities, Kansas Appleseed has active campaigns for integrated voter engagement.

[Kansas Appleseed](#)

League of Women Voters

A nonpartisan, grassroots organization working to expand voters rights through advocacy, education and litigation at the local, state and national levels.

[League of Women Voters](#)

Loud Light

Loud Light engages, educates, and empowers individuals from underrepresented populations to build community power that has an impact on decision makers. They provide advocacy capacity-building, voter education and mobilization, and leadership development for young people, LGBTQ+ Kansans, people of color, and others whose voices and perspective might otherwise be overlooked by policymakers

[Loud Light](#)

The Voter Network

The Voter Network is dedicated to creating a culture of informed, enthusiastic Kansas voters, especially in communities that have been systematically excluded. They do this through an innovative friend-to-friend effort, Voter to Voter, and by providing reliable, nonpartisan election resources.

[The Voter Network](#)

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

ACLU of Kansas

Opponents of reproductive freedom have been working methodically at the state level to limit access to abortion, and Kansas has been one of the key states targeted by this strategy. The ACLU has worked alongside local coalitions to defend reproductive rights through legislative lobbying, legal challenges, and public education events. We actively oppose bills that limit abortion access or that harass and intimidate doctors, challenge discriminatory policies that affect our rights to make choices about reproductive options, and support efforts to organize communities to defend these rights.

[ACLU of Kansas](#)

Greater Kansas City Women's Political Caucus

The Greater Kansas City Women's Political Caucus (GKCWPC), an affiliate of the National Women's Political Caucus, is a multipartisan, multicultural, grassroots organization dedicated to increasing women's participation in politics and creating a power base designed to achieve equality for all women.

[Greater Kansas City Women's Political Caucus](#)

OneKC for Women

OneKC for Women is an umbrella alliance that brings together several organizations, each with unique roles, all dedicated to providing opportunities and connections for women. OneKC for Women is an alliance of organizations working together to provide resources women need to succeed.

[OneKC for Women](#)

Planned Parenthood

In addition to its mission of being a trusted health care provider, Planned Parenthood is committed to serving as educators and passionate advocates in the US, as well as strong partners to health and rights organizations around the world.

[Planned Parenthood](#)

Planned Parenthood Great Plains Votes

This organization is the advocacy arm of Planned Parenthood Great Plains, the Kansas chapter of Planned Parenthood. The advocacy arms works to support choice and health care access for women.

[Planned Parenthood Great Plains Votes](#)

Susan G. Komen Foundation

The Foundation believes that being an advocate for breast cancer awareness and research funding is one of the best ways you can make a difference. Only through government action can we make the broad, systemic, and lasting change we need to help us achieve our goal of reducing the current number of breast cancer deaths in the U.S. By mobilizing our communities to take action, Susan G. Komen works to ensure the voice and needs of those with breast cancer and their loved ones are heard by policymakers and government regulators.

[Susan G. Komen Foundation](#)

United WE

United WE advances all women's economic and civic leadership to make meaningful change. United WE tackles barriers to women's economic growth and unlocks women's economic potential through research, policy solutions and civic engagement.

[United WE](#)

Women's Equality Coalition of Greater Kansas City

The Women's Equality Coalition is made up of fifteen organizations working together to eliminate discrimination against women in pay and promote opportunities for advancement.

[Women's Equality Coalition of Greater Kansas City](#)

YWCA Northeast Kansas

One of the oldest and largest women's organizations across the nation, YWCA has been at the forefront of the most pressing social movements in the Northeast Kansas area for more than 135 years – from voting rights to civil rights, from affordable housing to pay equity, from violence prevention to health care reform. What sets YWCA Northeast Kansas apart from many other nonprofits is their commitment to comprehensive social services, combined with dedication to creating a more just world through advocacy and community education.

[YWCA Northeast Kansas](#)