



## Kansas Public Health Association

- Promoting and Improving Population Health in Kansas

### Supporting the Public Health System

#### The Issue:

The mission of public health is to ensure conditions in which people can be healthy and have the opportunity to receive equitable access to a fully funded public health system.

We must make wise policy and financial investments that prioritize the health of Kansans. Health is fundamental to every sector of our economy. Healthy kids are better prepared to learn, a healthy workforce is more productive and healthy communities are economic engines. The social, physical, and economic environments in which Kansans live, work, learn and play significantly impact their health. We know that our greatest health challenges and solutions are highly complex and extend beyond the doctor's office. Improving the health of Kansans requires collaboration, a strong public health infrastructure, and stable funding to be successful.

Historically, public health has been recognized for its role in preventing the spread of disease and injury and protecting the community at large. As the rates of chronic disease climb, the role of public health is changing. Accomplishing this increasingly complex mission will require public/private partnerships and all levels of government to take a "health in all policies approach." This requires entities to explore the health effects of every policy they pass, so that healthy choices become easy ones for citizens to make.

Demonstrating the return on investment for public health programs and service enhances the ability of public health agencies to deliver the greatest benefit to the community. Emerging quality and performance assessment practices offer promise for further improvement in public health practice. The voluntary public health accreditation process represents a significant vehicle to structure public health quality and accountability efforts.

#### 2017 Advocacy Priorities

**To assure a strong public health system that protects and promotes the health of all Kansans, KPHA urges the following actions by public health system stakeholders and policymakers:**

1. Support policies that maintain or increase public health funding, including applications for state, federal, or private funding opportunities that support the public health system's mission.
2. Support the efforts of local and state health departments to improve quality and performance, meet national standards, and pursue accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB).
3. Support the efforts of public health system partners to assess and improve the overall performance of the Kansas Public Health System.