

Navigating the Future

A community action plan focused on human services in Johnson County, Kansas.

About the Navigating the Future Project 2005 Progress Update

The predominant public perception is that all Johnson County residents enjoy a comfortable standard of living, and that we have no human service needs in this community. Engaged in a yearlong planning process, more than 200 community leaders, human service providers, consumers and residents told us more could and should be done to address this community's key current and emerging human service needs. The result was a community-wide action plan, called *Navigating the Future*.

Published in June 2003, *Navigating the Future* is intended as a map for human service efforts in Johnson County. It also issues a challenge to every community member to consider how they can help build responsiveness to human need, and as a result, strengthen community life for everyone.

Spearheaded by United Community Services (UCS) of Johnson County, UCS facilitated the planning process and is monitoring progress on the plan's implementation. The plan is organized around five community life categories: economic well-being, health and wellness, inclusion, lifelong learning and development, and safety. For each category there is a vision and an overarching strategy to guide where future action is needed [see reverse side].

The plan identifies 12 strategic actions that were selected to address multiple objectives in one or more of the five categories. The 12 action strategies are catalysts for community-wide action, and each is championed by a community-based organization. This update features progress over the past year and announces next steps in these 12 strategic areas.

Through the efforts of the lead agencies, a network of individuals and organizations are contributing their time and energy to bringing *Navigating the Future* to life. To date, more than 150 individuals and organizations are actively engaged in implementing the action strategies. On behalf of UCS, we wish to thank everyone who has committed time and resources to this endeavor to improve human services in Johnson County.

Gary Anderson, UCS Board President
Gilmore & Bell P.C.

Karen Wulfkuhle, Executive Director
United Community Services of Johnson County

UCS identifies human service needs in Johnson County, Kansas and marshals public and private resources to meet those needs.



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COMMUNITY LIFE CATEGORY	VISION FOR THE NEXT 3 TO 5 YEARS
ECONOMIC WELL-BEING	
	People are able to contribute to their fullest potential in creating a healthy, vibrant economy that in turn advances the well-being of all residents.
HEALTH AND WELLNESS	
	People of all ages reach their maximum capacity for physical and mental well-being and lifelong independence.
INCLUSION	
	People foster mutual respect, value the diversity of each other's differences and take responsibility for the common good.
LIFELONG LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT	
	People of all ages achieve personal potential through lifelong learning and development opportunities.
SAFETY	
	People are safe and feel secure both physically and emotionally in their families and in the community.

OVERARCHING STRATEGIES BY COMMUNITY LIFE CATEGORY	
COMMUNITY LIFE CATEGORY	OVERARCHING STRATEGY FOR THE NEXT 3 TO 5 YEARS
ECONOMIC WELL-BEING	
	Invest in efforts that build economic self-reliance for families and individuals to meet their basic needs.
HEALTH AND WELLNESS	
	Improve access to physical and mental health services for underserved, vulnerable populations.
INCLUSION	
	Build capacity in this community to respectfully and effectively respond to and work with people of diverse cultures.
LIFE LONG LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT	
	Expand the community's commitment to education to include the early and later years of life.
SAFETY	
	Strengthen prevention and other human service responses as an effective means to protect personal and community safety.

Access to Quality Early Education



Where the success of the whole child is our business

Midwest WholeChild Development Group – *Leading the effort to advance this action strategy*

Child care helps keep our economy going and people working. More than 60 percent of all mothers with children under six need child care during the work week, making the availability of high quality child care more important than ever. Early childhood educators play a pivotal role in shaping children’s social and emotional development – and in preparing them to succeed in school. Yet, fewer than 15 percent of child care centers in Johnson County are nationally accredited.

Action Strategy

Expand the implementation of existing strategies that enhance early education quality.

2005 Progress Report

In order to help parents identify high quality child care, the Early Childhood Excellence Project Quality Rating System is being piloted with nine child care centers and three family child care providers in Johnson County. The Quality Rating System addresses teacher quality, program curriculum and family involvement. Businesses throughout the community are invited to support the effort through the *Quality for Kids* project. This project allows area businesses to invest or “adopt” child care programs committed to quality by their participation in Quality Rating System. The *Quality for Kids* project invests in early education quality by providing funds to purchase materials, improve facilities and support scholarships for teachers and students.

Next Steps:

- Continue implementation and expansion of the *Quality for Kids* project.
- Solicit support from businesses throughout the community to invest in, or adopt child care programs by providing funds or other resources.
- Encourage more child care programs to improve their quality through participation in the Quality Rating System by enabling them to qualify for additional funding and/or resources through the *Quality for Kids* project.
- Advocate to ensure that the Quality Rating System initiative is fully integrated with the Tri-County Smart Start Initiative for seamless support to early learning programs.

Investing in Quality Child Care Makes Sense

Studies of early care and education programs consistently report that quality programs boost reading and math skills in children, and reduce the need for special education. Long-term studies show that children who attend high quality child care programs have higher adult earnings, decreased reliance on social services and lower rates of delinquency and crime. While the benefits are clear, many young parents at the beginning of their careers cannot afford to pay the cost of purchasing high quality child care. As a result, there is a gap between what parents can afford to pay and the quality of care provided.

Child care advocates throughout Kansas continue to seek investment in strategies that help bridge the gap. One successful program, the Tri-County Smart Start initiative, serves Johnson, Leavenworth and Wyandotte Counties and aims to improve the quality of care in this region's center-based programs by recruiting and retaining high quality teachers. Using a combination of state, federal and private dollars, the Smart Start pilot program enables child care centers to boost wages of their teachers, thereby raising the quality of the programs.

Organizations and Individuals Involved in Implementation:

Barbara Ballentine, Midwest WholeChild Development Group
Jim Caccamo, Metropolitan Council on Early Learning
Head Start of Shawnee Mission
Nancy Keel, Parents as Teachers
Nancy Mitchell, Midwest WholeChild Development Group

Dean Olson, The Family Conservancy
Carol Smith, United Community Services of Johnson County
Abby Thorman, Greater Kansas City Community Foundation
Larry Wynn, Polsinelli, Shalton and Welte

For more information on this initiative contact Barbara Ballentine, Executive Director, Midwest WholeChild Development Group, 913.341.6200.

Aging Needs Assessment



Johnson County Human Services and Aging – *Leading the effort to advance this action strategy*

One in eight Americans are over the age of 65 and this percentage is expected to grow steadily for the foreseeable future. By the year 2030 it is predicted that 22 percent of the population nationwide will be 65 or older. Like the rest of the country, Johnson County's aging population is increasing. For example, there are more than 45,000 Johnson County residents over age 65 – a number that grew by 35 percent from 1990 to 2000. Those over age 85 nearly doubled over the past decade. The good news is that people, particularly women, are living longer. People reaching the age of 65 today can expect to live nearly 20 more years. The bad news is we are not fully prepared to accommodate the needs of our aging population.

Action Strategy

Conduct comprehensive assessment that will result in a community wide long-range plan for the significant growth in the senior population that is expected over the next 20 years.

2005 Progress Report

To assess the needs of our aging population, Johnson County Area Agency on Aging, sponsored by Johnson County Human Services and Aging, met with experts to collect and analyze relevant data on demographic trends, medical care, housing and transportation. Johnson County's publication for seniors, *The Best Times*, distributed a readers' survey for adults over the age of 60. The following needs were identified as the most significant to today's senior population:

- affordable medications
- maintaining a healthy diet
- independent living
- mental wellness
- affordable housing
- accessible and affordable home and yard maintenance
- senior friendly transportation
- accessible medical and dental care

Next Steps:

The agency identified additional areas for further assessment including needs around:

- long term care facilities
- family caregivers of older adults
- workforce issues related to serving a growing senior population
- specific needs of culturally diverse communities
- grandparents who are raising children.

Unique Health Care Needs of the Elderly

The health care needs of the elderly are significantly different from those of the general population. As they age, older people face numerous and overlapping problems related to isolation, failing health as well as physical and mental limitations. Frequently, elderly people are geographically separated from their children and family members and have no one who can assist them. Unfortunately, those who are most vulnerable are most likely to live alone and to have limited income. According to the National Council on Aging, eighty percent of those living alone are women and nearly half of persons aged 85 or older live alone. Older women, the very old and minority elderly, have the lowest incomes among the older population, severely limiting their ability to purchase health care, goods, and services which enable them to live independently.

Organizations and Individuals Involved in Implementation:

Linda Wright, Johnson County Area Agency on Aging
Eldonna Chestnut, Johnson County Health Department
Irene French, Community Volunteer
Kathleen Lamm, Johnson County Area Agency on Aging
Ellen Laner, Community Volunteer
K.J. Langlais, Johnson County Nursing Center

Jay Leak, Johnson County Area Agency on Aging
Norge Jerome, Ph.D., Johnson County Commission on Aging
Liz Kendall, University of Missouri, Center for Aging Studies
Mitzi McFatrach, Foundation on Aging
Janis McMillen, Ph.D., Johnson County League of Women Voters
Trish Moore, Johnson County Human Services and Aging

For more information on this initiative contact Linda Wright, Director, Johnson County Area Agency on Aging, 913.477.8102

Asset Development: Individual Development Accounts (IDAs)



The Family Conservancy (formerly Heart of America Family Services) –
Leading the effort to advance this action strategy

Living the American dream often means owning a home, starting a business or going to college. Yet, for many of us, those dreams are seemingly unobtainable because we do not have the history, knowledge or cash to start saving and building assets. Half of all American households do not have even \$1,000 in investable assets. And more than 10 million Americans do not have a bank account – making it even more difficult to learn the financial management skills necessary to get ahead.

Without assets, poor families are likely to remain poor. One strategy for breaking the cycle of poverty is helping families save assets through an Individual Development Account or IDA. Similar to employer matched retirement plans, such as 401k accounts – an IDA is a matched savings account that must be used for a specific purpose. IDAs help families with modest incomes to acquire the assets that build financial security, such as first homes, small businesses and post-secondary education. Not only does the program offer an incentive to save, but it also includes financial education and direct one-to-one support that helps families overcome barriers to saving and asset accumulation.

Action Strategy

Expand the availability of IDAs in Johnson County by tapping additional financial resources .

2005 Progress Report

The Family Conservancy staff identified and solidified support from additional stakeholders and community partners to expand the initiative. Last fall, The Family Conservancy sought federal and local grants to create the capacity for 50 people to open accounts in Johnson County. In addition to \$5,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds from Johnson County, over \$1,000 in private donations was raised at a National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week chili supper, which also served as an opportunity to inform the 200 attendees about the IDA program. The Family Conservancy also received a federal Assets for Independence grant, which brought in \$115,000 for expanding IDAs in Johnson County.

The Family Conservancy also developed a partnership with the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services to offer financial education and IDA accounts to Johnson County residents and five other counties in the region, who are transitioning from public cash assistance. And, after several years of consideration the Kansas legislature adopted IDA legislation in 2005 that will provide \$500,000 per year in tax credits to organizations contributing to participating nonprofit agencies. This legislation will help expand the program even further in coming years.

Next Steps:

- Continue fundraising efforts to provide IDAs to more people, including an application for the new Kansas IDA tax credits.
- Identify business partners who want to invest in IDAs as an employee retention tool.
- Beginning in January 2006, The Family Conservancy will devote additional staff resources to expanding its IDA program in Johnson County.
- Educate the public and policymakers on IDA implementation and the positive benefits of asset development in strengthening family economic security.
- Expand partnerships in Johnson County to serve both English and Spanish speaking people who might be eligible for the IDA program.

How You Can Get Involved

Community members can help ensure the success of the IDA program in Johnson County in several ways:

- Support low-income families by donating to the match pool. Each dollar you donate brings in three dollars through participants' savings, federal funds and in-kind community donations.
- Volunteer to teach financial education on topics ranging from balancing a checkbook to starting a small business.
- Contact The Family Conservancy to learn more about how asset building leads to a vibrant, healthy community.

Organizations Involved in Implementation:

The Family Conservancy
Catholic Community Services
County Club Bank
El Centro, Inc
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
First National Bank of Olathe
Gold Bank
Johnson County Housing Coalition

Johnson County Human Services and Aging Multi-Services Centers
Johnson County Interfaith Hospitality Network
Metcalf Bank
SAFEHOME
The Salvation Army, Olathe
Team Bank
United Community Services
US Bank

For more information on this initiative contact Julie Riddle, Program Manager, The Family Conservancy, 816.418.8412.

Making Community Connections



Johnson County Park and Recreation District - *Leading the effort to advance this action strategy*

Individuals who are connected to the broader community feel a sense of well being and are more likely to be active participants in society. Connected neighbors not only look out for one another's safety, but show compassion through acts of kindness when others are in need.

Action Strategy

Build and expand informal support systems within our neighborhoods and community. Convene stakeholders, including faith communities, social services organizations and local governments to assess and build community connections strategies.

2005 Progress Report

Area park and recreation agencies have begun to provide dedicated space in their respective promotional materials for the purpose of promoting activities and programs that advance community connections. In addition, periodic meetings are convened of service providers who are already providing activities or programs that address this strategy.

For the past year, the Johnson County Library has offered various programs intended to celebrate, educate and connect with Johnson County's diverse populations, including the "Opportunities for Community Involvement" program.

Next Steps:

- Create a county-wide master calendar of activities and programs that promote community connections.
- Expand the number of organizations whose mission includes community connections as a goal or desired outcome.
- Invite public input on where community connections need to be strengthened such as through speaker's bureaus and presentations to service clubs, professional organizations and others.

Park and Recreation Helps Build Community

The benefits of recreation and parks span every age and demographic. Recreational activity has a proven effect of safeguarding youth, preserving family cohesiveness and promoting healthful living across the life span. The benefits of parks to the community at large are many: research shows that parks aid in enhancing community spirit, and in promoting ethnic and cultural harmony by providing a common gathering place for all.

The mission of the Johnson County Park and Recreation District is to “enhance the quality of life in Johnson County by providing high-quality parks, services and recreation programs.” Each year, the District records more than seven million park visitors and nearly 1.5 million recreation participants in 4,000 programs – from soccer leagues to cultural festivals to volunteer events that clear brush and plant trees.

Organizations and Individuals Involved in Implementation:

Michael Meadors, Johnson County Park and Recreation
Arnold Aaron, Family Resources Center
Steve Baysinger, Olathe Parks and Recreation
Chris Claxton, Leawood Parks and Recreation
Steven Corry, Mission Parks and Recreation
Mary Eads, Johnson County Park and Recreation
Dawn Grosdidier, Blue Valley Recreation Commission
Sandie Kelly, Kansas School for the Deaf

Donna Lauffer, Johnson County Library
Bill Nicks, Lenexa Parks and Recreation
Mary Pitnick, Johnson County Corrections
Steve Rinkel, Johnson County Developmental Supports
Carol Robinson, Mid-Continent Council of Girl Scouts
Billie Thompson, Community Relations Park Police
Johnson County Park and Recreation

For more information on this initiative contact Michael Meadors, Director, Johnson County Park and Recreation District, 913.438.7275.

Cultural Proficiency



United Way of Johnson County - *Leading the effort to advance this action strategy*

Johnson County is home to an increasingly diverse population. For example, the number of foreign born immigrants moving to Johnson County has more than doubled in the past decade – bringing with them new ideas, new expectations and a desire to fully participate in society. But if members of minority groups feel misunderstood or invisible, they often will not seek or receive timely and culturally appropriate services.

To be culturally proficient, majority culture must be willing to understand diverse cultural norms and learn about their own biases. This is especially important for the staff of human services agencies that serve all of us. Human services should be delivered in a culturally sensitive manner to all people, regardless of gender, race, national origin, age, religion, disability, ethnicity, immigration or sexual orientation.

Action Strategy

Link human service organizations with tools and models that can strengthen the cultural proficiency of human service delivery.

2005 Progress Report

United Way of Johnson County convened a Cultural Proficiency Task Force for the purpose of identifying the challenges in developing culturally proficient organizations and to study tools, models and best practices for enhancing cultural competency. The task force reviewed 24 model programs on developing culturally competent volunteers, boards and staff, as well as assessment tools for organizations.

In September 2004, United Way of Johnson County began hosting “Culture Connections,” an educational series of nine programs designed to help human services agencies and organizations become more responsive to diverse consumer groups. The programs feature panelists representing diverse cultures who share their personal perspectives on various aspects of the culture. To date, five programs have been held with between 150-200 people attending each program. This series has attracted human service providers as well as employees from local governments, schools, health related fields, businesses and faith-based organizations.

Those who attend the programs enhance their ability to:

- Understand cultural differences and similarities,
- Become more sensitive and responsive to diverse client groups,
- Work more effectively with colleagues and co-workers from diverse backgrounds, and
- Develop strategies for agency staff and board recruitment to ensure diverse voices are incorporated into decision making.

Next Steps:

- Continue educational series through January 2006.
- A planning focus group is scheduled for August of 2005, sponsored by the City of Overland Park. Members of the planning committee, partnering organizations and individuals that have regularly attended the Culture Connections programs will convene to determine the “next steps” to this series.

Culture Connections Programs

A series of programs targeting various ethnic and cultural groups offered bi-monthly at no cost to participants. All programs are held at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, 11100 College Boulevard, from 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. The remaining sessions are:

Muslim Culture	July 15, 2005
Deaf Culture	September 9, 2005
Asian Culture	November 4, 2005
Russian Culture	January 20, 2006

Organizations and Individuals Involved in Implementation:

Jennifer Kennally, United Way of Johnson County
Cathy Anderson, Jewish Vocational Services
Marsha Bennet, Johnson County Library
Mary Biere, Johnson County Human Resources
Shane Cuevas, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Ramona Downs, The Family Conservancy
Carolyn Kadel, Johnson County Community College
Denny Kurogi, Johnson County Community College
Trish Moore, Johnson County Human Services and Aging
Jon Pinker, Johnson County Community College

Willetta Proctor, Johnson County Human Resources
Lois Rice, CASA
Carol Robinson, Mid-Continent Council of Girl Scouts
Paula Robinson, Johnson County Human Resources
Megan Toal, Consultant and Facilitator
George Turner, Turner Professional Group
Barbara Upton-Garver, Johnson County Park and Recreation
Wendy Webb, Blue Valley Public Schools
David Wiebe, Johnson County Mental Health Center

For more information on this initiative contact Jennifer Kennally, Executive Director, United Way of Johnson County, 913.438.3828.

Family and Personal Safety

COMVAC

Community Action Violence Council

Community Violence Action Council - *Leading the effort to advance this action strategy*

All individuals and families should be able to face the challenges of everyday life without being harmed by family, friends and others. But every day, children, adults and senior citizens are victims of family violence or abuse, robbing them of the chance to be productive members of society. Human services play a critical role in personal and community safety – from aiding crime prevention to providing the crucial supports that protect victims. Not only do such efforts extend a safe environment for people experiencing abuse or family violence, but also provide services that reduce recidivism and successfully return offenders to community life.

Action Strategy

Implement plans that will improve the response to those residents most at risk of abuse and family violence.

2005 Progress Report

The Community Action Violence Council (COMVAC) promotes personal and family safety by working directly in the community to prevent and improve the response to violence. Current efforts focus on safety of children and families in co-occurring family violence situations, domestic violence prevention strategies, and raising public awareness about elder abuse. As part of COMVAC's *Safe from the Start* initiative, guidelines for screening family violence victims were distributed to police and other community response professionals. To advance the initiative, a training video is being planned. Additional materials will guide specific interview questions to ask children and adults who may be involved in domestic disputes. This training will be offered to staff from organizations that directly serve residents involved in abuse or domestic violence situations, such as law enforcement, Kansas Social and Rehabilitation Services, Court Services, SAFEHOME, TLC's Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center, Sunflower House, C.A.S.A. of Johnson and Wyandotte Counties, and others.

A campaign aimed at male youth is also underway. Called *Teach Early*, it trains athletic coaches and other adult male role models on how to talk to young boys to convey the message that violence towards women and girls is wrong. In addition, COMVAC was instrumental in launching a new public awareness campaign throughout metropolitan Kansas City on elder abuse called *Violence Knows no Age*.

Next Steps:

- Create and distribute a *Safe from the Start* video and secure funding for additional materials.
- Secure funding for the *Teach Early* campaign to teach boys that violence against women and girls is wrong.
- Continue to implement *Violence Knows no Age*, a public awareness campaign to educate people about the problem of elder abuse.

Domestic Violence in Johnson County

While overall crime rates are down in Johnson County, reported domestic abuse cases are at an all time high. After declining for two years, the number of cases jumped to 1,794 in 2004 – 12 percent higher than the previous five-year average. Despite a drop in homicides last year, the vast majority of homicides occur as a result of domestic violence. During 2003, 1,481 child abuse and neglect reports were made and abuse and neglect was confirmed for 490 children. Research shows that child abuse victims are 50 percent more likely to be arrested as juveniles and 40 percent more likely to be arrested for a violent crime.

Organizations and Individuals Involved in Implementation:

Risë Haneberg, Johnson County Court Services
Amy Boydston, Sunflower House
Mary Cole, Kansas Dept. of Social and Rehabilitation Services
Rick Cunningham, HDR Engineering, Inc.
Harriet Duff, Health Partnership Clinic of Johnson County
Megan Emmerson, SAFEHOME
Jill Geller, Johnson County Park and Recreation
Dee Ann Heptas, Heritage United Methodist Church
Sharon Katz, SAFEHOME
Mark Kessler, Overland Park Police Department
Susan Lebovitz, SAFEHOME

Mike Marshall, Johnson County Sheriff's Office
Patricia McCollum, Healthy Families
Paul Morrison, Johnson County District Attorney
Timothy Mulcahy, Justice Information Management System
Nancy Orrick, Private Attorney
Lorie Peterson, SAFEHOME
Brian Porch, Johnson County District Attorney's Office
Cindy Riddel, Kansas Dept. of Social and Rehabilitation Services
Palle Rilinger, MOCSA
Linda Wright, Johnson County Area Agency on Aging
Karen Wulfkuhle, United Community Services

For more information on this initiative contact Risë Haneberg, Director, Johnson County Court Services, 913.324.6927.

Innovations in Health Care Access



Health Partnership Clinic of Johnson County – *Leading the effort to advance this action strategy*

Rising health care costs are a financial drain to any family budget – but to the low-income residents of Johnson County who are uninsured or underinsured, it can be a financial disaster. Even though the vast majority of uninsured adults work, their jobs do not offer coverage or many cannot afford the health insurance that is available to them. From 25,000 to 45,000 Johnson County residents have no health insurance, according to estimates released since 2000. Young adults ages 19 – 24 had the highest percentage of uninsured (15.5 percent) among age groups, per the Kansas Health Insurance Commissioner’s 2001 study. Johnson County has some services in place to address acute care, wellness and prevention needs. However, our ability to meet the growing health care needs of the indigent and working poor is difficult to secure.

Action Strategy

Create a new community collaboration to explore ways to strengthen health care access for the uninsured and underinsured in Johnson County.

2005 Progress Report

Last year, stakeholders representing medical/mental health care providers, the business community, safety net nonprofit organizations, County government and concerned residents formed a collaborative initiative to research gaps in the existing health care system. In particular, ways to address emerging needs of the medically indigent were studied. The task force concentrated on issues or strategies that have a reasonable chance of success in the coming years. Targeted needs include the following:

- The lack of medical resources for low-income, uninsured who have medical needs beyond the primary care level;
- The need for increased clinic capacity and community support for the low-income uninsured;
- The need for greater resources to help support area hospitals offering indigent and charitable care.

Next Steps:

- Disseminate an information matrix of resources and eligibility and/or access requirements to medical providers and agencies to improve referrals and facilitate access to appropriate resources.
- Continue to analyze information to determine if other needs have the potential to be successfully addressed by collaboration members.
- Seek additional resources, including volunteers, to expand the safety-net for uninsured and underinsured residents.

The Growing Demand for Health Care in Johnson County

The demand for health care services has risen dramatically in recent years. Founded in 1992 as the action outgrowth of a UCS study on Johnson County's uninsured, the Health Partnership Clinic of Johnson County is dedicated to improving the health of medically underserved residents by mobilizing community resources to provide quality acute care. With a small staff and more than 150 volunteers, people can be diagnosed and treated at one of two clinics in Johnson County.

In 2003, the year that the *Navigating the Future* project began, the Health Partnership Clinic averaged between nine and 12 clinic sessions per week. A clinic session is up to three hours of scheduled patient appointments per each physician. This year, the demand for care has increased so much that the number of sessions is between 17 and 22 per week – and the clinics are full. In order to respond to this growing need, the Health Partnership Clinic plans to expand its capacity in the coming year.

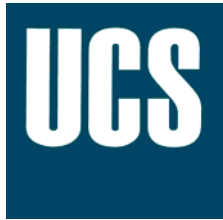
Organizations Involved in Implementation:

Health Partnership Clinic of Johnson County
Children's Mercy Hospital
Johnson County Health Department
Johnson County Mental Health Center
Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved
Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Kansas Dept. of Social and Rehabilitation Services
Kansas Migrant Farmworker Program
Menorah Medical Center
Mental Health Association of the Heartland
Olathe Medical Center
Shawnee Mission Medical Center

For more information on this initiative contact Harriet Duff, Executive Director, Health Partnership Clinic of Johnson County, 913.648.2266.

Response to Homelessness



United Community Services - *Leading the effort to advance this action strategy*

Homeless households face a range of obstacles to obtaining and maintaining housing. Frequently family members have multiple human services needs to be addressed, such as credit problems, substance abuse, health problems, mental illness and unemployment. United Community Services of Johnson County (UCS) serves as the project coordinator for the Johnson County Continuum of Care on Homelessness, a community collaboration of service providers and concerned residents working to improve the response to homelessness in Johnson County.

Action Strategy

Expand the response to individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

2005 Progress Report

The Continuum of Care on Homelessness meets monthly to set and address collaboration goals. For the second year, the Continuum observed National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week in Johnson County by inviting local governments to issue proclamations to raise awareness about the plight of those without a home or who are hungry in Johnson County. Proclamations were issued by the Board of County Commissioners and the cities of De Soto, Gardner, Leawood, Lenexa, Merriam, Mission, Olathe, Overland Park, Prairie Village, Shawnee and Spring Hill, double the number issued in 2003. Other Awareness Week activities included a chili supper, which raised funds and brought information about asset building as a tool to overcome poverty to more than 200 people.

UCS provides coordination and grant writing for the annual application to the Department of Housing and Urban Development for federal funding to address homelessness. The 2005 application secured more than \$490,000 in funding for four Johnson County homeless service providers, including Johnson County Mental Health Center, Johnson County Community College/Olathe Family Resource Center, Mid America Assistance Coalition and the Johnson County Interfaith Hospitality Network. Between 2000 and 2004, the Continuum attracted over \$1.5 million in new federal funding to Johnson County directed to a range of needs for homeless persons.

Next Steps:

Continuum goals seek to document economic hardship and homelessness in Johnson County, and then increase the public awareness and response to address the needs of homeless or near homeless persons. As an example, Continuum members report that past evictions and other credit/debt issues make it difficult for homeless or near homeless families to obtain housing.

To address this concern, the Continuum formed a new task force in 2004, called Financial Fitness, to expand opportunities for low-income residents to gain money management skills. The Continuum is seeking volunteers to provide training and financial counseling to residents, including using a training program developed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) called *Money Smart*, designed to help adults outside the financial mainstream to enhance their money management skills.

2005 Homeless Census: A Snapshot of Homelessness in Johnson County

The Johnson County Continuum of Care on Homelessness joined together with communities across the metro to conduct the first regional count of homeless persons on January 27, 2005. In Johnson County alone, 276 homeless persons were identified – half of whom were children under the age of 18. Three out of 10 lived on the street or expected to lose their current housing within the week.

Continuum members observed that the face of homelessness is young, many of whom are young parents who often have never had a permanent residence of their own. More of today's homeless families with children also battle chronic issues such as mental illness or domestic violence. For homeless individuals, limited opportunities for housing exist.

Organizations Involved in Implementation:

United Community Services	Johnson County Mental Health Center
Catholic Community Services	Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services
College Church of the Nazarene	Mid America Assistance Coalition
El Centro, Inc.	Olathe Covenant Church
The Family Conservancy	Olathe Head Start
Greater Kansas City Housing Information Center	Olathe Housing Authority
Health Partnership Clinic of Johnson County	City of Overland Park
Homeless Services Coalition of Greater Kansas City	SAFEHOME, Inc.
Johnson County Community Development Office	Salvation Army Family Lodge
Johnson County Human Services and Aging, Multi-Service Centers	Shawnee Community Services
Johnson County Housing Coalition	TLC for Children and Families
Johnson County Housing Services	US Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center
Johnson County Interfaith Hospitality Network	Volunteer Center of Johnson County

For more information on this initiative contact Carol Smith, Associate Director, United Community Services of Johnson County, 913.438.4764.

Housing Opportunity Campaign



Johnson County Housing Coalition - *Leading the effort to advance this action strategy*

A safe, stable place to call home provides the foundation for positive outcomes for both individual and community well-being. For many Johnson County low and moderate income households, however, the ability to find and retain income-appropriate housing continues to be a dilemma. An increasing number of Johnson County households are paying more than 30 percent of their incomes for housing – the percentage point at which housing becomes unaffordable or a cost burden. Owning a home is out of reach for many workers in Johnson County, where the average home sale price was \$214,000 in 2002 – requiring an annual income of at least \$55,000 in order to qualify for a mortgage. Rental housing also creates challenges in a market where an average two-bedroom apartment costs from \$710 to \$805 per month, requiring an annual income of more than \$28,000.

Action Strategy

Build a campaign to promote the planning and development of a greater spectrum of housing opportunities in Johnson County.

2005 Progress Report

A report released by Johnson County Government, the “Johnson County Housing Market and Needs Analysis,” calls for a greater understanding of the long term needs for workforce and other income appropriate housing within this community. The report was used as a springboard for dialogue with key stakeholders on ways to identify and promote national models and other effective strategies that address today’s emerging housing challenges. Dialogue questions include assessing the effect of zoning regulations, density limitations and other administrative barriers that limit both the creation of new income-appropriate affordable housing, as well as the renovation of existing housing stock. Other progress to report includes:

- Housing advocates from around Kansas were successful in changing state law to provide tax exempt status for real property used by nonprofit Community Housing Development Organizations.
- The Johnson County Housing Coalition’s housing inventory increased from 70 to 152 units. The long term goal is to establish 500 rental units by the year 2010.

Next Steps:

Discussions are underway about new strategies to strengthen the development of workforce housing and other income-appropriate housing options, including:

- Continue to encourage county and local elected officials to make income-appropriate housing a priority.
- Create a housing trust fund.
- Work with local officials and developers to create more mixed density residential development and higher density housing in Johnson County.
- Increase housing inventory of units targeted to homeless, very-low income and special needs populations.

Projected Growth in Need for Income-Appropriate Housing: 2000 to 2015

	2000	2003	2005	2010	2015
Cost Burdened Households	27,423	39,221	41,538	45,966	50,867
Units Lacking Complete Plumbing or Kitchen	1,292	741	540	304	203
Overcrowded Units	3,115	3,736	4,212	5,695	7,701
Pre-1950 Units with Households in Poverty	656	656	656	656	656
Total	32,486	44,354	49,946	52,621	59,427
<i>Need Minus Potential Double Counting</i>					
Lower Boundary of Projected Need	27,423	39,221	41,538	45,966	50,867
Upper Boundary of Projected Need	29,996	42,025	44,718	50,319	57,048

Source: *Johnson County Housing Market and Needs Analysis, March 2004.*

Organizations Involved in Implementation:

Johnson County Housing Coalition
 El Centro, Inc.
 Habitat for Humanity
 Home Builders Association of Greater Kansas City
 Johnson County Area Agency on Aging

Johnson County Community College
 Johnson County Developmental Supports
 Johnson County Housing Authority
 Kansas City Regional Association of Realtors
 United Community Services

For more information on this initiative contact Allan Quigley, Executive Director, Johnson County Housing Coalition, 913.390.0413.

Positive Youth Development



Partnership for Children - *Leading the effort to advance this action strategy*

Positive youth development means promoting services and opportunities to support all young people in gaining a sense of competence, usefulness, belonging and empowerment. Successful youth development activities involve the entire community, including young people themselves, in creating services and opportunities that help our youth grow up to be happy and productive adults.

A key component of youth development involves out-of-school time. Studies show that adolescents frequently engage in risky behavior – substance abuse and sexual activity – between the hours of 3:00 and 6:00 p.m. Quality afterschool activities provide a safe and nurturing environment in which youth increase their academic achievement and learn social skills.

Action Strategy

Sustain and initiate public/private partnerships to offer enriching afterschool programs and positive social interactions.

2005 Progress Report

Led by the Partnership for Children (PFC), the Out-of-School Time Collaborative is a regional effort to increase the capacity and quality of afterschool services throughout the metropolitan area. The Collaborative includes youth serving agencies, the faith community, parents and schools. The PFC recently secured a grant to place full-time AmeriCorps workers in afterschool programs in Johnson and Wyandotte Counties. So far, three have been placed in Johnson County libraries to work with middle school students.

PFC also submitted a proposal through U.S. Senator Sam Brownback's office for special appropriation funds to improve existing afterschool programs and create others where needed.

Next Steps:

- Re-submit a grant application to support the continuation of the AmeriCorps afterschool tutor program for the 2005-2006 school year.
- Continue to work with Senator Brownback's office and other members of the Kansas Congressional delegation to secure funding.
- Continue collaborative advocacy with other child advocates in Topeka, including Early Head Start, Kansas Action for Children, and Kansas Child Care Resource and Referral Association - to ensure that early learning funding, such as Smart Start Kansas, is strengthened, and that school-age child care regulations that promote quality are not weakened.
- Develop plans with the Kansas Enrichment Network to increase the number of quality afterschool programs in Kansas to serve more youth.

Kauffman Teen Survey

Supported by a grant from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, an annual survey of teens throughout the metropolitan area is conducted to provide a historical record of youth attitudes and behaviors, including self-reported alcohol, tobacco and other drug use. The survey also collects information about how teens spend their free time, such as participation in after school activities. The results of the 2005 Teen Survey, recently unveiled at an event sponsored by the Partnership for Children, show that while overall tobacco and drug use among teens is on the decline in Johnson County, there was an increase in tobacco use among 10th graders. When asked about their general concerns and fears, teens report that they are most worried about contracting a sexually transmitted disease, becoming a teen parent or becoming a victim of sexual assault. For more about the Kauffman Teen Survey check the Partnership for Children's website at www.pfc.org.

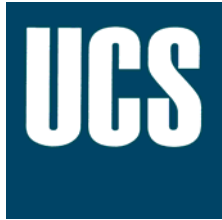
Organizations and Individuals Involved in Implementation:

Janice Ellis, Partnership for Children
Elizabeth Barker-Jarvis, Keys Youth Services, Inc.
Jenn Beard, Youth Volunteer Corps of Greater Kansas City
Barbara Burks, Johnson County Mental Health Center
Bob Drummond, TLC for Children and Families
Janine Gracy, Johnson County Regional Prevention Center
Debbie Gudenkauf, De Soto Public Schools
Rise Haneberg, Johnson County Court Services
Jean Hatfield, Johnson County Library
Judy Hunt, Board Member, Partnership for Children

Nancy Keel, Parents as Teachers
Jennifer Kennally, United Way of Johnson County
James Khalili, Lifeskills Management Center
Roger Lambson, Community Volunteer
Rabbi Mark Levin, Congregation Beth Torah
Kory Norris, Olathe Schools
Mary Ann Pitnick, Johnson County Corrections Dept.
Maria Reyes, El Centro, Inc.
Marya Schott, United Community Services
Judge James Vano, Johnson County District Court

For more information on this initiative contact Janice Ellis, President, Partnership for Children, 816.531.9200.

Public Awareness of Human Needs



United Community Services - *Leading the effort to advance this action strategy*

Recent and projected demographic shifts in Johnson County’s rapidly growing population call for increased public awareness of human needs. United Community Services (UCS) of Johnson County assumed the lead to expand awareness by key community stakeholders of the needs in this community.

Action Strategy

Disseminate information on human needs in Johnson County.

2005 Progress Report

UCS analyzes and makes available demographic and social indicator data on emerging Johnson County human service trends. UCS strives to expand awareness of human need in Johnson County through multiple avenues: publication of periodic fact sheets and newsletters, presentations to policy makers, human service organizations, and civic leaders, data on the UCS web site and other publications.

2005 Demographic Update

- **Key Trend – *Rapidly Increasing Population Equals More Human Service Demand***

An estimated 496,691 people lived in Johnson County in 2004 – 10 percent or 45,605 more persons than in 2000.

Johnson County Child Population Change 2000 – 2003

	2000 *	2003	Number Change	Percent Change
Under 5 Years	33,854	34,429	+ 575	+ 1.7%
5-9 Years	34,117	34,885	+ 768	+ 2.3%
10-14 Years	34,663	35,718	+ 1,055	+ 3.0%
15-17 Years	19,962	21,281	+ 1,319	+ 6.6%
18-19 Years	10,053	11,879	+ 1,826	+ 18.2%
Total	132,649	138,192	+ 5,543	+ 4.2%

* Census Population Estimates: Reflects changes to Census 2000 population from the Count Resolution Program.

Johnson County Senior Population Change 2000 – 2003

	2000 *	2003	Number Change	Percent Change
Ages 65 – 69	11,913	12,855	+ 942	+ 7.9%
Ages 70 – 74	11,097	11,252	+ 155	+ 1.4%
Ages 75 – 79	9,788	9,955	+ 167	+ 1.7%
Ages 80 – 84	6,591	7,505	+ 914	+ 13.9%
Ages 85 +	5,986	6,578	+ 592	+ 9.9%
Total	45,375	48,145	+ 2,770	+ 6.1%

* Census Population Estimates: Reflects changes to Census 2000 population from the Count Resolution Program.

▪ **Key Trend – Greater Population Diversity**

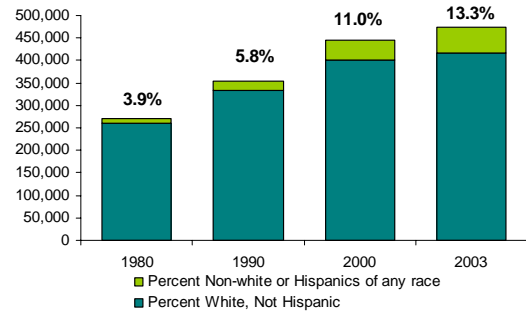
Over 60,000 residents identify with a racial or ethnic minority – double that of a decade ago. This creates challenges for service providers to increase their cultural competence.

Johnson County Race & Ethnicity
Growth by Key Population Groups 2000 - 2003

	2000	2003	Number Change	Percent Change
White	401,428	417,268	15,840	+ 4%
Asian	12,697	17,984	5,287	+ 42%
Black	11,568	13,803	2,235	+ 19%
Hispanics (of any race)	17,957	22,329	4,372	+ 24%
Other*	1,920	1,623	-297	- 15%
Two or More Races	5,516	8,530	3,014	+ 55%
Grand Total	451,086	481,531	30,445	+ 7%

Other category includes: American Indian/Alaska Native, Pacific Islander and Some Other Race

Johnson County Population by Race & Ethnicity



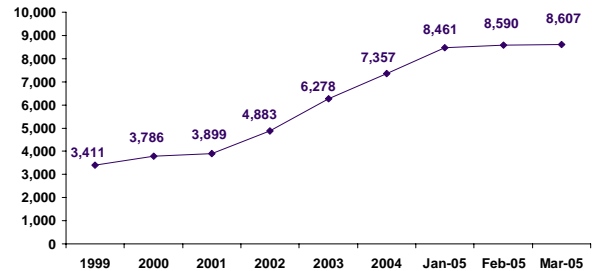
▪ **Key Trend – More People with Modest Incomes**

50 percent more residents live in poverty today than in 2000. For a family of three, the 2005 poverty level is \$16,090. Three-person families living in Johnson County require incomes between \$25,400 and \$40,400 – with variance due to the ages of children – to live without public or charitable support, according to a recent study. *Source:* Kansas Household Self-Sufficiency Standard, commissioned by Kansas Action for Children, February 2005.

Poverty in Context

	Johnson County		Kansas City Region (MSA)		Kansas	
	2000	2003	2000	2003	2000	2003
Total Persons at 100% Poverty	15,323	23,026	147,703	164,540	257,829	283,745
% in Poverty	3.4%	4.8%	8.5%	9.1%	9.9%	10.8%
Change in Persons Since 2000	+7,703		+16,837		+25,916	

Social and Rehabilitation Services Food Stamps
Average Monthly Participants



For more information on this initiative contact Marya Schott, Director for Community Initiatives, United Community Services of Johnson County, 913.438.4764.

Data Source:

*Kansas Department of Social & Rehabilitation Services
U.S. Census Bureau (2000 Decade Census, 2003 American Community Survey, 2003 Current Population Estimates Program)*

Transportation Study



Johnson County Transit and Mid-America Regional Council –

Leading the effort to advance this action strategy

Quality of life depends upon access to opportunity. But, for those who cannot afford a car or cannot drive, opportunities are diminished. Johnson County Transit together with the Mid-America Regional Council Smart Moves partners are taking the lead to implement a regional transit system. In addition to improved access to jobs, residents will have greater access to health and human services and other community life activities. Benefits will accrue to not only the self-sufficiency and well-being of Johnson County residents without cars, but also businesses and human services agencies across the region.

Action Strategy

Identify feasible models and practical options to aid transportation access.

2005 Progress Report

Supported by leaders throughout the metropolitan region, Smart Moves would more than double the transit options for area-wide riders. Smart Moves is designed to transform Johnson County transit from a focus on peak-hour commuter trips to a comprehensive system of local and regional transit services. Services for those with disabilities will be enhanced through new, more accessible vehicles and additional flexible routes that will bring transit vehicles closer to the curb.

In the past year, area transit officials have completed plans to serve the mainstream as well as specialized systems to serve those with impairments that affect mobility, such as the disabled and/or seniors. Costs and revenue estimates have been completed along with a draft funding strategy, which seeks to secure state funding authorization in 2006 and a ballot initiative as early as 2007.

Next Steps:

- Conduct a community-wide listening campaign on new proposals to improve and strengthen transit plans.
- Convene transit and human services planning team to develop service delivery options for the specialized transit services, such as a “One-Stop” shop for transit information in the metropolitan area.
- Work with legislators in Kansas and Missouri to authorize transit funding proposal in 2006.
- Explore potential ballot initiative for 2007.

Smart Moves for the Elderly and Disabled

Serving the transportation needs of the elderly and persons with disabilities requires a specialized approach. Across the region, transportation needs are estimated to exceed supply by 60 percent for these groups. Smart Moves proposes to close this and other transportation gaps by providing a highly accessible mainstream system, designed to maximize use by people of all ability levels. Easy-on low-floor buses, wheelchair lifts and call-a-ride services are all currently available on a limited basis. Smart Moves specialized services will be offered for those too frail, or otherwise unable to use the mainstream system.

Organizations and Individuals Involved in Implementation:

Chuck Ferguson, Deputy Director, Johnson County Transit
Aging Needs Assessment Committee of *Navigating the Future*
Marcia Bernard, Director, Unified Government Transit
Irene French, Kansas City Area Transportation Authority

Greater Kansas City Area Chamber of Commerce
Steve Klika, Johnson County Transit Advisory Council
Dave Lovetere, Regional Transit Alliance
Ron Shaffer, Board Chair, Mid-America Regional Council
United Way of Johnson County

For more information on this initiative contact Alice Amrein, Director, Johnson County Transit, 913.782.2210; or Marcy Smalley, Project Manager, Mid-America Regional Council, 816.474.4240.