



KANSAS VOLUNTEER COMMISSION
K A N S E R V E . O R G

The State of Kansas Service Plan 2026-2028

DEVELOPMENT OF THE STATE SERVICE PLAN

The Kansas Volunteer Commission (Commission), a program of the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE), developed the State Service Plan through an open, public process that maximized participation from diverse stakeholders, including service programs, community organizations, state agencies, residents, youth, labor unions, and other interested partners. The Commission ensured that outreach to state and community partners serving underrepresented populations by building or leveraging statewide networks, registries, and partnerships.

By using a statewide survey, the Commission gathered feedback that informed the goals to expand opportunities for growth, build, and retain in-state and interstate partnerships, and develop and implement training and technical assistance for youth and adults age 55 and older.

STATE SERVICE PLAN GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The Kansas State Service Plan advances three goals—**Grow, Partner, and Support**—to strengthen the Kansas Volunteer Commission, expand partnerships and national service, build organizational capacity, and increase civic engagement to address community needs across Kansas.

GOAL 1: GROW

Grow the Kansas Volunteer Commission through effective governance and increase awareness of volunteerism and national service across Kansas.

- Strategy 1: Strengthen Internal Kansas Volunteer Commission Operations
- Strategy 2: Increase Awareness of National Service Opportunities Across All Streams of Service Throughout Kansas.

GOAL 2: PARTNER

Expand public-private partnerships, diversifying funding, and advancing AmeriCorps and nonprofit capacity in rural and underserved areas through strategic collaboration and investment.

- Strategy 1: Build Public-Private Partnerships
- Strategy 2: Advance AmeriCorps as an Essential Resource in Building Rural & Underserved Communities

GOAL 3: SUPPORT

Build organizational capacity through training and technical assistance while expanding civic engagement opportunities for youth and adults age 55 and older.

- Strategy 1: Provide Training and Technical Assistance to Organizations Engaging Volunteers and National Service Members
- Strategy 2: Expand Youth Development and Cross-Generational Service Opportunities

GOAL 1: GROW

Strengthen the Kansas Volunteer Commission through effective governance and increase awareness of volunteerism and national service across Kansas.

STRATEGY 1: STRENGTHEN INTERNAL KANSAS VOLUNTEER COMMISSION OPERATIONS

Strengthen the Kansas Volunteer Commission through sustainable commissioner recruitment and engagement, clearly defined roles and responsibilities, regular policy review, and consistent public communication that promotes transparency, accountability, and broad stakeholder participation.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- Development of a sustainable model for Governor Appointed Commissioner recruitment, onboarding, engagement, recognition, and retention.
- Clarification of staff and commissioner expectations by defining measurable roles, responsibilities, and accountability.
- Development of a process for regularly reviewing and updating Kansas Volunteer Commission policies and procedures to ensure alignment with established guidelines and compliance with governing requirements.
- Develop clear, consistent messaging that communicates the commission's purpose and priorities while supporting an ongoing, open public process that maximizes participation and informs future State Service Plans.

STRATEGY 2: INCREASE AWARENESS OF NATIONAL SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES ACROSS STREAMS OF SERVICE THROUGHOUT KANSAS.

Increase awareness of volunteerism, national service, and AmeriCorps by expanding outreach, strengthening recruitment systems, sharing the impact of service, and promoting funding opportunities across Kansas.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- Coordinate with AmeriCorps streams of service to showcase volunteer impact, tell stories of service, increase awareness.
- Increase the number of new organizations subscribing to Kansas Volunteer Commission newsletter and basecamp groups.
- Develop a recruitment system to support the placement of volunteers, mentors, and national service members across the state.
- Increase awareness of AmeriCorps funding opportunities and its economic impact across Kansas.

GOAL 2: PARTNER

Strengthen Kansas communities by expanding public-private partnerships, diversifying funding, and advancing AmeriCorps and nonprofit capacity in rural and underserved areas through strategic collaboration and investment.

STRATEGY 1: BUILD PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

The Commission will expand public-private partnerships to support implementation of the State Service Plan objectives and increase matching funds for federal grants.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- Develop a partnership framework that defines sponsorship benefits, partner roles, outreach strategies, and shared performance measures.
- Assess legal and governance options for a Kansas Volunteer Commission public-private support organization or foundation.
- Increase diversity of funding sources supporting the work of the Kansas Volunteer Commission.

STRATEGY 2: ADVANCE AMERICORPS AS AN ESSENTIAL RESOURCE IN BUILDING RURAL & UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

Build a strong nonprofit sector in rural and underserved Kansas communities by ensuring organizations have the knowledge, resources, and partnerships needed to effectively address local priorities and community needs.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- Develop relationships with rural communities, Tribal Nations, and local government agencies to better understand community needs and priorities.
- Establish a sustainable, low-barrier funding source to support nonprofit capacity-building efforts across Kansas.
- Partner with local school districts to strengthen their capacity to engage volunteers and national service members.

GOAL 3: SUPPORT

Strengthen Kansas communities by building organizational capacity through training and technical assistance while expanding civic engagement opportunities for youth and adults age 55 and older.

STRATEGY 1: PROVIDE TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO ORGANIZATIONS ENGAGING VOLUNTEERS AND NATIONAL SERVICE MEMBERS

Strengthen organizational capacity by delivering high-quality training and technical assistance through statewide subject matter experts, with an emphasis on volunteer engagement, grant development, and national service.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- Expand and retain a statewide network of subject matter experts to provide training and technical assistance.
- Increase nonprofit capacity through training in volunteer engagement, grant writing, and proposal development.
- Deliver high-quality training and technical assistance to AmeriCorps, AmeriCorps Seniors, AmeriCorps VISTA, and MENTOR Kansas programs and partners.

STRATEGY 2: EXPAND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND CROSS-GENERATIONAL SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Expand civic engagement across generations by increasing youth leadership, strengthening partnerships that engage young people, and creating meaningful volunteer and national service opportunities for adults age 55 and older.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- Increase participation of individuals under the age of 25 in the Kansas Civic Engagement Conference through the Kansas State Department of Education civic engagement initiative.
- Develop a youth leadership cohort to inform and support Kansas Volunteer Commission priorities and initiatives.
- Expand volunteer and national service opportunities for adults age 55 and older to strengthen communities across Kansas.

An Equal Employment/Educational Opportunity Agency:

The Kansas State Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities.

The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

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