

## VISION

All poor and underserved people in our community will have quality health care.

## MISSION

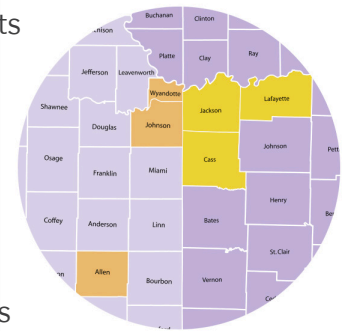
To advance equity in health care coverage, access & quality for poor and underserved people.

## WHO WE ARE

The REACH Healthcare Foundation is a nonprofit charitable organization dedicated to advancing equity in health care coverage, access and quality for poor and underserved people. The foundation was established in 2003 with monies that resulted from the sale of a regional nonprofit health care and hospital system.

## WHAT WE DO

The REACH Foundation awards approximately \$5 million annually in grants and provides other support to increase access to health care coverage and quality health care services in the foundation's six-county service area. Our primary interests are helping people secure affordable health coverage; closing the coverage gap that leaves people without dependable sources of care; and strengthening the safety net that is a significant resource of primary care, oral health and mental health services for the region's uninsured.



## HOW WE OPERATE

The REACH Foundation is governed by a Board of 17 individuals elected by the members who live in the REACH service area. These volunteers bring breadth of professional experience, interest in health issues and commitment to improving the quality of life of people in the region. An appointed Community Advisory Committee serves to identify and nominate candidates to the Board. The foundation's grant making, program development, community engagement and other daily operations are managed by a staff of nine.



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# 2017 KANSAS POLICY AGENDA

The REACH Healthcare Foundation was established in 2003 with a mandate to improve the health of uninsured and medically underserved individuals in our service area. To accomplish this, we believe it is essential to support public policies that increase access to health coverage and strengthen the health care safety net system that serves our region's people.

## CLOSE THE HEALTH COVERAGE GAP

The REACH Foundation encourages adoption of a state solution, such as KanCare expansion, to close the health coverage gap that affects thousands of low-income, working adults and families in Kansas.

- Nearly 150,000 Kansans are unable to secure coverage because restrictive state eligibility rules put them into the coverage gap - without coverage options and unable to secure subsidies through the health insurance marketplace.
- Health providers, hospitals, businesses and local governments throughout the state agree expanding KanCare is a fiscally sound health care solution that will stimulate the economy and create thousands of jobs.
- To date, 32 states have moved forward on expanding Medicaid, drawing down enhanced federal matching dollars to support their own approach.

## EXPAND THE WORKFORCE TO MEET ORAL HEALTH NEEDS

The REACH Foundation supports the dental therapist model as a practical and proven solution for improving access to dental care for underserved people.

- Kansas' dental workforce cannot meet ongoing demand for oral health care. States with similar challenges have looked to dental therapy as a cost-effective model that allows dentists to expand their dental team to respond to the health needs in their communities.
- Dental therapy is an approved practice, with accreditation standards set by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA), which accredits all U.S. education programs for dentists and dental hygienists.

## ENACT FISCAL POLICIES THAT HELP FAMILIES & COMMUNITIES THRIVE

The REACH Foundation urges state leaders and legislators to establish budget and tax policies that protect core services and the safety net system that aids families and strengthens communities during times of need.

- Reports have shown the 2012 income tax cuts and resulting budget shortfalls have weakened the state's ability to invest in core services and programs that support families and local economies.
- 13.8 percent of Kansans have incomes below the poverty line; 15 percent have experienced hunger or food insecurity due to a lack of money or resources.
- Fiscal policies established by elected leaders can relieve the strain on families, health and social services and communities to allow for growth and recovery.