

Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns  
Draft Legislative Platform  
2024

### **Disability Hiring Preference**

KCDC supports employment opportunities for Kansans with disabilities that are integrated and competitive which aligns with the Employment First policy Kansans adopted in 2011. Executive Order 15-02 establishes the Disability Hiring Preference that makes the State of Kansas a model employer of people with disabilities. Establishing this in statute makes a firm statement of commitment to supporting competitive and integrated employment for people with disabilities. KCDC will request introduction of a bill in the 2021 legislative session for this purpose and actively pursue passage.

### **Medicaid Expansion**

Good health care is essential for people with disabilities to be able to work and live in their communities. The current Medicaid system discriminates against people with disabilities who receive financial support from Social Security that exceeds the current income limit. Their options are to incur large amounts of health care debt to get Medicaid support, to try to use the free and low-income clinics, to pay out of pocket for health care, or to go without health care. Modifications to the current income limit or establishing Medicaid Expansion is necessary to help Kansans with disabilities be healthy. KCDC will support passage of Medicaid expansion.

### **Full Funding for all Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waivers with Waiting Lists**

People with disabilities who are waiting for services from HCBS need those services to be able to live in their own communities independently and to be able to work in competitive integrated employment. KCDC will provide support for fully funding all HCBS waivers with waiting lists or lists of people with disabilities who cannot receive HCBS services because of lack of funding.

## **Statement of Support for Elimination of Subminimum Wage**

KCDC supports competitive integrated employment for people with disabilities and elimination of subminimum wage for people with disabilities. KCDC will write to the Kansas delegation in Congress to support elimination of subminimum wage and support for competitive integrated employment for people with disabilities.

### **Requests for Support for Legislation**

Requests for support of legislation by groups or individuals will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The legislation will be reviewed to determine if it would create a disadvantage to any other disability group or remove protection of rights from any other group of people with disabilities or If there is disagreement within a disability group about the legislation, KCDC will stand neutral on the legislation. This is in keeping with KCDC's value of doing no harm to any disability group. If the legislation would benefit only one disability group, but could benefit more or all people with disabilities, KCDC will advocate for expanding the legislation.