



United Community Services
of Johnson County

Reducing Poverty and Creating Opportunity through Multi-Sector Planning and Collaboration

2016 Kansas Conference on Poverty
July 22, 2016

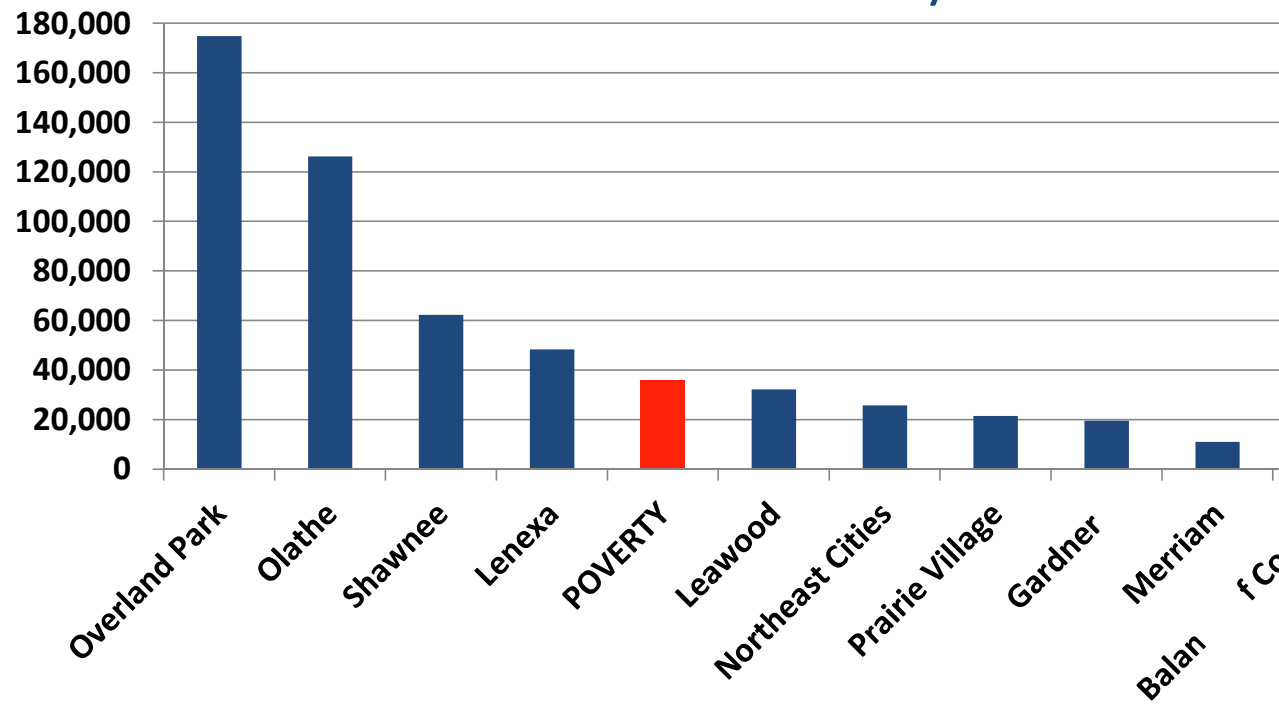
Valorie Carson and Kathryn Evans Madden
United Community Services of Johnson County

How is poverty defined? 2015 Poverty Guidelines

Persons in family/household	<50% FPL Extreme Poverty	<100% FPL Poverty	<200% FPL Low-Income
1	\$5,885	\$11,770	\$9.66 per hour
2	\$7,965	\$15,930	\$31,860
3	\$10,045	\$20,090	\$40,180
4	\$12,125	\$24,250	\$48,500
Each additional person add	\$2,080	\$4,160	\$8,320

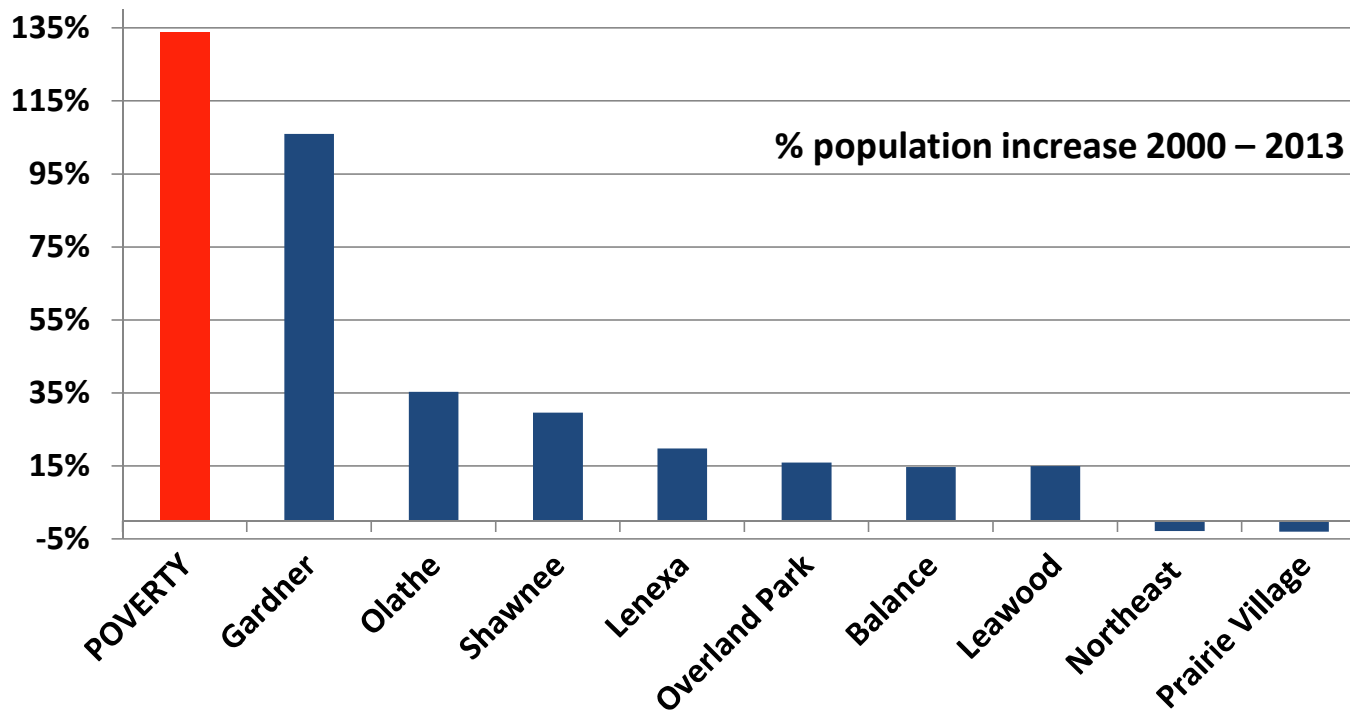
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

If poverty was a city..... It would be the 5th largest city in Johnson County



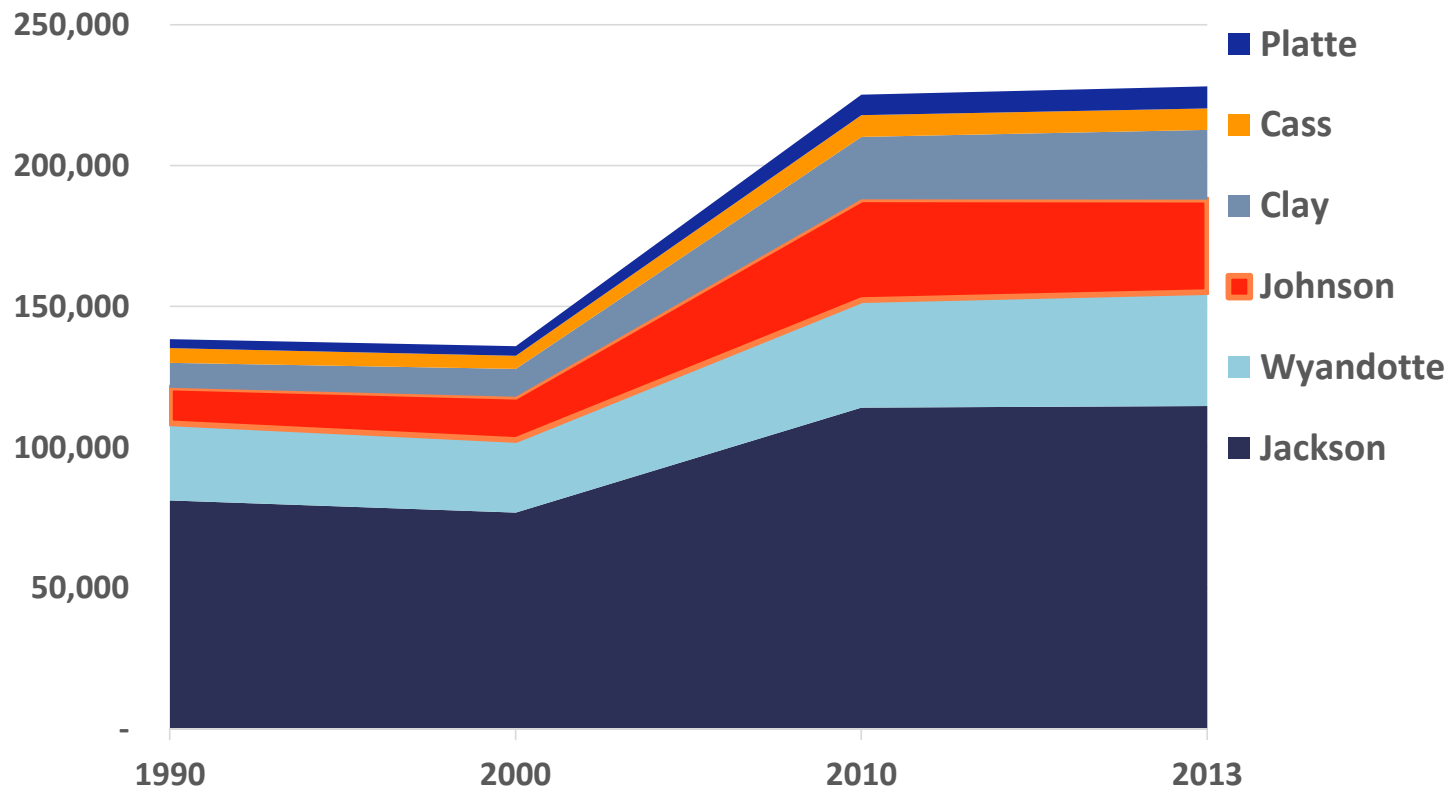
U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009-2013 5 year estimate

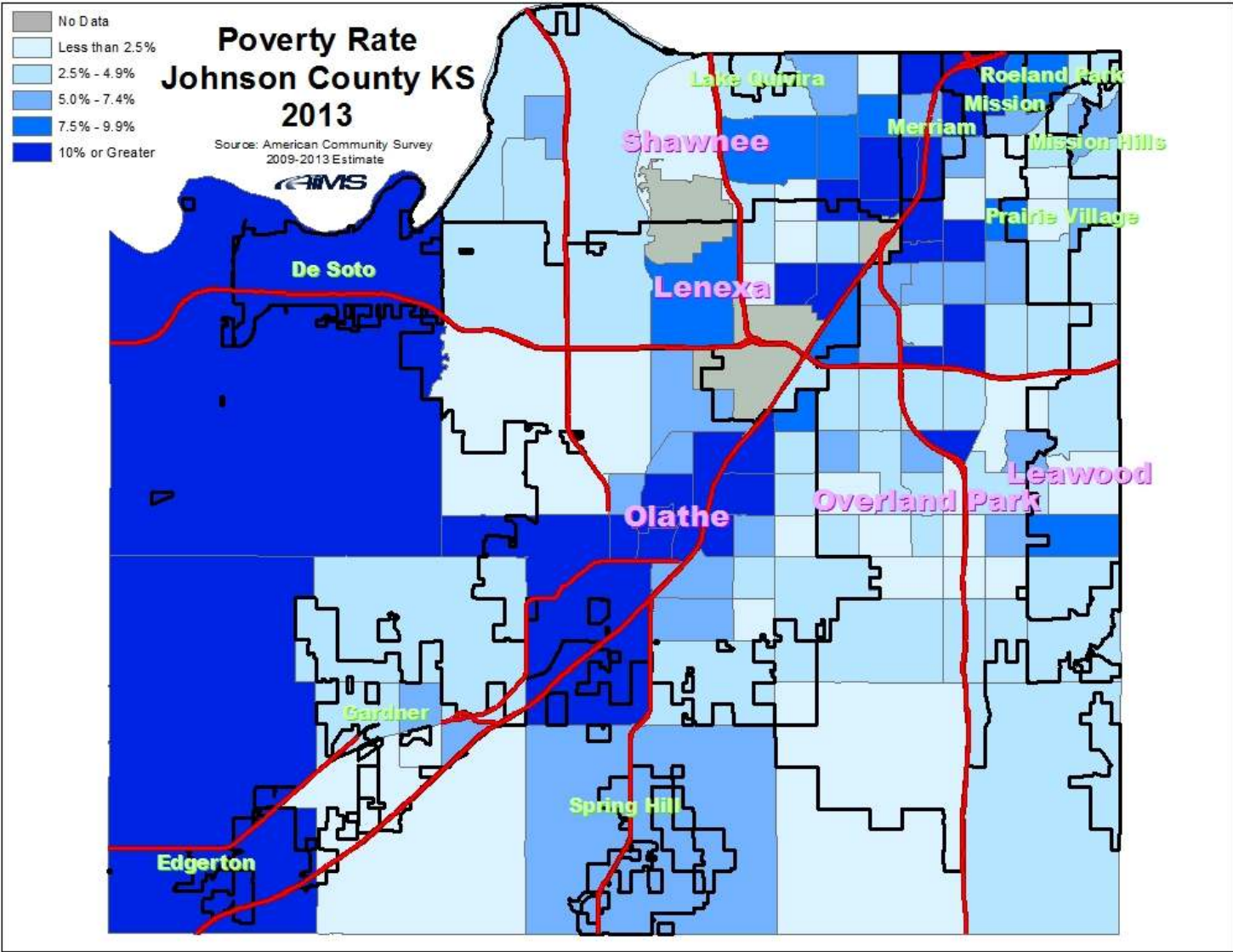
If poverty was a city..... It would be the county's fastest growing city



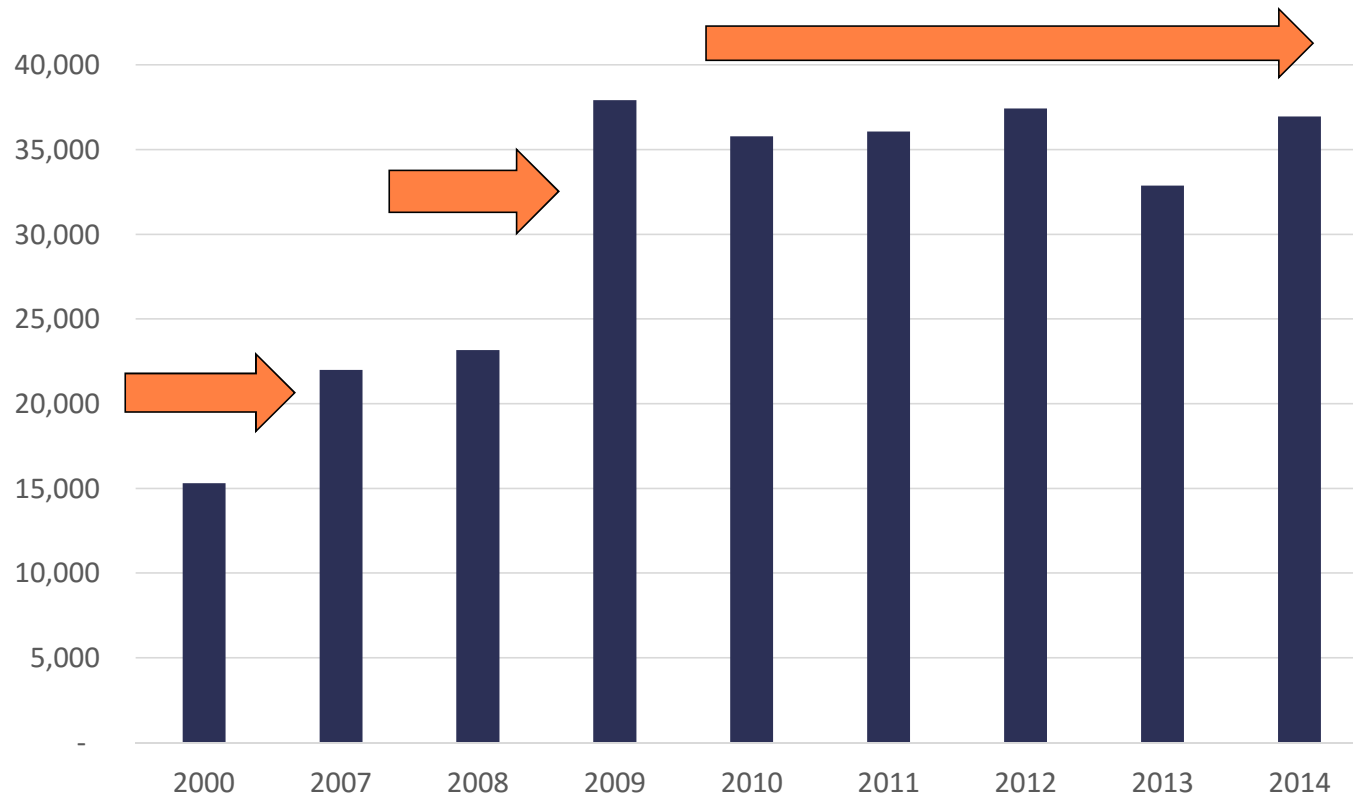
U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009-2013 5 year estimate

Poverty in 6-county Kansas City area

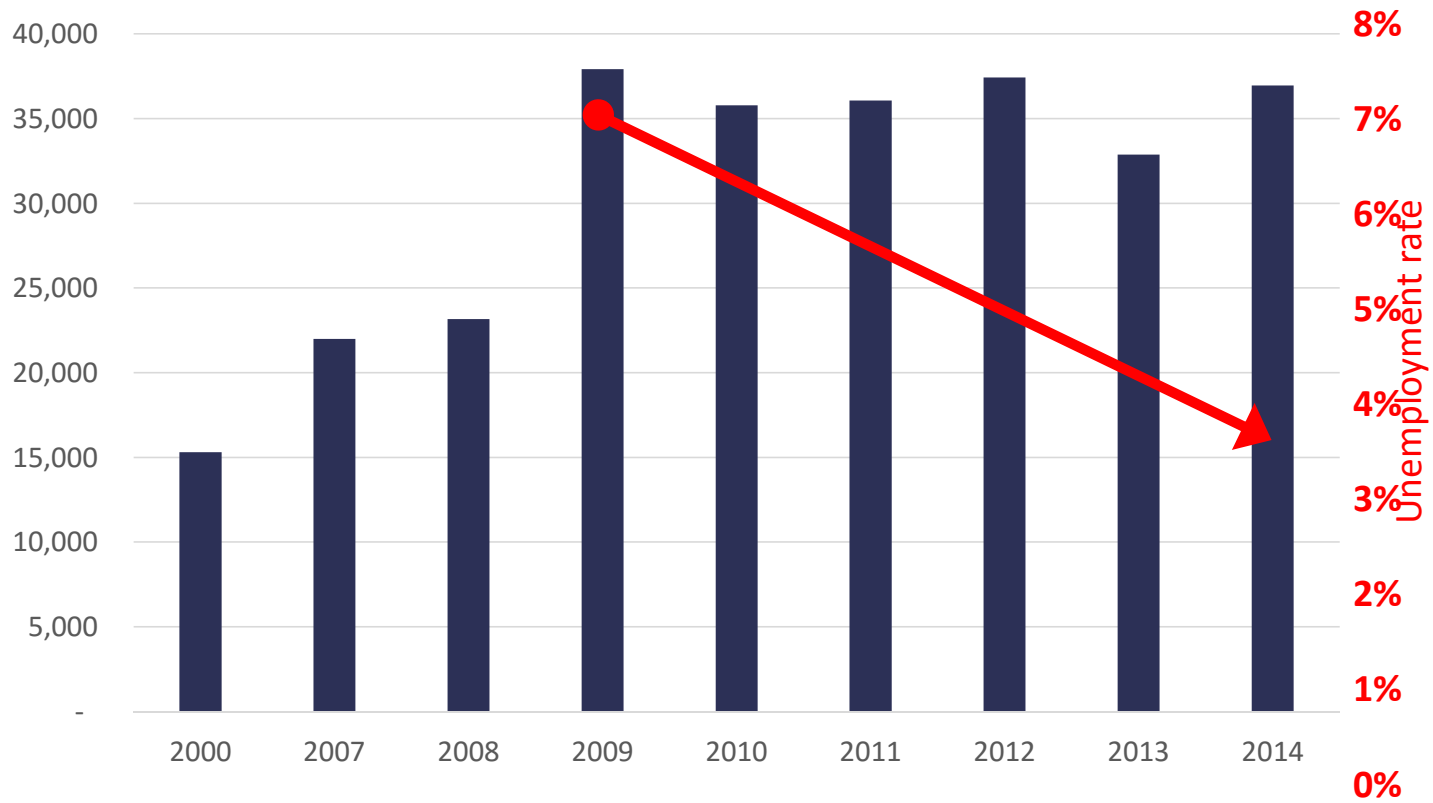




Number of poor more than doubles, 2000 - 2014



Number of poor more than doubles, 2000 - 2014



What Works to Reduce Poverty and Create Opportunity?

– Research

- Best practices for confronting and preventing suburban poverty
- Analysis from think tanks and universities

– Local assessment

- Inventory of community-based health and human service programs and gaps analysis

Emerging Framework

- Clustered research and best practices
- Developed strategies within the context and existing capacities of our local community
 - Evidenced-based or proven effective to affect poverty
 - Reduce poverty for those currently experiencing poverty or those at risk for poverty
 - Within our local scope of influence

A Framework for Reducing Poverty and Creating Opportunity

Work

- All households have adequate income to meet basic needs.
- The majority of jobs include household stabilizing benefits (e.g., paid time off, regular/ predictable work hours, healthcare) and advancement opportunities.
- The negative impact of past history/prior actions on employment opportunities and future success is minimized.
- Wide-ranging career training pathways to better employment and higher income are available and accessible.
- Households build savings for short-term emergencies and long-term goals.



Education

- Parents and caregivers have the supports and knowledge to promote healthy child development.
- All households have access to quality early childhood education regardless of income level.
- High-quality K-12 education prepares students for successful long-term employment and financial stability.
- All young adults (16-24 years old) can access high-quality post-secondary education and job directed skills training.
- Working adults seeking re-training or additional education have flexible and affordable local options.



Safety Net

- Dedicated, adequate resources are available to assist all individuals and families regain and maintain stability.
- Long-term assistance is available for those with ongoing challenges (e.g., those with a disability, frail elderly).
- Policies and practices that act as barriers to accessing assistance are eliminated or minimized to improve the safety net's responsiveness.
- Private and public partnerships exist to support a strong, local safety net.
- Strategic and innovative funding models blend funds (public and private) to increase flexibility and impact.

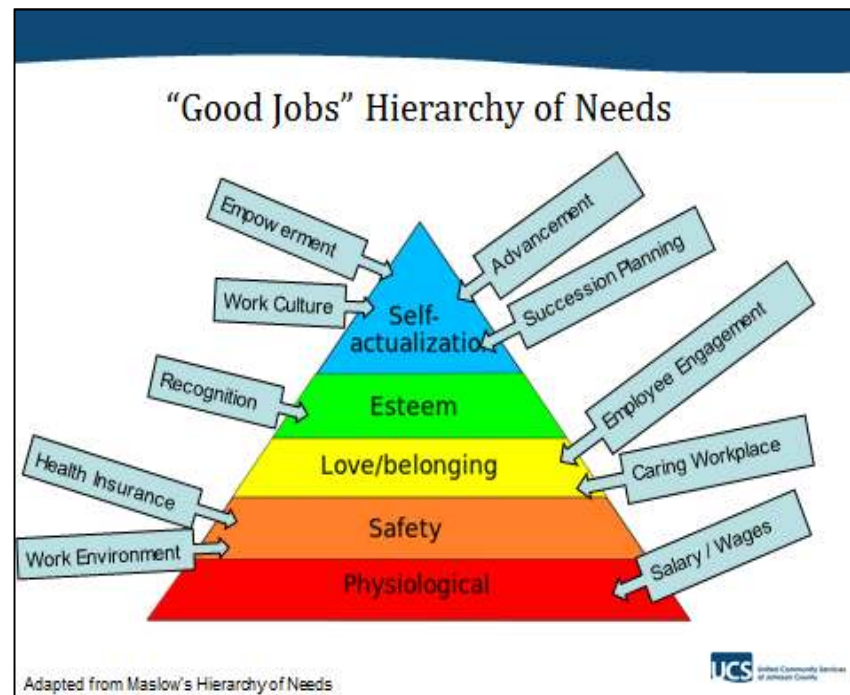


Call to Action

Make every health and human service job
a “good job”

Implementation

“Good Jobs” Workshop Series



Call to Action

Promote “Talk, Read, Play” with employees,
clients, and stakeholders

Implementation

Multiple strategies for *Talk, Read, Play*

THE RAISING OF AMERICA
EARLY CHILDHOOD AND THE FUTURE OF OUR NATION



Talk, Read, Play
with your child
every day.
#TalkReadPlayJoCo

the family conservancy JOHNSON COUNTY KANSAS UCS United Community Services of Johnson County



Call to Action

**Increase action to safety net supports for adults
without children and transitional age youth**

Implementation

Best Practices for Transitional Age Foster Youth

Average Number of Youth Who Age Out* of Foster Care in Kansas City Region

	Johnson	Wyandotte	Leavenworth	Atchison	Douglas	KC Region
	# of Youth Who Age Out	# of Youth Who Age Out	# of Youth Who Age Out	# of Youth Who Age Out	# of Youth Who Age Out	# of Youth Who Age Out
2011	35	27	6	2	2	72
2012	21	6	2	2	1	32
2013	37	19	3	5	5	69
2014	47	18	6	3	5	79
2015	35	27	9	0	8	79
2016	39	18	8	1	5	71
Annual Average Number of Youth Who Age Out	36					67

*Data reports use the term “emancipation” to describe the custodial status of youth who age out of foster care. The average age of emancipation in Johnson County is 18.

Source: “Length of Stay and Reason for Ending Out of Home Placement”, SFY11 –SFY16. Kansas Department for Children and Families. Retrieved from <http://www.dcf.ks.gov/services/PPS/Pages/FosterCareDemographicReports.aspx>

From Research to Action

- Public launch of the Framework in June 2015
- Identify and engage key partners
- Construct action strategies
 - [“Good Jobs” workshop](#)
 - [Talk, Read, Play](#) and The Raising of America
 - [Report](#): Best Practices to Support Youth Who Age Out of Foster Care
- Ongoing work related to the Framework
 - Fair Chance Hiring
 - City Poverty Summit
 - Employment Planning Project

Discussion Time!

Best Practices

- Tell the **story** of poverty in your community through **data** and **public presentations**
- **Engage** local leaders from **multiple sectors**
- Develop and share **marketing materials**
- Organize a **launch** of the initiative to build public support, then **follow up** with attendees

Questions?

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