



Legislative Priorities 2026

Missouri

Priority: Participate in efforts to expand access to paid parental, family and medical leave in Missouri.

Nationally, support is building to expand paid parental, family and medical leave as key to improving the wellbeing of families. Currently, 14 states have passed comprehensive policies and 40 have instituted some form of parental leave for state employees. There is a coalition of Missouri organizations supporting this issue within a potential ballot initiative framework. Paid parental leave is a pillar that could dramatically improve the health of parents and their children in establishing a key bonding period and reducing stress that often accompanies the postpartum period.

Priority: Promote and protect existing vaccine requirements and recommendations.

Kindergarten vaccine compliance rates have trended down nationally and in Missouri as misinformation concerning the efficacy and safety of vaccines continues to spread and take root. The herd immunity threshold is no longer attained at current vaccination levels. At the same time, there is not a coordinated effort to ensure that pregnant women are aware of and have access to vaccines that protect them and their babies. Nurture KC will resist legislative efforts to reduce or eliminate vaccine requirements and promote the importance of getting vaccinated while pregnant for the health and safety of moms and babies.

Priority: Protect vital services that comprise the social safety net and the gains in affordability and access that have been attained.

Missouri has extended Medicaid coverage and added Medicaid coverage for doula services. Funding cuts and increased eligibility requirements at the federal level threaten these gains for young families. In addition, there are unprecedented cuts to the SNAP and WIC programs nationally, shifting these costs to states that may choose other funding priorities. Feeding vulnerable families is foundational to improving health, child development and economic stability. Nurture KC will oppose efforts to weaken social supports and access to health care at a time when increased investment is needed to improve our maternal and infant health outcomes.

Priority: Invest in affordable housing through increased funding and policies that protect residents.

Solving the housing crisis in Missouri requires a multi-pronged approach and cooperation between state and local government. There has been a troubling trend of Missouri pre-empting local ordinances designed to increase access for renters. Last year, Kansas City's prohibition on source of income discrimination was overturned at the state house. There is sentiment to override the will of local government to adopt policies providing rights to tenants designed to increase safety and livability. Nurture KC believes that Kansas City is best positioned to respond to the needs of residents as they navigate protections for tenants. In addition, greater investment in the Missouri Housing Trust Fund would help ease the shortage and affordability of housing in the state.



Legislative Priorities 2026

Kansas

Priority: Participate in efforts to expand access to paid parental, family and medical leave in Kansas.

Nationally, support is building to expand paid parental, family and medical leave as key to improving the wellbeing of families. Currently, 14 states have passed comprehensive policies and 40 have instituted some form of parental leave for state employees. Nurture KC is leading state legislative efforts to enact a paid parental, family and medical leave (PFML) policy in Kansas through the Paid Leave for All Kansans Coalition. Building upon last session's efforts to educate lawmakers on the policy, we will continue that trajectory in 2026 with the goal of cultivating legislative champions. Paid parental leave is a pillar that could dramatically improve the health of parents and their children in establishing a key bonding period and reducing stress that often accompanies the postpartum period.

Priority: Promote and protect existing vaccine requirements and recommendations.

Kindergarten vaccine compliance rates have trended down nationally and in Kansas as misinformation concerning the efficacy and safety of vaccines continues to spread and take root. The herd immunity threshold is no longer attained at current vaccination levels. At the same time, there is not a coordinated effort to ensure that pregnant women are aware of and have access to vaccines that protect them and their babies. Nurture KC will resist legislative efforts to reduce or eliminate vaccine requirements and promote the importance of getting vaccinated while pregnant for the health and safety of moms and babies.

Priority: Protect vital services that comprise the social safety net and the gains in affordability and access that have been attained.

Kansas has extended Medicaid coverage for postpartum women to one year and added Medicaid coverage for doula services. Funding cuts and increased eligibility requirements at the federal level threaten these gains for young families. In addition, there are unprecedented cuts to the SNAP and WIC programs nationally, shifting these costs to states that may choose other funding priorities. Feeding vulnerable families is foundational to improving health, child development and economic stability. Nurture KC will oppose efforts to weaken social supports and access to health care at a time when increased investment is needed to improve our maternal and infant health outcomes.