

III. QUALITY OF LIFE FOUNDATION

VISION:

Before 2024 the Wichita MSA will:

Be a healthy, safe community that has a vibrant recreation, entertainment and arts focus that embraces diversity and builds pride.

STRATEGIES:

A. Health Care

1. Increase the accessibility and quality of healthcare while lowering the cost by:

a) Encouraging healthy lifestyles, wellness, fitness and education programs. Address tobacco, obesity, drug, alcohol and violence issues.

Abstinence Education, Inc.; Old Town Farmers' Market; Regional Prevention Center; City of Wichita; Greater Wichita YMCA; Fidelity Bank; Arthritis Foundation, Kansas Chapter; Kansas Health Foundation; Tobacco Free Wichita; United Way of the Plains;

b) Improving dental health for all ages.

Good Samaritan Ministries;

c) Promoting and strengthening free and/or reduced cost clinics as a substitute for emergency room use for indigent health care and promote awareness of these resources.

Good Samaritan Ministries;

d) Encouraging the health care community to provide services to the Wichita MSA indigent patients.

Kansas State Nurses Association District 6, Inc.; Kansas University School of Medicine-Wichita; United Way of the Plains;

e) Dramatically increasing the use of technology in administrative and health care functions.

f) Advocating for tort reform.

g) Having comprehensive coordinated medical care (including mental, dental and health) for all people regardless of ability to pay and provide easy access to services. Establish a community-wide expert committee that advises us on health care costs and quality.

Midian Shriners; United Way of the Plains;

h) Promoting disease prevention.

Abstinence Education, Inc.; Sedgwick County; Arthritis Foundation, Kansas Chapter; United Way of the Plains;

i) Ensuring the availability of qualified nurses.

Health Career Coalition;

2. Expand clinical trials.

Medical Society of Sedgwick County; Kansas University School of Medicine-Wichita;

B. Recreation

1. Develop a citizen-driven regional recreation master plan to serve as a guide to planning and developing recreational resources to serve residents and visitors of all ages and income levels with opportunities to:

- achieve physical, mental, and social well-being,
- recruit and retain a highly skilled workforce that seeks such recreational resources, and
- attract visitors and tourists who seek recreational destinations.

The plan will serve as a guide for fostering community stewardship, addressing service levels and maintenance standards, and coordinating regional efforts.

Sedgwick County; City of Wichita; Greater Wichita YMCA; Kansas Health Foundation; Conlee Consulting; American Cancer Society; Harvey County Health Initiative; Newton Medical Center; Wichita SRS/AAPS; Wichita State University Health Professionals; City of Haysville; City of Wichita – Park Department; Via Christi Health Systems; Young Professionals of Wichita; City of Valley Center; Wichita Board of Park Commissioners; City of Newton; Wichita Area

Metropolitan Planning Organization; K-96 Corridor Development Association; City of Derby; City of Newton; City of Sedgwick; Greater Wichita Convention & Visitors Bureau; City of Hutchinson

2. Develop a large high quality lake for recreation, destination resort and water supply within an hour of the Wichita MSA. This project needs to be fully defined and the feasibility determined as first action steps and the best location selected.

Sedgwick County;

3. Improve regional recreational use of the Arkansas River. Clean up the Arkansas River.

Sedgwick County; Wichita Festivals, Inc.; City of Wichita; South Central Progressive Neighborhood Association; Peerless Tower, Inc.;

4. Create and sustain additional regional recreational attractions such as large amusement/theme/water parks.

5. Provide community spaces, green areas and recreational opportunities that celebrate our natural environment, our cultural diversity and our youth.

Kansas State Nurses Association District 6, Inc.; South Central Improvement Alliance; City of Wichita; Sedgwick County; West Sedgwick County – Sunrise Rotary Club; Schweiter – East Neighborhood Association;

6. Establish a regional park board that is responsible for acquisition, preservation, and management of parks and green space.

GreenWay Alliance; Sedgwick County;

7. Plan and develop an active transportation plan for pedestrians and bicyclists.

C. Arts

1. Create and implement a regional comprehensive master plan for the arts.

Sedgwick County; City of Wichita; Chilcoat Studios; Michael Alldaffer; Northfield School of Liberal Arts; Ballet Wichita; Blue Theatre Company; Allen Works Welding; Pen Publishing Interactive; Murano Studios; YOCO Galleries; Arts Strategic Alliance;

2. Continually develop downtown art amenities, districts, facilities and infrastructure.

Sedgwick County; Old Town Farmers' Market; Fisch Haus Studios; City of Wichita; The Trust Company of Kansas (TCK); Chilcoat Studios; Ballet Wichita; Blue Theatre Company; Allen Works Welding; Pen Publishing Interactive; Murano Studios; YOCO Galleries; Arts Strategic Alliance;

3. Use the river to connect museums and other cultural attractions.

D. Public Safety

Create a safe place for Wichita MSA residents by:

a) Using resources in the most efficient and effective organization structure/process.

Safe Streets of Wichita;

b) Creating higher level of trust between police and community.

Safe Streets of Wichita;

c) Identifying the issues that create higher crime and providing specific resources/programs to lower the crime rate.

Episcopal Social Services, Inc. Safe Streets of Wichita;

d) Providing high quality emergency response systems and homeland security.

Sedgwick County; City of Wichita;

E. Family and Youth

1. Embrace our youth and recognize their potential value to the community they decide to live in. Inject an element of fun in all youth programs that results from a youth entrepreneurial outlook. Ensure that our youth, including the best educated, have an opportunity and desire to stay in the Wichita MSA. Have an active community volunteer service program for youth participation that provides opportunities for young people to explore needs in the Wichita MSA and meets their interests and talents. Allow youth to have greater ownership in the future of the Wichita MSA by encouraging them to regularly meet with community leaders. Encourage older children to serve as mentors to younger children.

Old Town Farmers' Market; Episcopal Social Services, Inc.; Maude Carpenter Children's Home; Wichita Public Library; AmeriCorps GoZones!; Abstinence Education, Inc; City of Wichita; Kansas Aviation Museum; United Way of the Plains; United Way Volunteer Center; United Way Dwane L. Wallace Youth Venture Grant Committee; United Way of the Plains Youth Leadership Institute; YOUnited Teens;

2. Act proactively to strengthen families. Improve organizations that strengthen children and families and provide leadership to coordinate these efforts including faith-based organizations.

Episcopal Social Services, Inc.; Maude Carpenter Children's Home; City of Wichita; Chapel Hill Fellowship United Methodist Church; Wichita Family Systems Institute; United Way of the Plains; United Way Volunteer Center; United Way Dwane L. Wallace Youth Venture Grant Committee; United Way of the Plains Youth Leadership Institute; YOUnited Teens;

3. Encourage employers to adopt family friendly policies and procedures.

Foley Equipment Company/Foley Supply, LLC; City of Wichita;

4. Provide a comprehensive plan and assessment for high quality affordable childcare.

Greater Wichita YMCA; United Way of the Plains

5. Provide after school activities and youth centers for students.

Monart School of Art; AmeriCorps GoZones!; City of Wichita; Greater Wichita YMCA; United Way of the Plains;

F. Sense of Community

1. Develop community pride and unity within all segments of the Wichita MSA.

Old Town Farmers' Market; Meritrust Credit Union; Bothner and Bradley, Inc.; Wichita Festivals, Inc.; City of Wichita; MidAmerica Credit Union; Nonprofit Chamber of Services;

2. Develop a sense of community among young adults through groups and networks. Social settings are needed where young people can mingle.

AmeriCorps GoZones!; City of Wichita; Greater Wichita YMCA; Young Professionals of Wichita; Utility Contractors; United Way of the Plains; United Way Young Leaders;

3. Support regionalism and the economic growth and prosperity of surrounding counties.

Sedgwick County; City of Wichita;

4. Promote and strengthen neighborhood associations and heighten neighborhood's commitment to the community at large.

City of Wichita; United Way of the Plains;

5. Find ways to get young people more involved in the community.

Wichita Promise Youth Council; AmeriCorps GoZones!; Wichita Public Library; Fidelity Bank; City of Wichita; United Way of the Plains; United Way Volunteer Center; United Way Dwane L. Wallace Youth Venture Grant Committee; United Way of the Plains Youth Leadership Institute; YOUnited Teens;

G. Racial Diversity, Opportunity and Harmony

1. **Understand, celebrate and embrace all cultures and racial diversity and make it evident in everything we do. Encourage interaction among all people and break down barriers.**
 - a) **Create thriving neighborhoods that are both ethnically and racially diverse.**
 - b) **Reduce the earnings gap between minorities and non-minorities.**
 - c) **Increase graduation rates.**
 - d) **Close achievement gap.**

Wichita Festivals, Inc.; Quivera Council, Boy Scouts of America; Wichita Public Library; Fidelity Bank; City of Wichita; Chapel Hill Fellowship United Methodist Church; Racial Diversity, Opportunity & Harmony Alliance; African American Parent Support Group; Cargill Meat Solutions; Carter-Sherman Broadcast Group; City of Wichita – Wichita Transit; City of Wichita Human Resource Dept.; Ray Rancuret; Royal Caribbean; Wichita Fire Department; United Way of the Plains; Diversity Kansas; Botanica, The Wichita Gardens; Urban League of Kansas; Wichita Police Department;

2. **Encourage employers to be committed to a racially diverse workforce. Vision Partners will ensure inclusion and racial diversity as they adopt and implement strategies in the six Foundations. Recognize that the Wichita MSA will not succeed in meeting its Key Benchmarks without achieving racial diversity, opportunity and harmony.**

City of Wichita;

3. **Promote the integration and inclusion of immigrants into the community and workforce.**

4. **Treat each other with a sense of fairness, respect and creativity while accepting our differences.**

Wichita Festivals, Inc.; Fidelity Bank; City of Wichita;

5. **Establish an environment that welcomes, attracts and retains minorities in our community and workforce.**

Wichita Festivals, Inc.; City of Wichita;

6. **Provide equal opportunities for minorities in the workplace, civic events and volunteer organizations. Provide more diverse Board members in order to better represent all community members.**

Wichita Festivals, Inc.; City of Wichita; Nonprofit Chamber of Services;

7. **Promote the Wichita MSA as a diverse community.**

Wichita Festivals, Inc.; City of Wichita;

H. Human Services

1. **Provide social services that address local and emerging issues.**

Episcopal Social Services, Inc.; Sedgwick County; Wichita Promise Youth Council; United Methodist Urban Ministry; United Way of the Plains;

2. **Take care of the homeless and families in crisis including temporary short-term housing, transitional housing and long-term housing.**

Sedgwick County; United Methodist Urban Ministry; City of Wichita; United Way of the Plains;

3. **Create an organization to coordinate and reduce service redundancies thereby increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of not-for-profits.**

Sedgwick County; United Methodist Urban Ministry; Nonprofit Chamber of Services; United Way of the Plains;

4. **Create community volunteer opportunities to collaboratively provide services for those in need.**

Sedgwick County; United Methodist Urban Ministry; Chapel Hill United Methodist Church; United Way of the Plains; United Way Volunteer Center;

5. **Ensure that the foster parent system protects and enhances those children in its care.**

Sedgwick County; United Way of the Plains;

6. Provide a comprehensive referral center to direct citizenry with family/youth needs to appropriate agencies.

Sedgwick County; United Way of the Plains; United Way 2-1-1;

7. Ensure accessibility and inclusion for the disabled and address their needs.

Sedgwick County; Wichita Public Library; City of Wichita; United Way of the Plains;

8. Create regional access for the provision of social services.

Sedgwick County; United Methodist Urban Ministry; United Way of the Plains;

I. Older Adults

1. Embrace our older adult citizens as a community resource for history, education, employment, and other aspects of community life. Engage community leaders, industry professionals and policy makers in creating, designing and developing livable communities with respect to older adults.

Sedgwick County; City of Wichita; Kansas Aviation Museum; Visioneering Older Adult Strategic Alliance; Junior League of Wichita, Inc.; Catholic Care Center; Butler County Department on Aging; Senior Services of Wichita; Wichita Lifeline, Inc.; The Wichita Eagle "Active Life"; American Red Cross; Envision Rehabilitation Center; City of Wichita;

2. Provide better healthcare resources or optional healthcare resources for senior citizens.

Sedgwick County; Visioneering Older Adult Strategic Alliance; Junior League of Wichita, Inc.; Catholic Care Center; Butler County Department on Aging; Senior Services of Wichita; Wichita Lifeline, Inc.; The Wichita Eagle "Active Life"; American Red Cross; Envision Rehabilitation Center;

3. Increase resources and raise awareness of them for the older adults and market them effectively.

Sedgwick County; Greater Wichita YMCA; United Way of the Plains; Visioneering Older Adult Strategic Alliance; Junior League of Wichita, Inc.; Catholic Care Center; Butler County Department on Aging; Senior Services of Wichita; Wichita Lifeline, Inc.; The Wichita Eagle "Active Life"; American Red Cross; Envision Rehabilitation Center;

4. Continue support for senior employment programs.

Sedgwick County; United Way of the Plains; Visioneering Older Adult Strategic Alliance; Junior League of Wichita, Inc.; Catholic Care Center; Butler County Department on Aging; Senior Services of Wichita; Wichita Lifeline, Inc.; The Wichita Eagle "Active Life"; American Red Cross; Envision Rehabilitation Center;