

University of Missouri – Kansas City | Center for Economic Information

KC Health CORE is a University of Missouri-Kansas City Center for Economic Information (UMKC-CEI) partnership program funded by the Health Forward Foundation. KC Health CORE will allow Kansas City organizations to work with data using a neutral exchange platform to study community health inequality and seek solutions for change. Year 2 of the initiative began in January of 2019.

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KC Health CORE Funding

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- The Global Institute for Sustainable Prosperity (GISP)
- Children's Mercy Kansas City
- UMKC Information Services

Project Goals

1. *Data & Information Exchange*

- Build a secure, centralized database for keeping and using Kansas City community data to study what are known as the social determinants of health using mapping software and other computer technology.
- Develop a framework for different health care and public health organizations can share and exchange data in a safe, secure manner.
- Serve the community by providing technical support to community organizations and a secure, neutral computer environment that allows people from all walks of life in Kansas City to work together in solving community problems that impact health

2. *Research Activity*

- Support research partnerships that allow different organizations to work together on different kinds of research involving people from different backgrounds and professions.
- Host both individual & team projects, including remote users
- Provide resources to support all kinds of research interests, skill sets, & software needs in order to improve collaboration & coordination between researchers, students, public health employees, neighborhood organizations, and community partners.
- Design user workflows, documentation standards, & databases to support valuable and reproducible research
- Develop methods to build consistent data processing steps, intermediate datasets, & final research to ensure KC Health CORE research is excellent and valuable.

Project Goals

3. *Community Engagement & Planning - Community Partnerships*

- Engage, equip, and empower residents through capacity building for meaningful involvement in health equity decision-making in the Kansas City region
- Structure KC Health CORE research & decision-making so that it always includes efforts to gather community partner input.
- Engage community organization and neighborhood partners in the co-design and co-production of meaningful data resources, including resident-driven data analysis tools, and resident-identified research questions.
- Provide an accessible public interface with useful neighborhood indicators & other data summaries to support communities as they seek opportunities to overcome challenges that lead to health inequalities.
- Provide new tools that neighborhood organizations and community partners can use to advocate for their needs & rights, and to improve the transparency & communication between stakeholders
- Leverage existing community resources to reduce duplication & ask questions that need to be asked to inform efficient & effective policies.

Background Information:

A crucial aspect of the KC Health CORE initiative is the creation of links between health researchers, health care institutions and practitioners, and members of the neighborhoods impacted by health disparities. Collaborative community engagement will be facilitated by the partnership between the UMKC Center for Economic Information (CEI) and the UMKC Center for Neighborhoods (CFN) in Kansas City, Missouri. The UMKC CFN maintains a vital organizational and advocacy role in Kansas City, MO neighborhoods by helping to empower neighborhood leaders through neighborhood planning activities supported by a network of researchers and students continually involved in the process of solving problems at the local level. In Wyandotte County, Kansas, UMKC-CEI aims to collaborate with the Public Health Department and WYCO Livable Neighborhoods to provide data support and analysis, inventory existing and planned research activities, and generate WYCO health equity research agenda. We also aim to collaborate with the Community Health Council of Wyandotte County and the H.E.A.T. project neighborhood leaders and leadership team to support resident expertise in community health and social determinants of health through the co-creation of neighborhood level data overviews, and a structured process for generating a resident-driven health equity research agenda.

The base activities of the CSAC groups include: (1) the provision of data workshops for neighborhood associations and interested community members on how to use data resources to protect and enhance their community's assets through time, (2) the co-production of neighborhood data resources with neighborhood leaders (e.g., online neighborhood data overviews and asset mapping), and, (3) provide for direct resident involvement and oversight of research conducted using KC Health CORE resources. For the KC Health CORE to achieve its objectives of collecting relevant neighborhood indicators and coordinating effective health disparities research, it is essential that the neighborhoods impacted by these health inequalities are engaged in and able to use the resources produced by the initiative. By ensuring that neighborhoods are contributing their knowledge and experience to KC Health CORE research and planning activities, as well as participating in the design of the CSAC structure and neighborhood data resources, the initiative's progress will be to the benefit of the people subject to disparities, and will help them to gain a voice in the decision-making process over time.

KC Health CORE Community Partnerships

- ❖ The current [home page](#) for CORE Community Partnership work describes the Community Health & Neighborhood Data sessions we have held at the UMKC Center for Neighborhoods.
- ❖ [Working template](#) for neighborhood pages
- ❖ Example neighborhood page after working one-on-one with residents: [Foxtown West](#)
- ❖ Neighborhood level crime mapping conducted for participating residents: [Kansas City Overview](#)
- ❖ KC Health CORE Community Partnerships [Resident Feedback Form](#)
- ❖ Example of early resident feedback: [Eastwood Hills, Kansas City, MO](#)

Motivation: Provide a community-grounded neutral platform to coordinate regional health research and support neighborhoods facing inequalities that lead to poor health outcomes.

- ❖ Engage, equip, and empower residents through capacity building for meaningful engagement in health equity decision-making in the Kansas City region
 - Co-design and co-production of data resources:
 - Neighborhood data in the hands of residents
 - Resident-driven data analysis tools
 - Resident-identification of research questions
- ❖ Reduce the research burden on communities facing health inequalities by facilitating engagement with neighborhood leaders
 - Reduce duplication and improve communication between neighborhoods, researchers, and practitioners.
 - Design the structure of community partnership activities with residents

Progress in Kansas City, Missouri Neighborhoods

In Kansas City, Missouri, we have made progress towards a neighborhood-driven health equity research agenda, a cross-city KC Health CORE Community Steering Committee, and conducted several workshops, one-on-one sessions, and presentations with our community partners.

- ❖ Established the Missouri Community Steering Committee
 - Currently holding monthly meetings on various topics, upcoming schedule:
 - Neighborhood Data Overviews
 - Health & Data Ethics
 - Regional health equity research agenda development
- ❖ Working to establish the Missouri Community Advisory Board
- ❖ Events & Workshops:
 - Presentation to the Regional Pediatric Lead Poisoning Prevention Summit
 - Neighborhood-led workshop around the issues of demolition and lead poisoning
 - Support and planning for State of Kansas City Neighborhoods Event
 - Community Development Workshop 2020 - Regional
- ❖ Supported one neighborhood grant - AHA CPR training pilot in Dunbar, Kansas City, MO