

Policy Briefs | 2026

At Health Forward Foundation, we work every day to support and build inclusive, powerful, and healthy communities characterized by racial equity and economically just systems.

We're excited to share this series of policy recommendation briefs aimed at sparking meaningful change in our communities — driven by the people who live in them. These briefs cover key social drivers that influence health outcomes.

Each document provides actionable strategies that policymakers and advocates can use to create more just and equitable systems. We invite you to explore these recommendations and join us in shaping a healthier, more inclusive future.

Community-based health professionals



Community-based health professionals are demonstrating cost savings and improved patient outcomes.

Voting and health



Voting is a powerful tool for communities to determine what health initiatives and goals are at the forefront, how funding is allocated, and engage with policy that impacts their overall health and well-being.

One Big Beautiful Bill Act



The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (also known as the 2025 Budget Reconciliation Law or OBBBA) represents a harmful shift in federal health and food assistance policy that will negatively impact residents of Kansas and Missouri. Signed into law on July 4, 2025, OBBBA enacts dramatic reductions to longstanding safety net programs including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medicaid through the budget reconciliation process.



Housing and health



Communities hold the power to thrive, but when stable, affordable housing is out of reach and tenant protections fall short, that potential is blocked, burdening both people and the health systems meant to support them.

Digital equity



As the world increasingly moves online, we must ensure that everyone, regardless of their location, income, or background, can harness the power of technology to unlock potential, bridge divides, and build healthier, more connected communities.

Food as medicine



Food as medicine is an emerging movement that recognizes the critical role of nutrition in preventing, managing, and treating chronic diseases.

Real property tax assessment



Outdated valuation systems and inconsistent policies often place an undue burden on people who aren't paid very much and communities of color. By addressing these inequities, we can create a more just and sustainable system, ensuring that all households can thrive without being unfairly taxed.

Other resources



Visit our website to access our full set of policy and advocacy resources, including our policy agendas for Kansas and Missouri as well as legislative district infographics and data.

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