



2022 Fall Candidate Forum Questions

Now more than ever it is critical that advocates of KanCare expansion know where their elected leaders stand on the issue of KanCare expansion. Candidate forums provide an opportunity for you to ask questions and learn about the views of candidates prior to the November 2022 election. The following is background information about KanCare expansion. The next page has a list of questions that you can use at candidate forums or when talking with candidates one-on-one.

Background information

- A recent poll from a national polling firm shows that 78% of Kansans support KanCare expansion. Similarly, the Fall 2021 Kansas Speaks survey from Fort Hays State University shows support for KanCare expansion at about 73%.
- Every Kansan is paying the price for not expanding KanCare. When low-wage Kansans can't get health coverage that means more in ER bills, increased uncompensated care for hospitals, and untreated mental and physical health needs. This means individuals, families, and businesses all end up paying more for health care.
- Since the COVID outbreak began, more than 30% of Kansans say their household has struggled to afford food or health care. Almost half of Kansans have medical debt or know someone who does. KanCare expansion would result in tens of thousands of Kansans gaining access to affordable health coverage, protecting them from medical debt and allowing them to use that money to pay for other necessities.
- The income limit to qualify for KanCare is about \$8,700 a year for a family of three, which is less than \$4 per hour. Many of those who would benefit from expansion work in the following industries:
 - Accommodation and food services
 - Administration and Support and Waste Management
 - Wholesale trade
 - Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting
 - Educational Services

Expanding KanCare would raise the income eligibility limits so that more hardworking Kansans who contribute to the economy can get the health care they need for themselves and their families.

- Kansas currently has some of the most restrictive requirements in the country to qualify for the state's Medicaid program, KanCare. But 62% of those potentially eligible under KanCare expansion work. Expansion encourages work and job advancement among low-income parents, and makes it easier for individuals to maintain steady employment.
- Kansans in our rural communities already have a hard time accessing health care when and where they need it and rural health care providers face high levels of uncompensated care. Seventy rural hospitals are currently at risk of closing across our state, more than any other state our size. Expanding KanCare would strengthen and sustain the rural health care system and help ensure rural Kansans get the health care they need while giving a boost to their economies.

Questions for candidates

- What are your views on expanding the state's Medicaid program, KanCare?
- What is your plan to help reduce health care costs for all Kansans?
- If elected, what steps would you take to reduce the burden medical debt has on Kansans?
- What steps would you take, if elected, to close the coverage gap and provide access to affordable health insurance for those who currently don't have any options?
- What is your plan to assist low-wage parents with access to affordable health insurance, if they do not already have it?
- If elected, what steps would you take to reduce the levels of uncompensated care in rural hospitals? How would you ensure rural Kansans have access to the health care they need when they need it?