

- Strengthen floodplain protections and deter development in the 500-year floodplain for the safety of citizens and property and to sustain the ecosystem services of flood management they provide.

*Douglas County supports and would like to acknowledge these issues:*

**Preparing for Panasonic.** Douglas County supports a coordinated regional strategy with cities in Douglas, Leavenworth, and Johnson counties to meet the housing, transportation, childcare, and education needs for the 8,000 new jobs that will be created as a result of the Panasonic battery factory in Desoto. Douglas County has made significant investments in affordable, quality childcare to support our current and future workforce through the Douglas County Early Childhood Community Center. This resource will need continued support and partnership from state agencies and businesses to meet the need.

**KanCare Expansion.** We support Medicaid Expansion, which would, bringing more federal dollars to Kansas and extending health care coverage to our lower-income residents. Kansas should also pursue policies that maximize all possible federal funding sources in the Medicaid system, in the American Rescue Plan Act, and the Infrastructure spending bill to ensure our federal tax dollars provide services and improvements to our community. Additionally, access to the Women Infants and Children (WIC) and SNAP programs should be expanded, including the increased Fruit and Vegetable Cash Value Benefit, not limited, to ensure our most vulnerable access to federal and state support our tax dollars fund. Douglas County also supports the implementation of the Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) program, which is intended to provide a supplemental payment for uncompensated expenses incurred by public agencies when providing emergency medical transport to Medicaid beneficiaries.

**Support for Peaslee Tech.** The County recognizes the important role Peaslee Tech plays in providing a variety of technical programs to county residents and businesses. The need for a skilled workforce will be greater than ever. We support enabling legislation authorizing a countywide election to form a special district to provide stable and sustainable funding for Peaslee Tech.

**Elections.** Douglas County supports the current state statute calling for the appointment of an Election Commissioner only in counties with a population of 125,000 or more. Any future changes regarding lowering this threshold should be made in close consultation with local election officials as well as the Kansas Association of Counties.

**Criminal Justice Reform.** We support measures to reduce incarceration, improve the competency restoration process, increase funding for community-based services, eliminate the criminalization of poverty, and address racial inequities in the criminal justice system. We encourage the Legislature to allocate increased funding for the Kansas State Board of Indigents' Defense Service in order to reduce public defender turnover and caseloads while implementing a client-centered, holistic defense model. We also encourage the Legislature to take steps to eliminate the criminalization of poverty. Specifically, we support removing all driver's license reinstatement fees and eliminating