



Big Tent Coalition - 2013 Budget and Legislative Priorities

Restore and Rebuild

The Big Tent Coalition (BTC) is a grassroots coalition of people with disabilities, seniors, friends, family members, advocates and service providers working collaboratively to empower people with disabilities, seniors and their families to speak for and represent themselves. The BTC's vision is that all people in Kansas will have the supports they need to be included in the community and life they choose. Our values include independence, inclusion, integration, productivity, collaboration, respect, adequate public funding, protecting of civil rights, participation in society and consumer control.

Restore and Rebuild Key Essential Services

Use .5% of state ending balance to restore:

- State General Funds for Developmental Disability (DD) and Physical Disability (PD) Services, Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs), and base funding for Centers for Independent Living (CILs).
- Senior Care Act and Base Funding for Area Agencies on Aging.
- Governor's budget recommendation to cut HCBS/PD waiver by 1,200 slots.
- Governor's budget recommendation to eliminate mental health services to children under the Family Centered Systems of Care (\$5 million).

Ensure Independence, Freedom and Choice

- Eliminate--DO NOT EXPAND--waiting lists for seniors, DD and PD populations, so they can remain in their own homes.
- Eliminate the client obligation to protected income for those on fixed incomes. It equates to a tax on the social security checks of the most vulnerable and poor citizens.
- Support House Bill 2444 to restrict use of the dangerous tactics of seclusion and restraint in Kansas schools.
- Support KSA 39-7100 that allows self directed care and services to consumers by their chosen personal care attendants.

Support the Kansas Economy

- Support efforts to encourage the employment of Kansans with disabilities.
- Support funding of \$500,000 to allow more Kansans to "buy in" to Medicaid, thereby encouraging Kansans with disabilities to work while not jeopardizing their access to healthcare.
- Eliminate the requirement for electronic verification and training for workers who provide care for those individuals on the PD, DD and FE waivers—which is work time that is unpaid.
- Ensure that tax policy initiatives are not financially harmful to Kansans from lower socioeconomic conditions, and enhances the revenue stream to care for our Kansans who need the most support.
- Block any arbitrary limits or caps on appropriations and expenditures that could negatively impact seniors, those with disabilities and hard-working Kansans.

Other Legislative Priorities

- The State should apply for a "Community First" option, to ensure community based care without waits and give Kansas a 6% increase in Medicaid enhanced FMAP funding.
- Support amendment to the Kansas Act Against Discrimination to bring Kansas law in line with federal law.
- Support the position of the Big Tent Coalition around KanCare, with HCBS waivers "carved out" of the plan for managed care. Kansas should first focus on eliminating waiting lists and take time with implementation.
- Support all legislation that includes oversight and monitoring of the KanCare program.

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