



# City of Lawrence

THOMAS M. MARKUS  
CITY MANAGER

City Offices  
PO Box 708 66044-0708  
www.lawrenceks.org

6 East 6<sup>th</sup> St  
785-832-3000  
FAX 785-832-3405

## CITY COMMISSION

MAYOR  
MIKE AMYX

COMMISSIONERS  
LESLIE SODEN  
STUART BOLEY  
MATTHEW J. HERBERT  
LISA LARSEN

Kansas Health Foundation  
Health Equity Partnership  
309 S. Douglas  
Wichita, KS 67202

To Whom it may concern:

Oh behalf of the City Commission of the City of Lawrence, I am writing to express support for the United Way of Douglas County's proposal for the Health Equity Partnership. This project has the opportunity to broadly impact the capacity of the City of Lawrence and at the same time address a core issue that this community has been grappling with: housing.

The City Commission established an Affordable Housing Advisory Board (AHAB) in 2015 when the issue of housing was repeatedly identified as a challenge across sectors. Anecdotally, at least three manufacturing businesses report that over 60% of their workforce lives out of town because they simply can't afford to live closer. At the same time, when we consider the social determinants of health, we know that housing, housing stability and safe housing is a major factor in health equity.

At their recent strategic planning retreat, our Affordable Housing Advisory Board identified goals for the next few years. Several of the goals include building community support for additional housing efforts and identifying additional funding sources. With United Way's partnership and alignment, which is possible with the support of the Kansas Health Foundation, we would make important progress on these goals.

We will work with United Way on this project by providing ongoing feedback and perspective on the evaluation and program design. While our efforts continue to be broad-based, we are supportive of an effort that focuses more narrowly on a particularly vulnerable population so that we can make progress on narrow populations and then extend our knowledge to other members of our community.

Thank you for considering the United Way of Douglas County's application. We are excited about the opportunity to address Health Equity in a meaningful and community-based way.

Sincerely,

Mike Amyx  
Mayor

