



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
KANSAS ALLIANCE

To: Kansas Senate Ways and Means Committee
From: Allie Devine, Lobbyist, Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs
Date: March 24, 2021
RE: In Person and In Support of SB 264

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I want to thank you for the opportunity to appear before you in support of SB 264. I am Allie Devine, representing the Kansas Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs (Clubs) and speaking to you today on behalf of our Clubs across Kansas.

Background:

Boys & Girls Clubs fill the gap between school and home, providing safe environments where kids participate in life-changing programs, form supportive relationships with peers and caring adults, and basic needs are met. More than 34,000 youth are served through membership and community outreach in over 40 Club sites in Kansas communities each year. In 2019, nearly 300,000 meals and over 700,000 snacks were provided to Club kids in Kansas. Clubs offer nationally recognized programs that include articulated and measured goals and are affiliated with Boys & Girls Clubs of America, adhering to their internal standards, as well as with state drop-in licensing requirements.

Alliance Clubs are based in Hutchinson, Atchison, Manhattan, Wichita, Topeka, Lawrence, Coffeyville, Kansas City (KS), Ft. Leavenworth, Kickapoo Tribe in Horton, Potawatomi Nation in Mayetta, and the Iowa Tribe in White Cloud. Of Clubs' overall operating income totaling \$10.6 million, 40% is derived from local, state, and federal funding, with remaining revenue coming from private sources including individuals, businesses, and foundations.

Attached you will find the Kansas Alliance of Boys & Girls Fact Sheet. I would like to draw your attention to the membership demographics and data regarding out of school time and health and wellness. The Clubs have targeted prevention programs that serve some of the most vulnerable and needy Kansans. Over the last year, Clubs have been instrumental in providing much needed services to youth, including on-line learning and access to technology, checking in on the welfare of their Club kids, offering kids activity packets or virtual activities while isolated at home, and providing meals to kids, their families, and communities. Many of you are familiar with the Clubs' partnership with Kansas Department of Children and Families and use of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, and the supplemental funding that was available through the CARES Act and Kansas Recovery office to help in these programs.

Support of SB 264 and youth drug prevention programs:

We are here today to ask your support for SB 264 and encourage use of opioid funds for youth prevention programs. We all understand that youth prevention programs are effective. Recently, Dr.

Jeff Jenson, Ph.D, Philip D. & Eleanor G. Winn Endowed Professor for Children and Youth, Graduate School of Social Work - University of Denver, commented to the Colorado legislature regarding youth drug prevention programs. He noted;

The key to reducing the opioid epidemic, is drug abuse prevention.

- *Substance misuse causes harm in childhood and adolescence.*
- *Substance misuse established in adolescence causes harm into adulthood.*
- *Preventing substance misuse during childhood and adolescence can reduce mortality and morbidity over the life course.*
- *Treatment and life-saving naloxone will not prevent new uptake of opioids, allowing the cycle of drug abuse and wasted lives to continue.*

There are many resources and reports that outline the trends in drug and alcohol use. Most of the reports call for funding of prevention programs. Here are cites to some of the most current data on drug use. For Kansas Data see:https://www.kdads.ks.gov/docs/default-source/csp/bhs-documents/kansas-behavioral-health-profile-2018.pdf?sfvrsn=bf7407ee_0 For a national perspective see the Trust for America's Health [PiNUdgate_2020.pdf \(tfah.org\)](https://www.tfah.org/reports/2018-national-drug-use-report) 2018 report.

We commend the work of Attorney General Schmidt and his staff in pursuing the abuse of opioids and the crafting of SB 264. We have confirmed with the General's office that the Kansas Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs or individual Clubs would be eligible applicants for funding. We look forward to applying and working with the Attorney General's office and Sunflower foundation to assist Kansas youth in combating drug abuse. Thank you for your time.

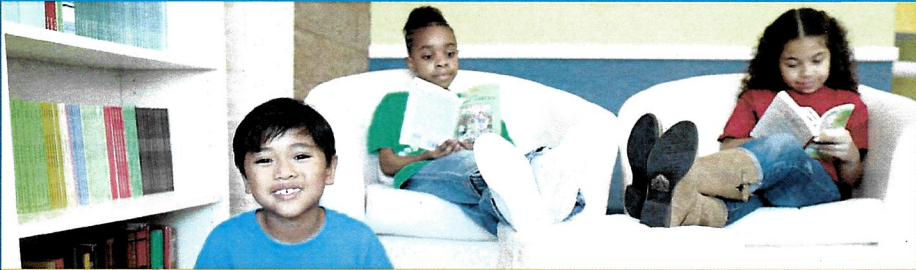


BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
KANSAS ALLIANCE

Our Mission

Our mission is to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

2020 KANSAS FACT SHEET



“My Club has helped me learn to make the right choice, every day. I choose to study. I choose to be a leader. I choose to be an over comer. I choose my Club and you should to.”



Joshua S.
2020 Kansas Youth of the Year

The Club Experience

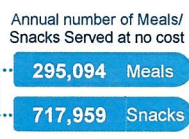
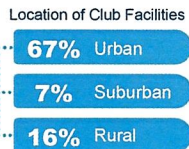
Boys & Girls Clubs fill the gap between school and home. We provide welcoming, positive environments in which kids and teens have fun, participate in life-changing programs and experiences, and build supportive relationships with peers and caring adults.



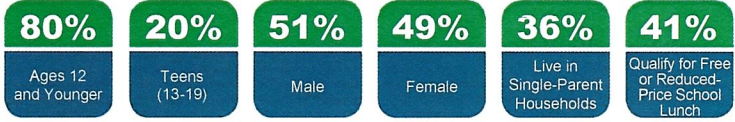
The Need in Our State

Every day 91,728 kids in Kansas leave school with nowhere to go¹. They risk being unsupervised, unguided and unsafe.

Our Reach



Member Demographics



2018 Club Operating Income



Club Locations

Multi Club Cities are bolded, Military Bases are italicized

- Atchison
- Coffeyville
- Fort Leavenworth**
- Fort Riley**
- Horton
- Hutchinson**
- Junction City
- Lawrence**
- Manhattan**
- Mayetta
- McConnell AFB*
- Olathe
- Tecumseh**
- Topeka**
- Wamego
- White Cloud
- Wichita

Every dollar invested in the Boys & Girls Clubs returns \$9.60 in current and future earnings and cost-savings to their communities

Our Agenda for America's Youth

At Boys & Girls Clubs of America we believe who you are, where you're from, or the circumstances that surround you shouldn't determine your access to experiences or opportunities. Our Agenda for America's Youth focuses on solutions and policies that will have the greatest impact on the youth of this country, and the fight to strengthen them. America's youth need a voice and with your help, we will close the opportunity gap for all youth in America.

Out-Of-School Time



Every young person should have access to a high-quality out-of-school time experience.

The Need

Nationally, 11.3 million school-age children are home without adult supervision after school.

What We Do

Clubs across the country provide over 4 million young people with a safe place, caring adult mentors, fun and friendship, and high-impact youth development programs on a daily basis during critical non-school hours.

Our Impact

54% of Club Alumni said the club literally "saved my life".

Safer Childhoods



Every young person has a right to a safe, positive environment in which to learn and grow.

The Need

Nationally, 49% of youth grades 4–12 reported being bullied at least once during the past month.

What We Do

Boys & Girls Clubs are committed to supporting communities and local Clubs ensure the safety of all youth especially during out-of-school time when statistics show youth violence escalates in communities between the hours of 3-7 p.m.

Our Impact

Older Club Teens are **41%** less likely to get into a physical fight than their peers.

Health & Wellness



Every young person should be equipped to make healthy decisions resulting in positive social, emotional, and physical well-

The Need

Nationally, 33% of high school students report currently using alcohol and 22% using marijuana in the past 30 days.

What We Do

Our programs help youth engage in positive behaviors that nurture their well-being. Club members learn how to manage stress, demonstrate good teamwork, eat well, and keep physically fit.

Our Impact

Club 12th graders are **26%** more likely to abstain from alcohol than their peers nationally.

Education, Career Readiness & Leadership Development



Every young person deserves to be well prepared for life and career.

The Need

15% of young people in Kansas fail to graduate from high school on time.²

What We Do

Clubs equip youth with the soft and hard skills they need to succeed in the workforce and create access to partnerships for real-life experiences to explore career options.

Our Impact

97% of Club teens expect to graduate on time and **86%** expect to attend college.

Equity & Inclusion



Every young person has the right to safe, positive and inclusive environments where everyone can reach their full potential.

The Need

Nationally, nearly 1 in 5 children live in poverty and 50% live in low-income families.

What We Do

Clubs champion opportunities for the unique challenges and circumstances in communities, while respecting and celebrating their strengths and cultures.

Our Impact

83% of Club members believe they can make a difference in their community.



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For more information, please visit www.bgca.org
(202)507-6670 || advocacy@bgca.org
Joyce Glasscock || (785) 341-4804 ||
jglasscock@bgca.org

¹ America After 3PM, Afterschool Alliance, <http://afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/>
² America After 3PM, Afterschool Alliance, <http://afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/>
³ America After 3PM, Afterschool Alliance, <http://afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/>
⁴ America After 3PM, Afterschool Alliance, <http://afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/>