

OLDER KANSANS INFORMATION FORUM

Community Access Network <www.cankansas.org>

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A special challenge that faces those who serve Older Kansans is that many services and programs that can be of help are hard to find and identify, whether because they do not focus on this population, because they are geographically remote, or because many guides to such services are limited to non-profit agencies only. Any organization wanting to improve services to older Kansans should be aware of the Community Access Network.

What is CAN?

The Community Access Network, Inc. (CAN) is a not-for-profit, collaborative initiative comprised of representatives from various Community Partners and Kansas government organizations. The purpose of CAN is to connect people to Kansas resources by gathering data and information about programs and services and providing information about related social topics. CAN is a dynamic, statewide web based directory to public and private human services in every Kansas County.

CAN Provides Information...

...About Topics of Interest - CAN offers basic information about various human service topics. Some of these topics include domestic violence, substance abuse, children services, and health related issues. Consumers can access detailed information about services related to issues and provide them with direct access to providers of services.

...Through an Index of Services - A useful byproduct of CAN is an extensive index to free and reduced-cost programs and services available in Kansas. This web-based, searchable resource is available to everyone. Consumers can find information about health, nutrition, child care, substance abuse services, personal safety, recreation, community advocacy groups and service organizations, religious organizations, financial and legal services, grant resources, and other services on the CAN web site.

...Through Community Partners - Our Community Partners are the backbone of the CAN resources. They identify and maintain information about services for a specific geographic and categorical area. You or your organization can become a Community Partner for your area. Contact CAN administration for more information.

CAN Provides Analysis

Resource Mapping - Data about free and reduced-cost services is stored in the CAN database. This information can be displayed on maps to show how resources are distributed across the state.

Outcomes Mapping - By matching resource data in CAN with data from other sources such as the Communities that Care Survey and Connect Kansas, policy makers and planners can obtain and analyze useful data about free and reduced-cost services. This information can be displayed on maps to show how counties compare across the state.

CAN is Live

The online system has been developed and tested. Thousands of entries about services available through state agencies, county and city government as well as community not-for-profit organizations and advocacy groups throughout Kansas are available in the CAN database. These records have been verified with more entries added each day. Once records are entered, data and information is kept current and accurate through automated e-mail reminders to registered organizations and with the help of Community Partners and supporting organizations.

CAN Needs your Help

To become an effective resource for your community, CAN needs your help. You can include information about programs and services provided by your organization on the CAN web site. Adding your program information and sharing this exciting new resource with those who are providing valuable services in your area will benefit your friends and neighbors.

List a Resource

With the support of knowledgeable and interested persons, the Community Access Network will be the most comprehensive index of community resources in Kansas. If you know of or offer a program or service for free or at a reduced cost, you can list it in the Network online by visiting the CAN web resource.

Get Involved

By living in the community, Community Partners know **about** their community. The Community Access Network is looking for individuals, groups, and organizations interested in adding and maintaining resource data for their community. Send an e-mail or phone the Community Access Network to receive more information about how you or your organization can become a CAN Community Partner.

The Community Access Network is a statewide effort made possible by people like you! Organizations that are Community Partners and those who have supported our efforts in various ways include:

- o Dorothy Bramlage Public Library - Junction City
- o Emporia Public Library
- o Kansas Association of Counties
- o Kansas Association of Local Health Departments
- o Kansas Children's Service League

- o Kansas Children's Trust Fund
- o Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence
- o Kansas Department of Administration
- o Kansas Department of Corrections
- o Kansas Department of Education
- o Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services
- o Kansas Health Institute
- o Kansas Non-Profit Association
- o Kansas State Library
- o Kansas State Research and Extension
- o Lawrence Public Library
- o League of Kansas Municipalities
- o North Central Kansas Libraries System, Manhattan
- o Office of the Attorney General
- o Office of Judicial Administration
- o University of Kansas
- o Southeast Kansas Education Service Center (Greenbush)
- o William Allen White Library, Emporia

For more information, please contact:

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