

KANSAS HEALTH COALITION ACADEMY

APRIL 2026 - NOVEMBER 2026



ACADEMY DESCRIPTION

The Kansas Health Coalition Academy is a cohort-based learning experience designed for newly forming community health coalitions, emerging leaders, and coalitions navigating transition. The Academy blends practical skill-building, applied learning, and peer connection to support coalitions in moving from intention to action.

Participants will take part in an eight-session series of in-person and virtual sessions, brief homework assignments, optional on-demand workshops, and consultation opportunities.

Participation is limited to 20 individuals representing up to 10 coalitions to ensure meaningful interaction and tailored support. Coalitions may submit applications for up to 3 individuals.

PARTICIPANTS WILL BUILD SKILLS IN:

- Coalition design & decision-making
- Facilitation & adaptive leadership
- Vision- and mission-driven strategy
- Engagement, recruitment, & partnerships
- Communication & storytelling readiness

QUESTIONS?

Contact Jessica Smith at Jessica.Smith@wichita.edu

APPLY HERE:



*Preference will be given to complete applications received by March 10th.

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

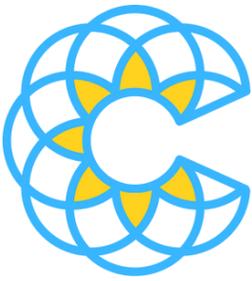
- **Kick-Off:** In-Person April 14, 9:00-4:15
- **Session 2:** Virtual May 12, 3:00-4:30
- **Session 3:** Virtual June 9, 3:00-4:30
- **Session 4:** Virtual July 14, 3:00-4:30
- **Session 5:** Virtual August 11, 3:00- 4:30
- **Session 6:** Virtual September 8, 3:00-4:30
- **Session 7:** Virtual October 13, 3:00-4:30
- **Session 8:** Virtual November 10, 3:00-4:30

PRESENTED BY:



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COALITION ACADEMY**
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COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

KICK-OFF: *STARTING STRONG: COALITION BASICS AND SHARED DIRECTION*

April 14, 2026, In-Person

The Academy begins with attending an all-day Learning Session being offered through the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas Pathways to a Healthy Kansas Initiative. This Learning Session is bringing together health coalitions to engage in learning and networking around the transformational work of communities that impact health and well-being. During a portion of the Learning Session, Academy attendees will break out into a smaller group to meet fellow cohort members, establish shared norms, gain an overview of the Academy structure and expectations, and review core concepts of coalition work.

SESSION 2: *FROM VISION TO ACTION: USING PURPOSE TO GUIDE COALITION WORK*

May 12, 2026, Virtual

A clear vision, mission, and values provide direction for coalition decision-making and action. This session explores why these elements are essential—and how they can be actively used to guide coalition functions, priorities, and behaviors. Participants will examine how vision, mission, and values may evolve as a coalition forms or transitions, and share examples from their own work.

SESSION 3: *STRENGTHENING COALITIONS THROUGH PEOPLE AND PARTNERSHIPS*

June 9, 2026, Virtual

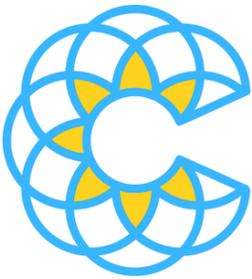
This session focuses on who is at the table and who needs to be. Participants will explore coalition makeup, recruitment strategies, and approaches for sustaining meaningful engagement across sectors. Emphasis is placed on building cross-sector partnerships that align with coalition goals and community context.

SESSION 4: *LEADING TOGETHER: ROLES AND SHARED RESPONSIBILITY*

July 14, 2026, Virtual

Coalition leadership requires adaptability, self-awareness, and clarity around roles. This session builds leadership skills focused on adaptive leadership, understanding values, and navigating shared responsibility. Participants will explore how clearly defined roles and responsibilities support accountability while remaining flexible enough to meet changing needs.

Using practical frameworks, participants will reflect on their leadership approach and how responsibilities are distributed within their coalition. This session supports leaders in balancing direction with collaboration and fostering shared leadership.



SESSION 5: *HOLDING THE SPACE: MEETINGS, CONFLICT & INFLUENCE*

August 11, 2026, Virtual

Effective coalition leaders must skillfully facilitate meetings, navigate conflict, and engage with external partners including elected officials. This session strengthens facilitation and communication skills needed to run productive meetings, address tension constructively, and advance coalition goals through external relationships.

SESSION 6: *WRITING IT DOWN: BUILDING SYSTEMS THAT SUPPORT COALITION WORK*

September 8, 2026, Virtual

This session focuses on building the internal systems that help coalitions function smoothly and sustain progress. Participants will explore the purpose of foundational documents, approaches to inviting and onboarding new members, and strategies for documenting decisions and processes.

SESSION 7: *ADDRESSING SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH SHARING THE COALITION'S STORY*

October 13, 2026, Virtual

Clear communication and storytelling help coalitions build momentum, demonstrate impact, and align partners. This session explores how coalitions can communicate their work effectively while integrating evaluation and learning into their efforts. Participants will practice crafting stories that reflect both current work and future aspirations.

SESSION 8: *STEWARDED THE WORK AHEAD*

November 10, 2026, Virtual

The Academy concludes with a reflective, forward-looking session focused on sustainability and shared leadership. Participants will reflect on growth across the Academy, identify lessons learned, and explore strategies for helping coalition members step up, step back, and thrive.

This final session emphasizes building a culture of success, supporting leadership transitions, and strengthening coalitions for the long term ensuring participants leave with confidence, clarity, and next steps.