



## **Board of Directors Information**

**The Southeast Kansas Community Action Program, Inc. is a private, non-profit corporation “Helping People and Changing Lives” in twelve southeast Kansas counties. The following information describes the nomination and selection process for our Governing Board of Directors.**

### **Composition of Directors**

The business, property and affairs of the Corporation shall be managed by a Board of Directors composed of nine (9) persons. There shall be a tripartite composition of the Board to reflect equal representation of Elected Public Officials, Low-Income, and Major Private Interests. The current elected Head Start Policy Council Chairperson shall serve as a voting member of the Board and one of the three low-income representatives. Of the nine (9) elected members: One member shall have expertise and a background in finance or accounting; One member shall have expertise and a background in early childhood education and development; and one member shall be a licensed attorney familiar with issues that come before the Governing Board. If persons with the required qualifications are not available, the Board will enter into agreements and work directly with consultants or other individuals with the necessary expertise.

### **Election of Directors**

The Board of Directors will select all of its members, except for the Policy Council Chairperson, who is elected by that council. The Board of Directors shall consist of nine (9) representatives residing in Southeast Kansas and be selected as follows: three (3) elected public officials, holding office on the date of selection, or their representatives, except that if the number of such elected officials reasonably available and willing to serve on the Board is less than 3, appointive public officials or their representatives may take the place of elected officials; three (3) democratically elected representatives of low-income individuals or families who reside within the twelve county SEK-CAP service area; three (3) representatives of major private interests such as business, labor, religion, private social service, education and/or significant minority groups; the current elected Policy Council Chairperson shall serve as a voting member of the Board and occupy one of the three (3) designated low-income Board positions.

The Nominating Committee of the Board will receive nominations for membership and make recommendations for election to the full Board whenever there is a vacant seat. Nominations to the Board for low-income Board positions may be made by active low-income groups or organizations serving the poor, Board members or staff. Any vacancy on the Board for low-income seats will be announced to low-income groups organized within the agency, such as Head Start Center Committees and the Head Start Policy Council. Those groups - if they choose - will, by democratic vote, select low-income individuals to nominate to the Board. The Policy Council Chairperson automatically serves as one of three designated low-income representatives. Nominees for low-income positions must be low-income persons (at or below 185% of the federal poverty guidelines) or persons who are regularly employed or volunteering in service to low-income people.

Any elected official of the Southeast Kansas area served by the agency, including State Representatives and Senators, may be recruited by the Board to fill Public Sector slots.

### **Criteria for Selection**

Prospective Board Members: 1) Must have expressed interest in assisting disadvantaged citizens by taking a leadership role; 2) Must demonstrate a strong interest in community capacity building around the issues of poverty; 3) Should have a history of accomplishment in community services; and 4) Must be reflective of the community, including current or former Head Start parents, and members selected for their expertise in education, business administration, or community affairs.

### **Term of Directors**

The term of office for a member shall be three (3) years and begins on the date of the official seating on the Board of Directors. Directors may, upon nomination and election, serve up to four (4) additional three-year terms. Maximum consecutive service on the Board shall be limited to fifteen (15) years.

### **Compensation**

Directors shall serve without pay and shall not be compensated for providing services to the Corporation. Directors who have difficulty meeting expenses arising from their official duties and responsibilities may be reimbursed for travel and other reasonable expenses incurred in attending meetings and transacting the business of the Corporation.