Urban League of Greater Kansas City
100 Years of Progress

Founded on the principles of equity and opportunity, the Urban League of Greater Kansas City is a historic civil rights organization dedicated to economic empowerment, equal opportunity, equity, and social justice. The League collaborates with community leaders, policymakers, and corporate partners across Greater Kansas City and the region to elevate standards of living for African Americans and other historically underserved groups.

Mission
Our mission is to enable African Americans and other disadvantaged populations to secure economic self-reliance, parity, power, and civil rights.

Manifesto
The Urban League of Greater Kansas City has spent the last century solving the difficult equations of wealth and privilege, poverty and disadvantage, race and geography. The fight for equity is not over, and we’re still standing—standing up for African-Americans and other marginalized groups, standing astride the dividing line between haves and have-nots, standing steady amid chaotic social and political change. We stand proud of our successes, seasoned by adversity, equal to the social justice challenges of the next 100 years.

Foundation Goals
- **Education & Youth Development** - Every child is ready for college, work, and life
- **Jobs & Workforce Development** - Every adult has access to jobs with a living wage and good benefits
- **Housing & Community Development** - Every person lives in safe, decent, and affordable housing on fair terms
- **Health & Quality of Life** - Every person has access to quality and affordable healthcare
- **Justice & Civic Engagement** - Every person has an equal right to fully participate in our democracy and civic processes, and all people have a right to justice and fairness

Programs
- **College Preparatory Classes** - Our Project Ready initiatives combine academic skill building, leadership development, positive support networks, and college and career readiness training with ACT preparation to ensure African-American and other disadvantaged students from across Greater Kansas City successfully matriculate high school and are ready to enter college or the workforce.
- **Workforce Development**
  - The Urban League's Career Marketplace prepares adults 21 years of age or older to join the workforce. Career seekers are recruited, interviewed, and pre-screened to meet specific job requirements. Job seekers are referred after a rigorous matching process is conducted.
  - Project: Pathways is a pre-apprentice training program for minorities and women. Trainees will complete at least 20 and not more than 48 hours of training. The curriculum includes academic assessments, tutoring in math and reading, GED test preparation, and soft-skill training. Graduates are referred for apprentice-ship programs in the construction and building industry or employment in a comparable field.
- **Parent Education** - The Parent Education and Empowerment Center equips parents with the necessary skills and resources to serve as engaged advocates throughout their children's academic journey. Parent Empowerment Coaches and legal consultants provide FREE one-on-one
support to help parents overcome obstacles, navigate detours, and avoid the potholes you may encounter as you guide your child's journey towards a quality education.

- **Digital Education** - Digital Spectrum Academy provides digital education and broadband access for families and seniors to equip them with the skills needed to use technology to navigate their daily lives.

- **Social Justice & Advocacy** - The Urban League of Greater Kansas City promotes civil rights, positive race relations, respect, and understanding by actively working to eradicate barriers to equal participation in all aspects of society. What we do:
  - Publish the State of Black Kansas City Equality Index which documents empirical gaps between blacks and whites in economics, health, education, social justice, and civic engagement
  - Develop programs, services and policy recommendations to remedy disparities in economics, health, education, social justice, and civic engagement
  - Convene workshops and seminars to educate and inform communities and policy makers on the social and economic disparities that exist between blacks and whites
  - Legislative policy consultations with city, county, state, and national elected officials

**Impact**

Our impact can be measured in the number of lives we touch. Over the past year, the Urban League of Greater Kansas City has served more than 3,000 individuals in key program areas:

- **Project Ready**
  - 572 students served
  - 98% of graduating seniors attend 4-years colleges and universities
  - ACT Test Prep participants gain 3 to 4 points on average after completing 24 hours of academic coaching and test-taking skills

- **Career Marketplace**
  - 2545 career seekers served
  - 1500 enrolled in one-on-one or small-group coaching
  - 1335 placed in unsubsidized employment

- **Project Pathways**
  - 50 adults trained and placed
  - Average wage at placement - $19.63 per hour - 11% above the national average

- **Parent Education and Empowerment Center**
  - 96 parents served
  - 55 learned how to use technology to manage their children's education
  - 41 parents engaged in individual coaching
  - Increased parent/school engagement from 50% to 76%

- **Digital Spectrum Academy**
  - 355 adults and seniors served
  - 85 classes held
  - 90% of attendees learned how to conduct job searches and apply for employment online, how to check credit scores, review credit reports and how to manage their credit profiles online

- **Social Justice and Advocacy**
  - Published The State of Black Kansas City: Urban Education - Still Separate and Unequal
• Presented State of Black Kansas City Equality Index findings to more than 1,000 elected officials, civic, philanthropic, community-based leaders, education administrators, and policy makers
• Developed a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion organizational assessment instrument