Our Mission

El Centro's mission is to Empower Families, Building Opportunities, and Strengthening Communities. Our goal is to strengthen communities and improve the lives of Latinos and others through educational, social, and economic opportunities.

Our Programs

- **Academy for Children**: Dual Language Early Childhood Education, NEAYC accredited program serving 2½ to 5 year olds.
- **Promotoras de Salud**: Volunteers from our community engage, educate, and mobilize. Conveying how to be healthy AND stay true to their heritage and culture.
- **Health Navigation**: Increase access to affordable healthcare services and insurance to improve health outcomes for medically underserved and/or uninsured.
- **Economic Empowerment**: Provide financial assistance, financial literacy, homebuyer’s education, VITA and ITIN assistance empowering the community to build wealth and assets.
- **Kansas Statewide Farmworker Health Program**: Ensure access to primary healthcare services for low-income and medically underserved migratory and seasonal farmworkers.
- **Advocacy & Engagement**: Strengthen policy priorities, promote system changes, and protect our population against harmful policies while building a grassroots base to take action.

Core Strategies

- Developing the Educational Success of Latinos,
- Promoting a Healthier Latino Community,
- Empowering Financial Success for Latinos,
- and Having an Informed & Engaged Latino Community.

Our Impact Statement

A healthy, educated, financially able and engaged Latino Community.
2017-2018 Outcomes

- Of the 35 children who graduated from the Academy in May 2018, 94% had the communication, motor, cognitive, and social skills needed to be Kindergarten ready.
- Over 95% of parents participated in Parent-Teacher Conferences, workshops, Family Fun Night, fieldtrips and fundraisers.
- Of the 30 children who regularly attended the 10-week School Age Summer Enrichment Program, 100% maintained or improved their reading and math skills.
- Assisted a total of 526 Latinos households, comprising of 1,462 qualified individuals, enroll in SNAP, the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program.
- Educated 1,112 adults participating in related healthy- lifestyles activities.
- Educated and introduced 1,000 Latinos to local farmers’ markets where they spent $10,000 on fresh fruits and vegetables.
- Assisted 610 clients with emergency prescriptions, eye care, dental care and durable medical equipment,
- Assisted 199 clients with billing navigation
- Assisted 995 individuals obtain insurance coverage through enrollment assistance in KanCare and the Insurance Marketplace Exchange Assisted 121 individuals received specialty care coordination
- Assisted 286 Johnson County and 64 Wyandotte County clients sustain utility service for a minimum of 30 days and/ or sustained housing for a minimum of 30 days.
- Of 448 emergency assistance clients (95%) completed an online financial literacy education session with 80% accuracy in the post assessment.
- 632 clients attended various Financial Education presentations, each ranging from 1 to 6 hours.
- Our VITA sites saved our community a total of more than $333,000 in tax preparation fees.
- During the 2018 tax season, we assisted more than 1,600 taxpayers to receive refunds of $1,525,000 in Federal refunds; money that is reinvested back into our community.
- Assisted 229 clients obtain Individual Tax Identification Numbers (ITINs)
- Hosted and attended 25 community events, 7 voter canvassing and phone banking events, and 1 Get Out The Vote event, resulting in 51 voter pledges completed and 61 new voters registered.
- Conducted 18 DACA clinics with a total of 112 participants renewing their DACA paperwork.