Earlier this year, CRC began a collaboration with the Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce, League of Women Voters of Topeka & Shawnee County, and the Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library in order to initiate a Candidate School. The school, which took place May 9th, was open to potential mayoral candidates and offered advice about how to succeed in local politics and develop a strong campaign.

Now, with the Topeka Mayoral Election less than a month away (August 1st), collaborative efforts have expanded to also include Downtown Topeka, YWCA, and Forge Young Professionals. Together, these organizations are hosting a Topeka Mayoral Candidate Forum where all five candidates will be given a platform to interact with the community and answer questions from representatives of local media outlets: WIBW radio, KSNT-TV, KTWU/PBS, WIBW-TV, and the Topeka Capital Journal. Eugene Williams, General Manager & CEO of KTWU/PBS will be the moderator. The forum will be on Wednesday, July 19th at the Jayhawk Theater starting off with a reception at 6pm, immediately followed by the official forum from 7:00-8:30pm.

Running for Office of Mayor is Michelle De La Isla, Spencer Duncan, Chris Schultz, Clark Trammell, and Mark Weiser. We are looking forward to co-hosting the Candidate Forum and meeting Topeka’s new mayor!

This month is the 2017 Kansas Conference on Poverty! The conference is a 3-day long event hosted by Kansas Association of Community Action Programs (KACAP), beginning Wednesday, July 19th at 8am and ending on Friday, July 21st around 1:30pm. The conference will feature guest speakers, presentations, and workshops primarily focused on analyzing what poverty looks like in the Midwest and how to create positive changes towards reducing poverty, empowering marginalized communities, and fostering a sense of unity and collaboration. “The 2016 elections and their aftermath have highlighted divisions in our country. Instead of embracing diversity, too many people seem to use our differences as a way to divide us. The 2017 Kansas Conference on Poverty will explore how working to address poverty can help us to restore a sense of community.”

For more information about what the conference offers and how to register, you can visit this website or contact Tiffany Jarvis with KACAP.

CRC has reached the halfway point for our Franchise Fee Credit Program and we are still open to receiving more applicants! This program, made possible by the City of Topeka, provides eligible households a standardized credit by utility. Each approved household can qualify for up to $175 in credit for the calendar year 2017. To qualify for the City of Topeka Franchise Fee Credit Program you must: be a city resident with electric, gas, water/waste, have a household income of less than $32,400, AND be born before January 1, 1960 OR be blind/permanently disabled OR have a dependent child living at home under the age of 18. Those who meet the requirements listed above should come to the CRC CARE Center at Avondale East, 455 SE Golf Park Blvd, Topeka KS 66605. We accept walk in clients Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm.