

# AUDIT SCOPE STATEMENT – August 7, 2024

## Healthy Homes Rental Inspection Program

### Why audit the Healthy Homes Rental Inspection program?

The city began requiring a permit for rental housing after Kansas Citizens voted to create the Healthy Homes Rental Inspection Program in 2018.<sup>1</sup> The program's purpose is to protect the public health, safety and welfare in residential rental property units. Since the Healthy Homes Program was created, City Council passed additional legislation related to safe, healthy, and affordable housing.

The Health Department oversees the Healthy Homes Program. The department manages the rental property permit process, develops rental health and safety regulations, inspects complaints of health and safety issues in rental units, monitors the resolution of any observed violations, and can revoke or suspend permits for non-compliant landlords.

Safe, healthy, and habitable housing is crucial for Kansas Citizens' well-being. The 2025-2029 Citywide Business Plan includes an objective to "Ensure all residents have safe, accessible, and quality housing by reducing barriers" as part of its Housing and Healthy Communities goal.<sup>2</sup> The Healthy Homes Program is integral to achieving this objective for the city's renters. After five years of operations, an audit can determine how effectively the city has implemented this priority and identify any areas for improvement.

### Audit objective

Our objective is to answer the following question:

- Is the Healthy Homes Rental Inspection Program effectively enforcing city code to ensure tenants live in safe, healthy, and habitable housing?

### Audit methods

We will review city code and the program's policies and procedures; interview department staff and impacted stakeholders; evaluate internal controls for rental permitting, renewal, and inspection processes; review recommended practices for equitable code enforcement, and analyze rental permit, complaint, and inspection data.

### Anticipated release date

We plan to issue the audit report in January of 2025.

<sup>1</sup> Ordinance 180248, May 10, 2018.

<sup>2</sup> *Adopted 2025-2029 Citywide Business Plan, "Housing and Healthy Communities"* p 17, October 26, 2023.

