

Kansas Rural Health Works Seeking Community Applications

The Kansas Rural Health Works program is soliciting proposals from communities interested in the next round of Community Engagement outreach programs. The Community Engagement Process provides a way in which community members can evaluate their health care system through the analysis of information reports. The process is community-driven with input from health care providers. It helps the community identify, brainstorm and solve problems related to the health care sector. As a result, the process leads to the increased use and expansion of the local health care sector, ensuring its existence in the future.

As part of the Community Engagement Process, communities will receive four information reports: Health Services Economic Impact Report; Comprehensive Community Health Services Directory; Local Health Data and Information Briefs; and a Community Survey of Local Health Needs and Usage. Through the examination of the information generated, health-related issues emerge. At program culmination, program participants identify action strategies to address locally-determined priorities.

Participation in the program is through competitive application. Communities must demonstrate their commitment and preparedness to make the most of the opportunity. The program is valued at \$20,000 per community, but there is no cost to the communities selected. Typically, only two communities are selected in each round of outreach.

The Kansas Rural Health Works program is a collaborative effort of the Kansas Rural Health Options Project in partnership with the Office of Local Government, K-State Research and Extension. Support for Kansas Rural Health Works is provided by the Office of Rural Health Policy through the Kansas Rural Health Options Project. To learn more about the program, visit the Kansas Rural Health Works Website at www.krhw.net or contact Dr. John Leatherman, 785-532-4492, jleather@ksu.edu.