

Assisting rural communities

Rural Health Education and Services (RHES)

Established in 1990, the University of Kansas Medical Center's Rural Health Education and Services aims to improve the availability and number of health care providers in rural Kansas. RHES is a part of KU Medical Center's Institute for Community Engagement.

Programs and services

RHES administers the following programs:

- The Kansas Bridging Plan (KBP) – a loan forgiveness program (up to \$26,000) offered to physicians in Kansas residency programs of family practice, internal medicine, pediatrics and medicine/pediatrics. Participants agree to practice medicine full time in a rural community for 36 continuous months upon completion of residency.
- Kansas Locum Tenens (KLT) – available to rural physicians in family medicine, internal medicine and pediatrics, KLT provides temporary coverage for their medical practice, giving them the opportunity for time off for personal/professional reasons.
- Kansas Medical Resource (KMR) – provides temporary medical coverage to sub-specialty physicians in rural communities; long-term coverage for primary care physicians also offered.
- Kansas Recruitment and Retention Center (KRRC) – a centralized statewide program specializing in health care workforce development, retention and strategic planning.

RHES services to rural Kansas communities include:

- *Kansas Connections* – news covering rural health care topics for providers around the state.
- Kansas Career Opportunities Fair – an annual career fair at KU Medical Center in Kansas City and Wichita, featuring rural health organizations recruiting future health care providers.
- Marketing services – cost-effective, quality-oriented services for organizations serving the health care needs of Kansans.

By the numbers

- In FY 2015, KRRC placed 11 health care providers in rural and/or underserved communities; a total of 196 placements since 2004.
- KRRC health care providers actively seeking employees: 500+.
- KBP participants currently practicing in Kansas: 212.
- \$2.3 million distributed to KBP participants since 1991.
- From 2008-2014, KMR providers covered 508 days in Kansas.
- RHES provided support to 84 of 105 Kansas counties in FY 15.

More information: Joyce Grayson, RHES, (316) 293-2649, jgrayson@kumc.edu

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96

Of Kansas' 105 counties are rural/
medically underserved

200+

Kansas health care jobs currently
open through KRRC

80%

Percentage of KBP participants
who've stayed in Kansas after their
service obligation

6,000+

Days of temporary coverage
provided by Kansas Locum Tenens
in the last 20+ years

26

Number of years RHES has been
assisting rural Kansas communities



Dr. Annie Fast and Dr. Aron Fast started their own practice in Hesston in 2011. They participated in the KBP and the KRRC. Aron also provided temp coverage in Hillsboro through KLT.