Assisting rural communities
Rural Health Education and Services (RHES)

Established in 1990, the University of Kansas Medical Center’s RHES 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 physicians in rural communities for general surgery, psychiatry, radiation oncology, anesthesiology, obstetrics/gynecology, family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, etc.

- 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, a biannual newsletter covering rural Kansas health care topics for health care providers around the state

- Kansas Career Opportunities Fair, an annual career fair at KU Medical Center in Wichita and Kansas City featuring rural communities recruiting health care providers

- Marketing services, cost effective, quality-oriented services for organizations serving the health care needs of Kansans

By the numbers

- KRRC has placed 163 health care professionals since 2004
- Health professionals placed by KRRC now serve 1,297,563 Kansans
- 1,200+ health care providers are actively seeking employment in Kansas
- 161 KPB participants currently practicing in Kansas
- Since 2008, KMR providers have covered 447+ days in Kansas

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