

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

KANSAS RURAL HEALTH OPTIONS PROJECT Network HIT and Special Projects Initiatives August 15, 2008

Submission Deadline: August 29, 2008

Introduction

The Kansas Rural Health Options Project (KRHOP) is pleased to announce the availability of grant monies through the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility (FLEX) Program to develop, complete or enhance an initiative that will result in increased information technology capabilities or enhanced quality/performance improvement implementations for critical access hospitals and networks.

Background

The mission of the Kansas Rural Health Options Project (KRHOP) is to enhance access the health care services in rural Kansas by supporting development of health systems built upon collaboration between network partners to provide cost effective, quality care. The KRHOP is administered through a public/private partnership between the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, the Kansas Hospital Association, the Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services, and the Kansas Medical Society. Federal funding comes from the Health Resources and Service Administration Office of Rural Health Policy (ORHP) through the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility (FLEX) Program.

Purpose

The Kansas Rural Health Options Project (KRHOP) announces the availability of funds through the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility (FLEX) Program to develop, complete or enhance an initiative that will result in increased information technology capabilities or enhanced quality/performance improvement implementations for critical access hospitals and networks. If possible, the network proposal should affect all CAHs in the network, and may not be used directly to purchase items for supporting hospitals unless the item or service will benefit CAHs. Preferred proposals will include projects and initiatives that are currently supported by the Kansas Small Hospital Improvement Program (SHIP) and the Kansas FLEX programs:

- Funds to support HIT activities within the network.
- Funds to decrease medication error and/or increase patient safety.
- Funds to support initial staff training and implementation costs for Quality Health Indicator (QHi) participation.
- Funds to impact current programmatic efforts, or to participate in KS Hospital Quality and Performance improvement program.
- Funds to support plans or efforts for pre-hospital/EMS-hospital-network continuum of care.
- Other initiatives as related to KRHOP activities and/or SHIP work plans.

Deliverables will include:

1. Submission of a 2-page summary after 8 months focusing on project results and outcomes;
2. Presentation of projects results at a State Network Council meeting upon project completion; and
3. Submission of a final expenditure and project report.

Applicants will be expected to work closely with representatives from the Kansas Hospital Education and Research Foundation and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment – Office of Local and Rural Health.

Eligibility

Rural hospital networks designated through the FLEX (critical access hospital) program are eligible to apply.

Funding

We anticipate funding as many as four projects with an anticipated ceiling of \$15,000 per network.

Proposal

Please limit to 2 pages and include the following information in your proposal:

- *Applicant Information.* The application must contain the official name, address and phone number of the applicant organization and the main and contact information (including e-mail addresses) of the principal contact person for the project including background experience and skills.
- *Project Participants.* Provide a list of the project participants.
- *Project Timeline.* Provide a project timeline that includes the completion dates as well as the individuals and organizations responsible for completing each action in the work plan (the preferred project period is September 1, 2008 through April 30, 2009).
- *Project Description and Work Plan.* The application must include a project overview and a work plan showing activities to be completed and responsible parties.
- *Budget.* Provide a detailed budget. The budget should include all resources that will be utilized for the project, in cash or in kind.

Submission Process

Applications should be submitted electronically to Chad Austin, Vice President, Government Relations, Kansas Hospital Association, 215 SE 8th Ave, Topeka, KS 66603 or caustin@kha-net.org by August 29, 2008.

Notice of Awards amount will be sent electronically to the primary contact by August 31st.