

Health Science Center for Rural Health Initiatives

Problem/Issue Statement

Those living in rural areas (>46 million Americans) demonstrate increased rates of obesity, nutritional deficiencies, high-blood pressure, physical inactivity, cancer, heart-disease, diabetes, mental health disorders and financial illiteracy versus urban counterparts, with inequities exacerbated by race. In Kansas, 98.8% of land is considered 'rural', with an average population density in those areas of ~9 people/sq mile. Individuals in these communities lack access to healthcare, exercise facilities and/or environments that promote physical activity (e.g., parks), childcare (in 80% of Kansas counties 10 children compete for each open spot), fresh produce (>30% of Kansas Counties are food deserts), and financial advisors. In Kansas and the immediate surrounding states (CO, NE, OK, MO) there are currently no funded Rural Health Research Centers, leaving individuals in these communities without resources to improve their physical, mental, nutritional, and financial well-being, all of which are interconnected to chronic diseases and quality of life.

Request Description

The motto of the college of Health and Human Sciences at Kansas State University is "*in a world focused on things, we focus first on PEOPLE*".

We plan to invest in a new Health Science Center with a focus on rural health initiatives, through research, education, outreach, and intervention, by targeting 5 foundational pillars vital in rural communities, including:

- Financial Literacy
- Physical Activity
- Child and Adult Nutritional Education
- Healthy Environments
- Family Therapy and Child Care

This center will leverage the existing expertise of faculty in K-State's College of Health and Human Sciences to positively impact in the rural communities of Kansas. This new center would require an addition to our existing building (Justin Hall) to house state-of-the-art research, teaching, and outreach facilities. We are requesting \$12 million (current cost estimate) to build and equip this facility.

ROI. Educate and outreach to rural Kansan's (and other rural communities) to improve physical, financial, nutritional and familial health. Outcome: Significantly reduced health care costs and improved quality of life of those in rural communities in Kansas with broad impact on Americans.

Appropriations Subcommittee

Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

Request Type

Funding Request Bill Language Request

Currently funded (blue) Rural Health Research Centers in the United States. No funded rural health research centers are in Kansas.

FORHP-Funded Rural Health Research Center States
1998-2021

