On Feb. 7, 2011, HHS awarded supplemental funding to support eligible critical access and rural hospitals in their efforts to adopt certified EHR technology. The funds were aimed specifically at assisting critical access and rural hospitals with their particular needs and challenges to meet meaningful use. Funding is based on progress to three milestones. Each milestone is funded at $6,000 for each hospital with a maximum of $18,000 per REC participant. This funding was shared between KFMC and KHERF on a formula basis. KHERF quickly enrolled 100% of the 95 eligible Kansas hospitals (Milestone 1) and received national recognition for its success.

As of today, 95% of our participating hospitals have experienced a successful “Go-Live” and 93% have achieved Meaningful Use.

The following bullets provide some highlights of the project:

**2011**
- All eligible hospital participants signed agreements (95)
- Information Security Training provided by Tom Walsh
- Meaningful Use Summit
- EHR toolkit and [www.hithelp.info](http://www.hithelp.info) online and available
- Security Risk Analysis Handbook completed
- Employee Security Awareness Training
- Mary Matzke hired as the grant project consultant
- Information topics: Lease costs, Medicaid AIU, KHIE, Eligible providers for CPOE, Risk Analysis, Downtime procedures, Public Health

**2012**
- ONC Rural IT Coordinator Site visit to Kansas
- Early attesters begin receiving incentive payments
- Stage 2 Meaningful Use announced
- Reducing Risk Security Conference
- Hospital HIE Sample Policy Toolkit including Revised NPP
- HIE Hospital staff training and education program
- Webinars: MU Stage 2, KHIE Policies, IS Security, Going Live with HIE
- Advanced HIT Security Risk Analysis Training
- Information: MU Audits, CQM, CAH payment process, HITECH program, “GOO”, ICD 10 delay
2013
• CEO role in HIT Security Podcast
• USDA Pilot Program for Rural HIT Funding
• Broadband RFI initiated
• Closeout plans developed-grant expected to end 2.7.14
• KDHE assumes oversight of HIE
• Updated Security Handbook and employee education materials
• HIT Tools and Resources compiled and sent
• Webinar: EHR workflow changes, USDA funding, Stage 2 MU & Public Health,
  2013 Kansas Community Hospital EHR Status Report
• Information: Patient portals, Texting policy, Complete EHR modules, eCQMs,
  Clinic interfaces, CAH Method II Physician

2014
• 2014 EHR Hardship Exemption offered Flexibility
• REC Grant extended to 4.6.16
• Broadband Consortium formed
• Growing number of facilities successfully implemented and attest to Meaningful Use
• Webinars: Meeting EHR MU in 2014 and Beyond, EHR Interfaces for Public Health &
  Coordination of Care
• Information Topics: Transitions of Care, eCQMs, Exemptions, Portal, MU3, Audits, Public Health,
  SNOMED

2015
• “Best Practices” Meaningful Use HIT Conference
• CMS attestation site unavailable for hospital attestation Jan-June
• Reopened for limited time to allow Stage 1 year 1 attesters to submit
• Thirteen eligible REC participants attested for 2015 Stage 1 to date
• Modifications to 2015-17 finalized
• Stage 3 Meaningful Use Proposed Rule finalized with comment period
• Information topics: e-prescribing, disaster recovery, 2015-17 modifications interpretation, CDS
  radiology

2016
• “Beyond Meaningful Use” HIT Conference
• MACRA sets an objective to achieve the widespread HIE through the use of interoperable
certified EHRs and directs HHS to establish metrics in consultation with the health IT community
• The ONC proposes new rule to improve the safety, reliability, transparency and accountability of
certified health EHRs
• Potential “Reboot” legislation is submitted to CMS for comment to reduce the 365 reporting
  period to 90-days, relax the all-or-nothing approach and to extend hardship exemptions.
• 9 additional hospitals successfully attested to Meaningful Use, for a total of 88 or 93% of our
  participating hospitals

The REC funding ended in April 2016. This also ended our financial support for Mary Matzke, our
consultant for this project. KHA staff will continue to field questions and provide education relative to
HIT and Meaningful Use.