



Sunflower Foundation

HEALTH CARE FOR KANSANS

March 13, 2015

Foundations continue support for Health Reform Resource Project

Members of the Kansas Grantmakers in Health (KGIH) group have approved renewing funding for the Health Reform Resource Project, an initiative to support organizations statewide that are affected by the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

KGIH members represent the six health care conversion foundations in Kansas. They are: Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City, the Kansas Health Foundation, the REACH Healthcare Foundation, the Sunflower Foundation, the United Methodist Health Ministry Fund, and the Wyandotte Health Foundation.

The Health Reform Resource Project was established by KGIH in 2011 to ensure that consumers are appropriately represented during implementation of the ACA. The goal of the project is to enhance access, quality and value of health services for Kansans. Sheldon Weisgrau — a 30-year veteran in health policy and research — was hired to direct the project.



Sheldon Weisgrau, director of the Health Reform Resource Project

“The Affordable Care Act not only helps consumers connect to affordable health coverage, it offers many benefits to community-based health care organizations that are working to improve access and quality of health care,” said Billie Hall, Sunflower Foundation CEO and president. “This project was designed to help Kansas consumers and health providers understand and benefit from the many opportunities provided by the law. Sheldon Weisgrau’s leadership has helped us achieve that goal.”

Activities of the Health Reform Resource Project include:

- Assisting in public education and stakeholder engagement related to health reform;

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- Providing technical assistance to advocacy organizations and other stakeholders; and
- Assisting Kansas entities in securing grants and programs available under the ACA.

The project also administers the KGIH Opportunity Fund, which was likewise established and funded by KGIH in 2011. The fund awards grants of up to \$30,000 to nonprofits and other organizations around the state, which in turn use the money for feasibility studies, architectural plans and other items necessary to secure grants under the ACA. Grants are also awarded to organizations working to implement health reform in Kansas.

Approximately \$588,000 has been awarded to 28 applicants via the fund, which has helped secure more than \$22 million in federal funding for Kansas organizations working to improve health and health care in the state.

This is the third time KGIH members have awarded funding for the project, which is administered by the Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved.

For more information, please contact Phil Cauthon, Sunflower Foundation Director of Communications, pcauthon@sunflowerfoundation.org or (785) 232-3000.