



Center of Excellence in Rural Health

“Excellence in Action”

2023

ANNUAL REPORT

Contact Us:



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kyruralhealth.org



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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The University of Kentucky College of Medicine's Center of Excellence in Rural Health (UK CERH) is pleased to share the "Excellence in Action" 2023 annual report. The report highlights each of our community service programs, academic programs, research efforts, publications, and community outreach and engagement efforts across rural Kentucky. This report follows the layout of the 2023-2026 strategic plan and shows the progress of our work to impact health equity and increase access to health and social care across the rural communities of the Commonwealth.



Following our mission to improve the health and wellbeing of rural Kentuckians our team has worked diligently to create opportunities to offer innovative programs, monitor and address workforce needs, maintain and build collaborations, enhance advocacy efforts, and work toward long-term solutions. We are also continuing our partnerships in our rural communities to assist them as they continue to deal with the challenges created by the pandemic and devastating weather events over the last three years.

The Kentucky Homeplace program reached 6,555 underserved clients, provided 69,854 care coordination services to reduce the social determinants of health, and accessed medical supplies and medications valued at \$13,554,402 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023). A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held in April for the Appalachian Center for Assistive Technology (ACAT), which has already hosted 77 community events, provided \$5,980 in loaned assistive technology and printed 3D items and been approved as a vendor for the State Office of Vocational Rehabilitation to provide pre-employment transition services (pre-ETS)

Four pathway programs in our rural communities have allowed us to engage with 114 youth to enhance their leadership and community advocacy knowledge and skills. Each program provides educational components and requires students to complete projects that address a barrier to rural health and wellbeing. CARAT-TOP, Toys with a Purpose, Kentucky Homeplace Students Striving Toward Better Health in Self and Community Initiative, and Healthy WAY help students learn how to address rural health issues and provide them with insight into possible healthcare careers.

Educational opportunities offered at UKCERH are conducted in partnership with the associated University of Kentucky college and make it possible for students to earn their degrees close to home. The College of Medicine, East Kentucky Family Residency Program, trains residents to meet the unique demands of rural practice and provide quality care in rural settings. Residents are trained at the North Fork Valley Community Health Center which is on the first floor of UKCERH. The College of Health Science Doctor of Physical Therapy and Bachelor of Health Science with a Major in Medical Laboratory Science program provides students with the skills and knowledge needed to meet the needs of their patients, especially those in rural communities.

Student loan repayment programs are administered by UKCERH as another effort to increase the recruitment and retention of healthcare professionals in rural communities. Through the Healthcare Worker Loan Relief Program of the Commonwealth and the Kentucky State Loan Repayment Program, \$1,876,125 in student loan repayment funds have been distributed.

I hope you enjoy reading the 2023 "Excellence in Action" Annual Report. We are happy to provide additional information regarding our efforts and are always looking for innovative ways to improve the health and wellbeing of Kentuckians. Reach out anytime!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Francis G. Suther".

INTRODUCTION

The UK Center of Excellence in Rural Health serves as the federally designated Kentucky Office of Rural Health. Together we provide service, education, workforce, health disparities research, outreach, and community engagement. Our innovative “Excellence in Action Team” works with local, state, and national partnerships to address rural health challenges and opportunities to improve the health and well-being of the Commonwealth.

Values:

- Integrity
- Respect
- Inclusion and Diversity
- Sense of Community
- Shared Experience
- Cultural Humility
- Advocacy

Mission:

Improve the health and wellbeing of rural Kentuckians.

Vision:

A Healthier Kentucky



STRATEGIC PLAN

The University of Kentucky Center of Excellence in Rural Health (UK CERH) was established by state legislation in 1990 to address health workforce shortages and health disparities in rural Kentucky and the unique challenges faced by our communities. For more than three decades, the Center has partnered with communities, providers, students, and individuals to provide health professions education, health policy research, health care service, and community engagement toward reaching this mission.

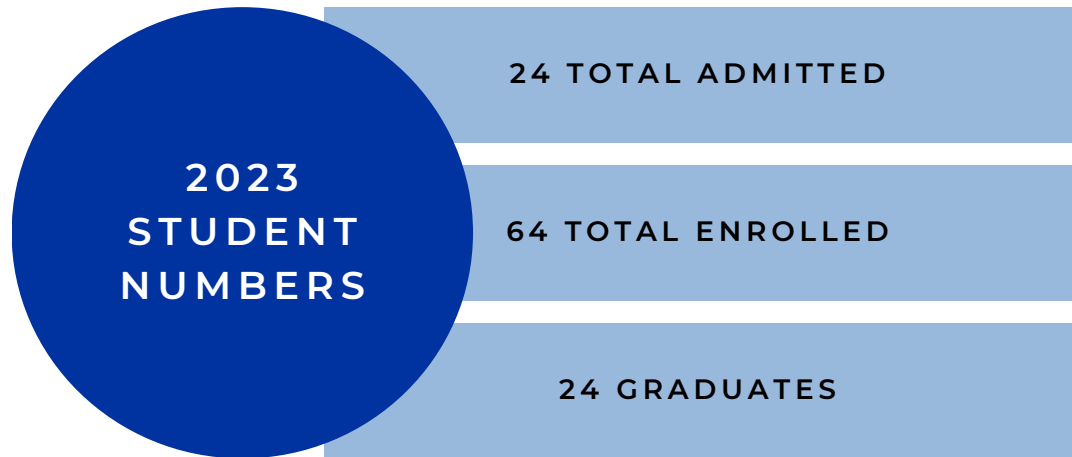
The four focus areas of this strategic plan - education, research, outreach and community engagement, and service/programs- will guide the efforts of UKCERH over the next three years. The UK CERH team will collaborate internally and externally to: 1. Provide educational opportunities for students committed to rural health care; 2. Collect and maintain statistical and other information relating to rural health status, rural health care systems, rural health policy, rural workforce needs, and other issues; 3. Establish outreach and engagement opportunities in rural communities across the commonwealth; and 4. Improve the health of rural Kentuckians and strengthen rural health care systems.

UK CERH has a long history of bringing services and resources to rural communities in the Commonwealth. Through innovative programs, monitoring and addressing workforce needs, collaborations and advocacy UK CERH has and continues to build capacity in rural communities to address immediate health and social needs working toward long-term solutions. Our excellence in action team has proven themselves resilient and ready to address any challenges impacting Kentucky's health and wellbeing. We are excited to move forward the next three year as we implement the 2023-2026 strategic plan.



EDUCATION

The Center's academic offerings are focused on curbing health profession shortages within rural Kentucky. Regional workforce analyses are conducted periodically to project the need to add or change academic offerings to meet market demands.



ACADEMIC PROGRAMS



Bachelor of Health Sciences with a major in Medical Laboratory Science

83 graduates since 2012

Doctor of Physical Therapy

280 graduates since 2012



East Kentucky Family Medical Residency

113 graduates since 1992

Social Work Degrees are no longer offered at the UK CERH, however, we continue to work with the College of Social Work to support the students and agencies in our communities. Events were held at the Center in August and December in partnership with the CSW for perspective and current students, alumni, practicum agencies and part-time instructors.

PATHWAY PROGRAMS

COORDINATING AND ASSISTING THE REUSE OF ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY: TOGETHER ONE PRIORITY



An 8-week program that brings together students, of all abilities, from local high schools and the community to develop skills in assessing community accessibility, refurbishing used medical equipment, adapting toys and other assistive technology devices, prototyping new parts, and developing strategies for engaging community stakeholders (leaders, businesses, faith communities, local media, etc.).



2023 Healthy WAY Students at Appalachian Research Day

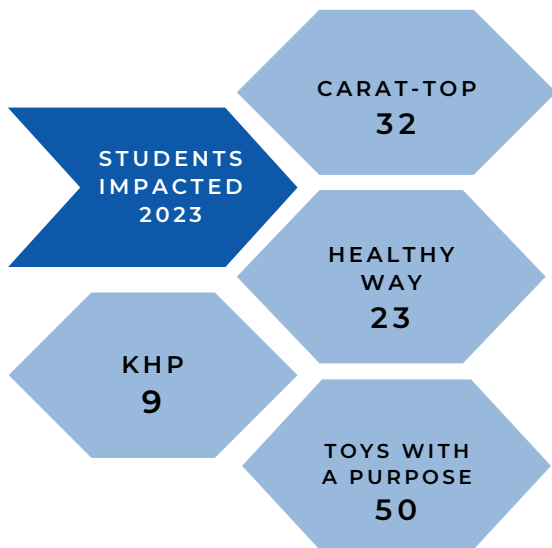


The program serves as a platform for educating students from multiple levels (high school, community college, and university) about inclusion and accessibility through the process of adapting toys. Toys become part of a lending library for the community.



Students Striving Toward Better Health in Self and Community Initiative

A partnership between UK CERH, United Health Care (UHC), Hazard Community & Technical College (HCTC), and Kentucky Advanced Technical College High (K-TECH), available to Perry County and Hazard Independent high school students. Students receive dual credit as they complete the Kentucky Homeplace (KHP) CHW curriculum and other requirements to apply to be a certified CHW.



A leadership development and research training for high school students to empower them with skills to identify and develop solutions to health and social issues at the school and community level.

RESEARCH

UK CERH's dedicated research team of faculty, providers and staff conducts rural health research related to health disparities, health outcomes, health policy, health care delivery systems and workforce needs. Through research efforts in local communities, the UK CERH works to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of health care for rural Kentuckians by addressing health disparities and barriers to access to quality care. Research outcomes are disseminated through publications and presentations to help raise awareness, develop solutions and identify best practices for rural health issues. As an invested stakeholder in the local community, the Center is uniquely positioned to facilitate partnerships between community members and other researchers interested in community-based research in rural areas.

Research
Focus Area
Topics

- WORKFORCE
- COVID-19
- COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS
- STROKE CARE
- ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
- NATURAL DISASTERS
- SLEEP & WELLNESS
- CORONARY HEART DISEASE
- LUNG AND HEART

Dissemination: Publications,
Presentations & Reports in 2023

30





Appalachian Research Day was held in person April 5, 2023, at the Ramada by Wyndham Hotel and Conference Center in Paintsville, Kentucky. This year's presentations included "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly of COVID-19," a keynote address by Jamie Sturgill, Ph.D., a native of Appalachian Kentucky and faculty member of the UK College of Medicine. Her presentation highlighted some of the most recent findings from research being done at UK including clinical findings related to the acute phase of the virus and long-term effects of SARS-CoV-2

infection and implications thereof on public health for the state of Kentucky.

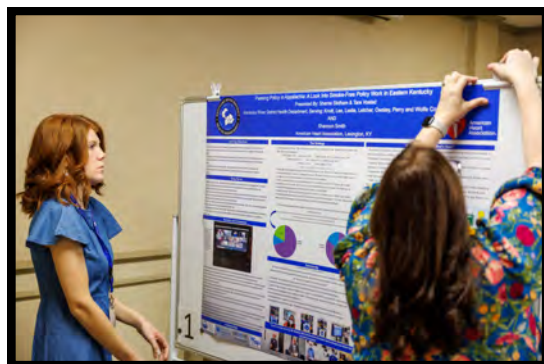
Other conference sessions included:

- "Building Recovery Ecosystems in Central Appalachia," by Michael Meit, co-director, East Tennessee State University Center for Rural Health Research, and Andrew Howard, director of policy, Fletcher Group.
- "Increasing Access to Healthcare Utilizing Drone Technology," presented by leaders of the USA Drone Port and community health workers at Kentucky Homeplace.

High school students from across the region presented numerous projects during a shared session. Healthy WAY (Wellness in All Youth) is a youth leadership and research development program created by the UK CERH for rural Kentucky high school students. Students selected for this competitive program shared results from their school-based projects.

Buckhorn and Perry Central high school students presented a citizen science project sponsored by the UK Center for Appalachian Research in Environmental Sciences (UK-CARES).

Poster sessions were held during the networking breakfast and lunch. New at this year's conference was a health and research fair and a dedicated time for community group discussions.



OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

The Community Leadership Institute of Kentucky (CLIK) is a leadership development training program offered by the University of Kentucky Center of Excellence in Rural Health and the UK CCTS Community Engagement and Research Program. The Institute is designed to enhance community research and capacity-building competencies in community leaders, directors, and administrators. The overall goal of the program is to assist community leaders associated with organizations that engage and empower communities to reduce health disparities, leverage funding, and learn how to use data to improve services and programs.

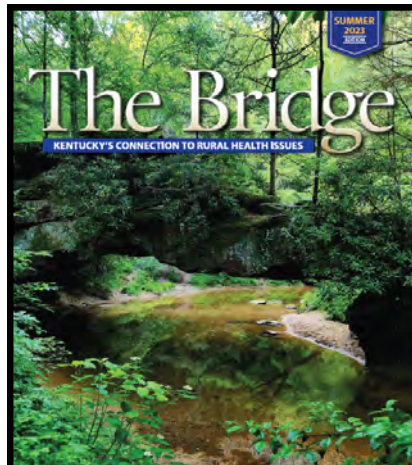


IMPACT TO DATE	55 TOTAL PARTICIPANTS
	43 REAL WORLD PROJECTS
	28 APPALACHIAN COUNTIES
	TOPICS: DIABETES, CANCER PREVENTION, SUBSTANCE MISUSE, FOOD INSECURITIES, SMOKING CESSATION, NUTRITION, CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE, PHYSICAL ACTIVITY



THE BRIDGE MAGAZINE

The Bridge Magazine, Kentucky's Connection to Rural Health is a quarterly publication that focuses on rural health issues and topics pertaining to the Commonwealth, while spotlighting individuals and programs that exemplify innovation or excellence in Kentucky's rural health landscape. The Bridge is funded in part by federal Health Resources and Services Administration Primary Care Office grant funds.



I am so appreciative of the opportunity to write for "The Bridge" and share stories of the people and organizations working to improve health care in rural Kentucky and help people thrive.

The Kentucky River Health Consortium was established in December 2017 and is comprised of a variety of agencies from the Kentucky River Area Development District counties (Breathitt, Knott, Letcher, Leslie, Lee, Owsley, Perry, and Wolfe).. Our goal is to move the healthcare needle in a more positive direction for our Kentucky River counties. In 2023 the food insecurities workgroup was added.



KENTUCKY RIVER HEALTH CONSORTIUM

Mission: To use our collective expertise and resources to address the health burdens in our eight-county area.

Workgroups

- YOUTH
- SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER
- AGING POPULATION
- FOOD INSECURTIES



KARRN is the home of the Grace Jones Memorial Fund. The purpose of the Grace Jones Memorial Fund mini-grants is to help persons with physical/stroke disability and their families. The Grace Jones Memorial Fund mini-grants can be used to pay for things such as adult day care, medical equipment (lift chairs, wheelchairs, walkers, bath benches, etc.), therapy services (such as Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, etc.), Caregiver support, transportation costs related to attending disability support services, short-term respite care, education, home modifications (such as ramps, rails, etc.), and assistive technology. In 2023, seven individuals were assisted through the funding.

Over the past year, KARRN and what it was originally designed to do, has evolved into ACAT.

Under the umbrella of KARRN is the physical therapy student-ran Project CARAT (Coordinating and Assisting the Reuse of Assistive Technology) which trained 16 new PT students and held 5 cleanings.

EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTED OR LOANED TO CLIENTS AT NO COST

- 334 PIECES OF DME
- 4 RAMPS LOANED

Appalachian Community Health Days

IMPACT REPORT

MAY 2021-MAY 2023



The University of Kentucky Center of Excellence in Rural Health (UK CERH), in collaboration with the Kentucky Homeplace (KHP) Community Health Worker (CHW) program, the USA Drone Port, and a network of community partners from 32 rural Appalachian counties in Kentucky and West Virginia, hosted 99 Appalachian Community Health Days (ACHD) events in the last two years.

GOALS:

1. Provide COVID-19 education and vaccine access in remote rural Appalachian communities.
2. Provide current, correct, and positive COVID-19 messaging in remote rural communities.
3. Provide health screenings, needs assessments, and referrals to remove barriers impacting the health of rural residents.



Scan the QR Code to view the COVID-19 Vaccination Rates Interactive Map

Increasing the COVID-19 Vaccination Rates in Rural Appalachia Kentucky is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling \$3,380,780 with 0% financed with non-governmental sources. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by, HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government. For more information, please visit [HRSA.gov](https://www.hrsa.gov)

University of Kentucky Center of Excellence in Rural Health. (2023). Appalachian Community Health Days Impact Report. [Brochure].

OUTCOMES



99 ACHD events held across 32 counties and 1,394 COVID-19 vaccinations provided



10,642 individuals received COVID-19 and general health education



2,368 health screenings provided (A1c, blood pressure, stroke risk and pre-diabetes screenings)



90 partnerships formed to assist in hosting ACHD events and future work in rural communities



11 events held specifically for youth and caregivers. In which COVID-19 education was provided to 468 in that population, and 70 COVID-19 vaccines were administered



Innovative use of drone technology to increase access to health care during pandemic and disasters

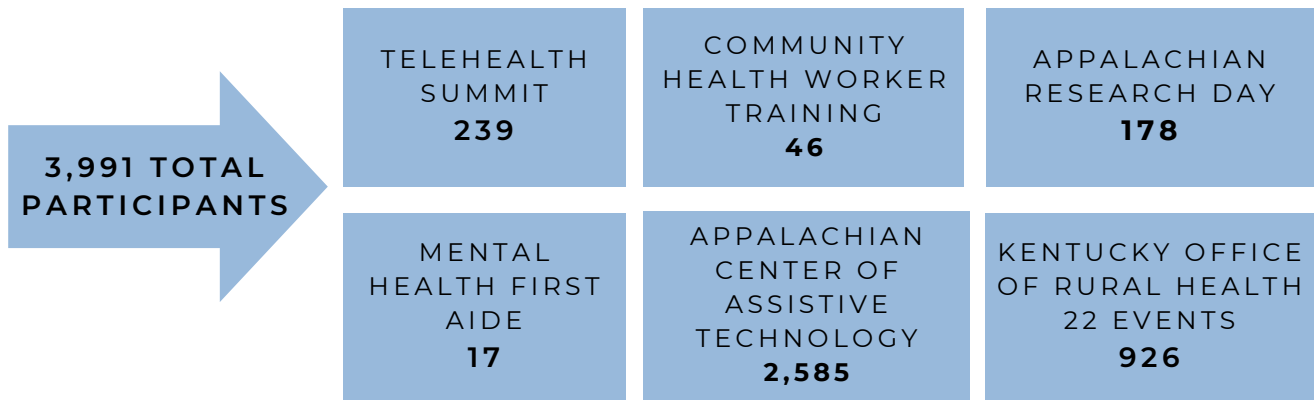


“Share Your Story” video series created by community champions stressing the importance of COVID-19 vaccination



UK Center of Excellence
in Rural Health

COMMUNITY EVENTS/TRAININGS



Training Highlights

EMS LINKS (Leadership IN Kentucky Summit)

EMS Leadership and operational improvement
Bowling Green, KY
Training, educational, and networking event geared towards EMS leaders, educators, and administrators. Discussion on operational improvement, EMS policy, compliance, and employee communications.



2023 Kentucky Rural Telehealth Summit

The summit included remarks by Kentucky Lt. Gov. Jacqueline Coleman highlighting the need for expanded broadband connections in rural communities, as well as a keynote address by Steven Stack, M.D., commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Public Health, who spoke on "The Intersection of Telehealth and Public Health."



PROGRAMS

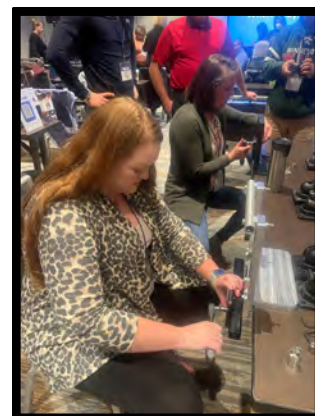
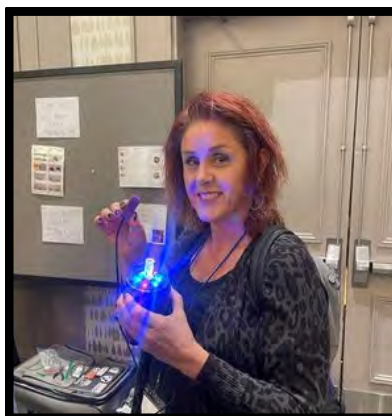


An Assistive Technology Resource Center serving eastern Kentucky and is a part of the Kentucky Assistive Technology Service (KATS) Network. ACAT provides assistive technology (AT) demonstrations and consultation, a short-term AT loan locker, maker space, workforce training, and refurbishment.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held in April and an open house for community organizations and members in August.

2023 IMPACT

- 77 COMMUNITY EVENTS/
2,585 INDIVIDUALS REACHED
- HOSTED 3 LUNCH AND LEARNS
- 4 PIECES OF ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY LOANED AND 3 PRINTED 3D ITEMS DISTRIBUTED VALUED AT \$5,980
- APPROVED AS VENDOR FOR THE STATE OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION TO PROVIDED PREEMPLOYMENT TRANSITION SERVICES (PRE-ETS)
- BEGAN MONTHLY ACTIVITIES WITH LKLP COMPASSIONATE HEARTS ADULT DAYCARE PROGRAM

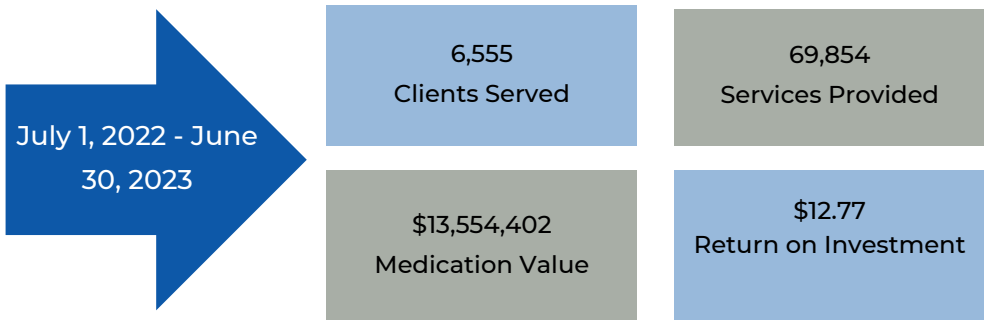




KHP Service Area

Kentucky Homeplace is recognized at the national, state, and local levels as a community health worker (CHW) model that works. Residents of rural Kentucky have unusually high levels of certain diseases, including cancer, heart disease, hypertension, asthma, and diabetes. Lifestyle choices, environmental factors, inadequate health insurance, and general lack of understanding of the healthcare system are often cited as contributing factors. To help address these issues, Kentucky Homeplace began in 1994 as a demonstration project in 14 Appalachian Counties. After more than two decades, Kentucky Homeplace CHWs have linked tens of thousands of rural Kentuckians with medical, social, and environmental services they otherwise might have gone without. Eligibility for KHP is not based on income, though nearly all clients are between 100%-133% of the federal poverty level. All services are offered at no charge to the clients.

Community Health Workers Impact



UK CERH received HRSA funding this year to implement a program to upskill and elevate CHWs across the commonwealth. To date 108 applicants have been received. There have been 18 trainees, 15 CHWs upskilled, and 24 CHWs enter apprenticeship. Seven Apprenticeship Employer Partners have been enrolled.

“Bravo to you for a job well done. I came to you with my last ounce of hope, and you patiently listened to my challenges. You got right to work breaking through barrier after barrier like a superhero!”
KHP Client to CHW



Kentucky Office of Rural Health

The UK CERH serves as the federally-designated KORH. KORH serves as a resource for clinicians, students, community leaders, state agencies and legislators for information about rural health issues. KORH works to promote the improvement of rural health care through partnerships with public and private entities statewide and at the regional and national levels.

This program provides a framework for linking small rural communities with local, state, and federal resources while working toward long-term solutions to rural health issues. KORH programs are funded primarily through HRSA's Federal Office of Rural Health Policy under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as well as through other state and federal agencies; including a 3:1 match support from the UK CERH.

2023
HOSTED 22
EVENTS WITH
926
ATTENDEES

Through the following programs, KORH provides technical assistance, coordination of rural health resources, dissemination of rural information and continual community engagement:

- State Office of Rural Health Program
- Small Rural Hospital Improvement Grant Program
- American Rescue Plan (ARP) COVID-19 Testing and Mitigation Program
- Kentucky State Loan Repayment Program
- Rural Veterans Healthcare Access Program
- Rural Hospital Flexibility Program
- National Health Service Corps Promotion Project
- Kentucky RHC Initiative
- Kentucky EMS Leadership Academy
- Elder Wellness Enrichment Initiative

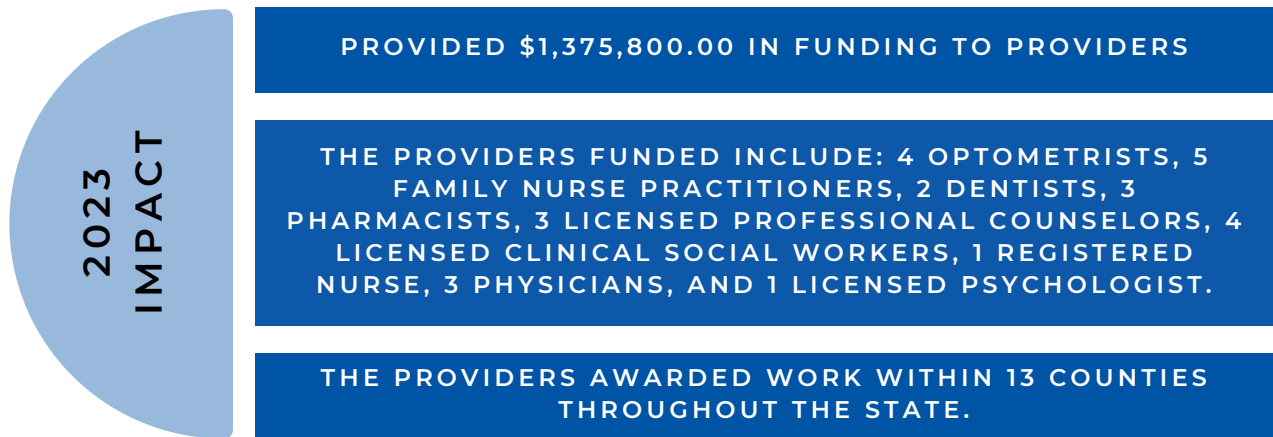


I am grateful to have had the wonderful opportunity to participate in the 2023 UK EMS Leadership Academy. The knowledge I gained was incredibly helpful in preparing me to advance my career as I moved into a leadership role.

STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAMS

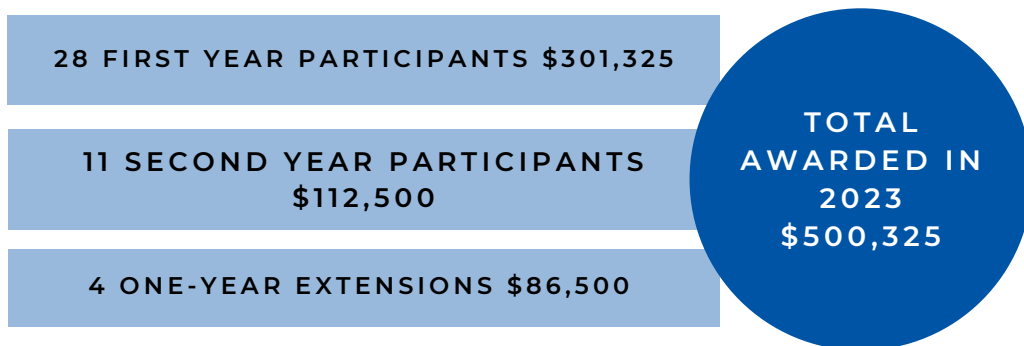
The Healthcare Worker Loan Relief Program of the Commonwealth

The HWLRPC, which is administered by the UK CERH in Hazard, was established during the 2022 convening of the Kentucky General Assembly as HB 573 to increase the recruitment and retention of health care professionals to practice in underserved areas of Kentucky. HWLRPC was designed to complement the existing federally funded state loan repayment program by filling in gaps and expanding eligibility to additional medical specialists including ophthalmologists, optometrists and audiologists.



Kentucky State Loan Repayment Program

The Kentucky State Loan Repayment Program offers financial assistance (loan repayment awards) to health care professionals providing outpatient, primary care services in rural and underserved communities throughout the Commonwealth. Since 2003, the Kentucky State Loan Repayment Program (KSLRP) has served as a recruitment and retention tool to reduce health workforce shortages in rural and underserved locations throughout the state. This program requires a sponsor match.



2023 HIGHLIGHTS



Boards, Committees and Coalitions

- Community Engagement 1,394
- Research 36 hours
- Academics: 270 hours
- TOTAL HOURS: 1,700

Community Events/Trainings

- 3,991 individuals participated in events or trainings offered by Center programs.



Value of Services Provided to Rural Residents

- \$2,966,956.89 through CHW services
- \$36,056 durable medical equipment
- \$1,876,125 student loan repayment funds distributed

Additions to the Center

- Appalachian Center for Assistive Technology
- Community Health Worker Classroom
- SIMS Lab



Strategic Vision Statement: To strengthen and empower rural communities through workforce analysis, academic excellence, outreach and community engagement, increased utilization of rural health care, health disparities research and policy impact across rural Kentucky and beyond.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

UK CERH would like to thank our university and community partners for their collaboration and contributions to improving the lives of rural residents across the Commonwealth.



CONTACT

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Scan here to access our website and learn more about our work in the rural communities.

2023 Center of Excellence in Rural Health Presentations, Publications and Reports

2023 Presentations

Helle, S. (December 2023). *Committed to the Heart: How a State Office of Rural Health Became Engaged with Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest*. Cardiac Arrest Survival Summit, San Diego, CA

Quinkert, E., Seymour, G., Moloney, M. E., Hood, C. O., Feather, A. R., Tipsword, J. M., Brooks, C., Loar, A., Siegel, Z., Slone, M., Feltner, F., Schoenberg, N., Sauer-Zavala, S., & Badour, C. L. (2023, November). *Climate-Related Disasters and Exacerbation of Health Disparities in Rural Appalachia: Difficulties Meeting Basic Needs is Associated with Worsened Insomnia, Depression, and Somatic Symptoms*. Poster submitted for presentation at the 2024 Midwestern Psychological Association conference, Chicago

Frances, F., Massey, B., Stiles, C., Baker, M. (2023, Nov). *Increasing Access to Healthcare During Disasters Utilizing Drone Technology*. Kentucky Rural Health Association. Bowling Green, KY.

Frances, F., Coleman, M. (2023, Nov). *Rural Veterans Access to Healthcare*. Kentucky Rural Health Association. Bowling Green, KY.

Frances, F., Howard, S. (2023, Nov). *What about Rural Kentucky?* Kentucky Rural Health Association. Bowling Green, KY.

Frances, F., Wells, K., Kitzman, P. (2023, Nov). *Engaging Rural Highschool Students in a new program that meets the needs of individuals with disabilities*. Kentucky Rural Health Association. Bowling Green, KY.

Slone, M., Adams, J., Jackson, J., Frances, F. (2023, Nov). *Appalachian Community Health Days: Going to the People*. Kentucky Rural Health Association. Bowling Green, KY.

Coleman, M., McCormick, T., Lewis, M. (November 2023). *Kentucky Rural Health Partners Panel*. Kentucky Rural Health Association, Bowling Green, KY.

Carman, A., Slone, M., Hogg-Graham, R. (2023, Nov.) *Identifying Actionable, County-Specific Social Determinants of Health Data for Kentucky Counties*. Kentucky Rural Health Association. Bowling Green, KY.

Hazle C, Boissonnault W, McKee B, Letcher T, Watts R., (October 2023). *Diagnostic and Procedural Imaging Curricula in Physical Therapist Professional Degree Programs: Current Status*. Platform Presentation at American Academy of Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapists, St. Louis, MO.

- Yamada K, Ross M, Gerke D, Hazle C, Klein A. (October 2023). Diagnostic Imaging: A Clearer View of Creative and Innovative Models in PT Education. Educational Session. Education Leadership Conference, Philadelphia, PA.
- Howard, S. (October 2023). “*Advancing Rural Health Equity through Partnerships, Data, and Finance*”. Urban Institute, Washington, DC.
- Feltner, F., Coleman, M. (2023, October). *Workforce and Student Loan Repayment Opportunities*. Presentation at the Interim Joint Committee on Health Services Conference, Frankfort, KY.
- Feltner, F. (2023, October). *Closing the Gaps: Meeting the Needs of the Underserved*. Presentation at the Foundation for a Health Kentucky Howard L. Bost Memorial Policy Forum, Lexington, KY.
- McKee B, Letcher T, Watts R, Boissonnault W, Hazle C. (September 2023). Diagnostic and Procedural Imaging Curricula in Physical Therapist Professional Degree Programs: Current Status. Educational Session. APTA-Kentucky Annual Conference.
- Dehart, S., Haney, L., Kitzman, P., Wells, K., Hignite, C. (September 2023). *Beyond the Clinic: Addressing Biases Through a Novel Service- Learning Program*. Poster presented at APTA-KY Conference, Louisville, KY
- Henning A, Lee K, Carper R, Roland T, Witt H. (Aug 2023) *Building the Bridge Across All Clinical Partners*. APTA Acute Care Section, online CEU.
- Slone, M., Barnett, K., Nix, M. (2023, August). Kentucky Public Health Association Webinar. *ELEVATE CHWs- The Future is Up*.
- Helle, S. & Abbas, A. (July 2023). *Driving Forward: Innovative EMS in Rural Communities*. Flex Program Reverse Site Visit, Washington DC
- Wells, K. Kitzman, P, & Hignite, C. (June 2023). *Toy Adapting*. Assistive Technology Workshop, Frankfort, KY
- Helle, S., Rogers, M., Lockard, S. (May 2023) *Kentucky’s Crisis Response Alternatives Panel*. Kentucky Judicial Commission on Mental Health Summit, Louisville, KY
- Carman, A. & Slone, M (2023, April). Kentucky Public Health Association Educational Conference. *Strategic Planning in a World Changed by COVID-19: Increased Importance of Listening to the Community when Planning for the Future*. Presentation in Bowling Green, KY.
- Slone, M., Feltner, F., Baker, W. M., Douthitt, K., Lockard, A. S., Raleigh, A. (2023, April). Kentucky River Flood Impact Assessment. Poster Presentation at Kentucky Public Health Association, Bowling Green, KY.

- Feltner, F., Slone, M., Baker, W. M., Adams, J., Massey, B., Stiles, C. (2023, April). *Appalachian Community Health Days*. Poster Presentation at Kentucky Public Health Association, Bowling Green, KY.
- Frances, F., Howard, S. (April 2023). “Snapshot of Kentucky’s Physician Workforce – Keeping the Need in Focus”. Poster Presentation at Kentucky Public Health Association, Bowling Green, KY.
- Badour, C. L., Moloney, M. E., Sauer-Zavala, S., Slone, M., Feltner, F., Hood, C. O., Schoenberg, N., Tipword, J. M., Feather, A., Brooks, C., Quinkert, E., Loar, A., & Siegel, Z. (April 2023). *Engaging resilient Eastern Kentucky communities as partners in disaster recovery*. Poster presented at Appalachian Research Day, Paintsville, KY.
- Feltner F, Carper M. (March 2023). *Rural PT Workforce Initiatives and Perspectives* (Invited Presentation) AHEC Voluntary Faculty Conference. Lexington, KY.
- Hazle C, Klein A, Yamada K, Ross M, Gerke D. (February 2023). Getting a Clear View of Imaging Content in Physical Therapist Educational Curricula. Full day preconference course at APTA Combined Sections Meeting, San Diego, CA.

2023 Publications

- Yen Lin, C.; Misook, L.; Schuman, D.; Biddle, M.; Mudd-Martin, G.; Miller, J.; Hammash, M.; Schooler, M.; Rayens, M.; Feltner, F.; Moser, D. (2023). Psychometric Properties of the Patient Activation Measure in Family Caregivers of Patients With Chronic Illnesses. *Nursing Research*, 72 (4) 292-300. doi: 10.1097/NNR.0000000000000659
- Hazle C, Boissonnault W, McKee B, Letcher T, Watts R. Diagnostic and Procedural Imaging Curricula in Physical Therapist Professional Degree Programs: Current Status. *J Orthop Sports Phys Ther*--Open, accepted 12/23, pending publication.
- Hazle C, Rawat M, *Diagnostic Imaging*. In Boissonnault B, Van Wye R. *Primary Care for the Physical Therapist (4rd edition)*, Elsevier, accepted 12/23, publication pending. Chapter author.

2023 Reports

- Howard, S.P., Boots, K. & Feltner, F. (2023). **2022 Kentucky Physician Update**. *University of Kentucky Center of Excellence in Rural Health Workforce Report*.
- Howard, S.P. & Feltner, F. (2023). **Kentucky Dental Workforce Report 2023**. *University of Kentucky Center of Excellence in Rural Health Workforce Report*.

2023 Boards Committees Service Hours

ACCSIS Community Advisory Board
Appalachian Kentucky Health Care Access Network Committee
Appalachian Regional Healthcare Community Needs Assessment Steering Committee
Appalachian Regional Healthcare Internal Review Board
Appalachian Regional Healthcare Regional Advisory Committee
ARH Local Advisory Council
Big Sandy Diabetes Coalition
Boyd County Interagency
Center for Clinical and Translational Science - Community Champions Cabinet
Clay County Diabetes Coalition
Clinical Leadership & Management Advisory Board Member
Community Advisory Board Cancer Focus Group
Community Health Improvement Planning Committee
Database Committee
Disaster Case Management Committee
East Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board
Elder Maltreatment Council Project Life Saver Scholarship Committee
Farm and Home Field Day
Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky Board of Directors
Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky Community Advisory Council
Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky Council
Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky Health Equity Workgroup
Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky Strategic Planning and Evaluation Committee
FRYSC - LGR Advisory Council
HANDS Tobacco Advisory Council
Harlan County Health Coalition
Hazard Community and Technical College Human Services Advisory Committee
Health Advisory Team Board
HepFree Kentucky Stakeholder Coalition
Highlands ARH Regional Medical Center Local Advisory Committee
KATS Network Program Awareness / Marketing Committee
KATS Network Socialization Committee
Kentucky 3RNet Consortium
Kentucky Apprenticeship Council
Kentucky Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers
Kentucky Association of Community Health Workers
Kentucky Association of Community Health Workers Advisory Board
Kentucky Association of Community Health Workers Bylaws Committee
Kentucky Association of Community Health Workers Conference Planning Committee
Kentucky Association of Community Health Workers Membership Committee
Kentucky Association of Community Health Workers Nominating Committee
Kentucky Association of Community Health Workers Professional Development Committee
Kentucky Board of EMS Services Mobile Integrated Health Community Paramedicine Project Board

2023 Boards Committees Service Hours

Kentucky EMS Association
Kentucky Office of Community Health Workers Certification Sub Committee
Kentucky Office of Community Health Workers Workgroup
Kentucky Physical Therapy Association Legislative Committee
Kentucky River Health Consortium
Kentucky Rural Health Association Board of Directors
Kentucky Rural Health Association Conference Planning Committee
Kentucky Social Welfare Foundation
Kentucky Telehealth Steering Committee
Lawrence County Interagency
Lawrence County Oral Coalition Board
Letcher County Food Pantry
Letcher County Interagency
Martin County Interagency
MCCC Homeplace Clinic Consumer Advisory Council
National Academic Advising Association
National Association of Advisors for Health Professions
North Fork Valley Community Health Center Board
Ohio Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers
Operation Unite
Perry County Diabetic Coalition
Perry County Food and Faith Coalition
Regional Academic Advising Association - Mid-South Region 3
Rotary of Louisa
Southeast Kentucky Regional Trails Planning Committee
Southwest Community Health Workers Network
Tennessee Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers
The Bridge Editorial Board
UK Center for Appalachian Research in Environmental Sciences Stakeholders Advisory Board
Unite
University of Kentucky College of Health Sciences Diversity and Inclusion Committee
Veterans Rural Health Advisory Committee
Virginia Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers
West Virginia Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers

Totals
Community Engagement = 1,394
Research = 36
Academics = 270
Grand Total = 1,700

UK Center of Excellence in Rural Health 2023 Grants and Research

UK CERH Grants and Research

- 9/15/22 – 9/14/25 *Community Health Worker Training Program* (Principal Investigator: Feltner). Health Resources and Services Administration.
- 7/1/16 – 6/30/26 *State Office of Rural Health*, (Principal Investigator: Coleman). Health Resources and Services Administration.
- 7/1/14 – 6/30/24 *Kentucky Rural Health Journal*, (Principal Investigator: Feltner). Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services
- 7/1/05 – 6/30/24 *Kentucky Homeplace*, (Principal Investigator: Feltner). Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services
- 6/01/16—5/31/23 *Small Rural Hospital Improvement Grant Program*. (Principal Investigator: Feltner). Health Resources and Services Administration.
- 8/01/22—7/31/23 *Rural Emergency Hospital (REH) Technical Assistance Supplement*. (Principal Investigator: Feltner). Health Resources and Services Administration.
- 7/01/18—3/31/24 National Health Service Corps Promotion Project. (Principal Investigator: Feltner). Kentucky Department for Public Health
- 9/19/19—8/31/24 Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Grant Program. (Principal Investigator: Feltner). Health Resources and Services Administration.
- 9/01/18—8/31/25 State Loan Repayment Program. (Principal Investigator: Feltner). Health Resources and Services Administration.
- 8/01/22—7/31/25 Flex Rural Veterans Health Access Program. (Principal Investigator: Coleman). Health Resources and Services Administration.
- 1/01/22—3/31/23 Kentucky EMS for Children-Rural Expansion. (Principal Investigator: Feltner). Kentucky Community & Technical College System
- 11/16/22—6/30/23 Promoting Health Equity in Underserved Populations Across the Commonwealth of Kentucky. (Principal Investigator: Feltner). KY Cabinet for Health and Family Services

Research Partnerships

- 9/26/21 – 6/30/26 *Sleeping well in a changing climate: The effects of rising temperature and extreme weather events on sleep and other aspects of health in rural Appalachia.* Badour, C. L. (MPI) and Moloney, M. (MPI) (Co-Investigator: Feltner/Slone). National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities (Administrative Supplement R01MD016236-03S1)
- 7/15/22 – 3-31/27 *Covid-19 K-VAC: Kentucky: Vaccinating Appalachian Communities,* (Co-Investigator: Feltner). National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities. (Marc Kiviniemi, University of Kentucky Department of Health Behavior & Society)
- 6/30/21 – 6/29/24 *Implementing the Kentucky Stroke Improvement Cooperative (KSIC) to Advance Stroke Care Across the Care Continuum in Kentucky,* (Other Significant Contributor: Feltner/Wells). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (PI: Larry Goldstein, University of Kentucky Department of Neurology)
- 10/1/20 – 10/31/24 *Online Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Depressive Symptoms in Rural Patients with Coronary Heart Disease,* (Co-Investigator: Feltner/Slone). Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute. (PI: Debra Moser, University of Kentucky, College of Nursing)
- 5/1/17 – 3/31/27 *Center for Appalachian Research in Environmental Sciences (UK-CARES),* (Other significant contributor: Feltner). National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. (PI: Ellen Hahn, University of Kentucky, College of Nursing)
- 8/15/16 – 6/30/26 *Kentucky Center for Clinical and Translational Science,* (Co-Investigator - Community Engagement/ATRN Cores: Feltner). National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences. (PI: Philip Kern, University of Kentucky, College of Medicine)

UK CERH In the News 2023

ELEVATE CHWs works to increase the number of community health workers in the commonwealth

<https://medicine.uky.edu/centers/ruralhealth/news/uk-center-excellence-rural-health-receives-grant-2023-03-31t08-31-42>

Open House and Ribbon Cutting

https://www.hazard-herald.com/news/uk-cerh-celebrates-three-new-programs-during-open-house/article_811e515a-d95f-11ed-8950-bbe79ab5f2a9.html

<https://www.wymt.com/2023/04/10/uk-center-excellence-rural-health-introduces-three-new-programs/>

<https://www.facebook.com/MountainTopMediaNews/videos/118391151218195>

Also featured on WSGS Radio on Wednesday, April 12, 2023

KY Rural Telehealth Summit to be Held

<http://uknow.uky.edu/uk-healthcare/registration-available-uk-cerhs-kentucky-rural-telehealth-summit-september>

Matt Coleman Named KORH Director

<https://www.wymt.com/2023/06/23/new-director-named-kentucky-office-rural-health-hazard/>

Aired on WSGS 6/26/23, 7 AM News

<https://uknow.uky.edu/uk-healthcare/cerh-names-new-director-kentucky-office-rural-health>

CHW Student Graduates Honored by UK CERH and UnitedHealthCare

UKNow. <https://uknow.uky.edu/uk-healthcare/uk-unitedhealthcare-honor-community-health-worker-program-grads>

UK, UK HealthCare continue support of Eastern Kentucky 1 year after devastating floods

<https://uknow.uky.edu/uk-healthcare/uk-uk-healthcare-continue-support-eastern-kentucky-1-year-after-devastating-floods>

Appalachian Research Day Highlights

<https://medicine.uky.edu/centers/ruralhealth/news/appalachian-research-day-highlights-2023-08-21t15-25-25>

UK Center of Excellence in Rural Health data analyst invited to speak on national panel

<https://uknow.uky.edu/professional-news/uk-center-excellence-rural-health-data-analyst-invited-speak-national-panel>

UK Center of Excellence in Rural Health celebrating success of Appalachian Community Health Days

<https://uknow.uky.edu/campus-news/uk-center-excellence-rural-health-celebrating-success-appalachian-community-health-days>

Kentucky joins nationwide observance of National Rural Health Day

<https://uknow.uky.edu/uk-healthcare/kentucky-joins-nationwide-observance-national-rural-health-day>

Kentucky Rural Telehealth Summit video highlights and sessions now available online

<https://uknow.uky.edu/uk-healthcare/kentucky-rural-telehealth-summit-video-highlights-and-sessions-now-available-online>