

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

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\$3.3 MILLION FOR RURAL HOSPITALS

DOLE ANNOUNCES \$3.3 MILLION GRANT TO 22 RURAL KANSAS HOSPITALS

WASHINGTON -- Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole (R-Kansas) today announced that the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) has awarded a total of \$3,324,908 to 22 hospitals in Kansas. The grant, sought by Senator Dole, is designed to help assist states in maintaining access to health care services in rural states by converting hospitals to Essential Access Community Hospitals (EACH) and Rural Primary Care Hospitals (PCH).

An EACH hospital provides emergency and medical backup services to the primary care hospitals in its network. A PCH hospital is a smaller facility located in a rural area that provides 24-hour emergency care, and devotes no more than six beds to short-term (72-hour) inpatient care to patients requiring stabilization before being transferred to another hospital.

"This funding is a real shot in the arm for health care in Kansas," Dole said. "In all my recent town meetings across the state, the number one issue on Kansans' minds was health care. This generous grant will help improve the delivery of medical services at 22 hospitals across our state serving thousands and thousands of people."

Since Kansas filed its application earlier this year, Senator Dole has been in constant contact with the Department of Health & Human Services to support the funding awarded today. Dole also credited the Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services, the Kansas Hospital Association, the Kansas Department of Health & Environment and the Wesley Foundation in Wichita for their support of the state's EACH application.

Under the program, an EACH hospital must have at least 75 beds or be located more than 35 miles from any other hospital. States select hospitals for conversion to EACH and PCH hospitals. The grant also includes \$288,552 for the Kansas Office of Local & Rural Health Services in Topeka.

Kansas is one of only seven states to receive grants under this program. A list of Kansas hospitals identified in the state's application to receive the grants is attached.

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