



KHA's Current Report
February 7, 2025

President's Perspective – Keeping Communities Healthy and Economically Strong

As our members understand, the health care sector in Kansas contributes substantially to the state's economy. Hospitals keep communities healthy, strong and vibrant and strengthen their infrastructure. Kansas hospitals contribute to the financial health of our state and serve as economic anchors for the communities they serve.

As with all industries, hospitals generate direct jobs and employee income. However, they support additional businesses across many sectors through supply chain linkages and employee spending on household goods and services. A vigorous health care system is essential for the health and welfare of community residents and for enhancing economic opportunities.

Health-related sectors are among the fastest growing in the economy, and given demographic trends, this growth is likely to continue. Furthermore, evidence shows quality health care improves business productivity, aids recruitment and retention and attracts and retains retirees.

The Institute for Policy & Social Research at the University of Kansas conducted the Kansas Hospital Association's new report on [*The Importance of the Health Care Sector to the Kansas Economy*](#). The study found that the health care sector contributes more than 325,000 jobs and nearly \$23 billion in labor income to the Kansas economy, including direct and multiplier effects. This labor income, when spent, generates more than \$700 million in sales tax revenue.

The study found that hospitals employ nearly 74,000 Kansans and generate more than \$7 billion in direct labor income. The hospital sector has significant multiplier effects. Every 100 hospital jobs support an additional 73 jobs in non-health care sectors. Every \$1,000 in current hospital wages and salaries sustains an extra \$450 in income for employees of grocery stores, restaurants, gas and electric utilities and other industries used by hospitals and their employees.

As we continue to look for opportunities to enhance our state's economy, a strong health care system, anchored by well-supported community hospitals, is essential. [This report](#) will be shared with our elected officials and the public in the coming weeks. We encourage our members to use this information as you discuss the economic impact of hospitals with your staff, boards and communities. County-specific reports are being updated this year. We will share an update at the Spring District meetings. Until then, the latest county reports, completed in October 2023, are [available online](#). Additional resources, including a brochure, template PowerPoint presentation and media advisory are [available online](#).

--Chad Austin

Infographic Updated to Visualize Financial Challenges for Hospitals

The Kansas Hospital Association has updated its [financial infographic](#), highlighting Kansas hospitals' financial challenges. The front page helps us tell our story to policymakers and the public, while the back page provides guidance for hospitals to have meaningful conversations about financial challenges and make positive changes. If you have any questions, please contact Shannan Flach at sflach@kha-net.org.

--Shannan Flach

On-Ramp Revamp: Managers' Role in the New-Hire Experience Educational Webinar – March 6

A poor onboarding experience can leave new hires feeling overwhelmed and disengaged. This session reimagines the onboarding process by introducing a more comprehensive, customized approach that extends from the first week to the first quarter. Discover how to integrate compliance, culture and professional growth into the onboarding experience, ensuring a smoother transition for new employees and reducing early turnover.



--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

2025 Infection Prevention Conference – March 13-14

Register and plan to attend the Infection Prevention Conference on March 13-14 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Wichita Airport, 2098 Airport Road, Wichita. This two-day event will provide health care professionals with infection prevention and control strategies and opportunities to network and discuss best practices. A discounted room rate of \$123 per night (plus tax) is available for March 12-13, with reservations accepted until Feb. 23. Call (316) 945-5272 to book and mention "Kansas Hospital Association."

Who Should Attend

This course is designed for infection prevention professionals in acute care, ambulatory care, long-term care, home health, mental health, correctional facilities and other fields of interest.

[Click here to make your hotel reservation](#)



[Click to Register](#)

[CONTACT US](#)

--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

Hotel Cut-off Approaching for Critical Issues Summit for Hospital Boards

Register and plan to attend this year's Critical Issues Summit for Hospital Boards on March 6-7 in Wichita. The Critical Issues Summit brings together hospital leadership and trustees from across the state and promotes the importance of good governance practices. This event provides top-notch speakers, educational sessions and discussions on the most critical topics facing hospitals today.

The summit will be at the Hyatt Regency Wichita, 400 W Waterman St, Wichita, KS 67202. A block of rooms has been reserved for March 5 and 6 at the rate of \$137, plus tax. The room block is available until Wednesday, Feb. 12. After that, reservations will be made on a space-available basis. To make your reservation and receive the special rate, call (316) 293-1234 and ask for the Kansas Hospital Association room block.

[Click here to make your hotel reservation](#)



[Click to Register](#)

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--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

QHi Back to Basics Session – Feb. 13

The next [QHi Back to Basics Training session](#) is scheduled at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 13. During this session, we will review some new enhancements to the site and then walk through the basics of adding users, selecting measures, entering/uploading data and running/scheduling reports.

[Click to Register](#)

Please contact [Stuart Moore](#) or [Sally Othmer](#) for assistance with access and/or training with [QHi](#).
-Sally Othmer

KAHCC Emerald Awards – Call for Entries

Hospital and Health Care communications executives are encouraged to enter the [KAHCC Emerald Awards](#)! We know many KHA members did amazing communications work in 2024. Now is the time to enter some of that hard work for the opportunity to receive feedback and acclaim from your peers. Entries can be created by an individual, team or in collaboration with a vendor or agency. These awards are given annually to Kansas hospitals, health systems and health care organizations that excel in internal and external communications, special events, advertising and other categories. All work must be health care or hospital related and produced by KAHCC members (current or new). Categories include internal and external communications, special events, media relations, digital media projects, videos, websites, advertising, writing and more.

For ease of entry submission, we are using Reviewr, an [online entry submission platform](#). If you have not submitted a nomination through Reviewr previously (including a KHA award nomination or Healthworks scholarship nomination), you must create a log-in. Please note you can enter as many times as you like — including multiple entries in the same category. Each person is encouraged to submit their own entry and create a unique login. Please avoid having one department member enter submissions for multiple team members. As part of the entry, you will upload an electronic version of your entry (PDF, JPEG, PNG, etc.) or submit a URL. [Entries must be received by 5 p.m. on Friday, March 7, 2025](#). Awardees will be recognized at the KAHCC Spring Conference on April 24-25 in Newton (registration details are coming soon).

KAHCC will offer a Zoom webinar for those interested in learning more about the awards, including tips for successful entries and time for questions, from 2:30 – 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 12. For more information on the KAHCC Emerald Awards, contact KAHCC Emeralds Chair Sarah Hancock at sarah@newbostoncreative.com or call or text (785) 341-1583.

To participate in the Emerald Awards competition, you must be a KAHCC member. If you have not submitted your KAHCC membership application, [fill out your application today](#). KAHCC membership is only \$40. KAHCC membership benefits include two conferences, two webinars, networking with peers and the Emerald Awards. We look forward to seeing you April 24-25 in Newton.

--Shelby Stacy

Federal and National News

HRSA Announces Grants for Nurse Faculty Loan Program

The Health Resources and Services Administration announced [grants](#) to increase the number of qualified nursing faculty nationwide. The [Nurse Faculty Loan Program](#) provides funding to accredited nursing schools to establish and operate a student loan fund and provide loans to students enrolled in advanced nursing degree programs committed to becoming nurse faculty.

The program authorizes canceling as much as 85 percent of the original student loan amount in exchange for completing four years of post-graduation and full-time employment as a nurse faculty member in an accredited nursing school. Applications will be accepted through Monday, Feb. 24.

HRSA Accepting Grant Applications for Addiction Medicine Fellowship Program

The Health Resources and Services Administration announced new [grants](#) to expand the number of fellows at accredited Addiction Medicine Fellowship and Addiction Psychiatry Fellowship programs trained as addiction medicine specialists. The [Addiction Medicine Fellowship Program](#) encompasses both psychiatry and an addiction subspecialty for primary care doctors training in prevention and treatment services in rural areas with limited or no access to substance use disorder treatment. The grant application deadline is Friday, Feb. 28.

Before You Go ...

- In 2023, about 50,000 suicides occurred in the U.S. — that equates to about one every 11 minutes. Approximately 300 to 400 of these deaths happen among physicians, and that number increases if all health care workers are included. Parents of a medical student who died by suicide months before completing school call for mental health reform in medical education in this [article](#) from *JAMA Internal Medicine*.
- Researchers at Boston Medical Center spoke with [HealthCity](#) and shared key findings from their recent [study](#) published in *Science Direct*, *Embracing Anti-Racism: Co-Creating Recommendations with Black People for How Addiction Treatment Needs to Change*.
- A new [study](#) led by researchers at Yale School of Medicine and published Nov. 13 in *JAMA Network Open* found that fewer than half of psychiatric hospitals in the U.S. have medications for opioid use disorder available for their patients. [Learn why](#).