



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Transportation Brief Highlights Challenges and Solutions**

*Healthworks and KDHE Partner to Share Rural Community Perspectives*

(June 8, 2022) – The Kansas Hospital Association's foundation Healthworks and the Kansas Office of Primary Care and Rural Health at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment partnered to produce the *Rural Community Perspectives on Transportation and Health*, an issue brief summarizing how lack of transportation adversely affects individual and community health.

The report shows how transportation barriers prominently hurt rural communities leading to greater health disparities and inequities. The populations affected include individuals with special health needs and low socioeconomic resources, older adults especially those with serious or chronic conditions, people of color and immigrant populations. Not only are the health outcomes of these individuals compromised, but their ability to meet their social, educational and occupational obligations are as well.

The brief highlights various programs rural communities have created to address their local transportation needs and shares funding mechanisms and resources for communities wishing to start a transportation program. The information was compiled from recommendations gathered during the multi-phase project.

The Kansas Hospital Association is a voluntary, non-profit organization existing to be the leading advocate and resource for members. KHA membership includes 237 member facilities, of which 123 are full-service, community hospitals. Founded in 1910, KHA's vision is: "Optimal Health for Kansans." KHA's foundation, Healthworks, has a mission to facilitate collaboration and innovation to improve health delivery for Kansas communities.

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