

Homeless Dollars Awarded to Kansas Housing Resources Corp.

For Immediate Release

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TOPEKA – Kansas Housing Resources Corporation was awarded a competitive homeless grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) last week. The federal grant of nearly \$400,000 will be used exclusively for the implementation of a statewide Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

HMIS is a computerized data collection application designed to capture client-level information over time regarding the characteristics and service needs of homeless persons. Implementing HMIS enables organizations to more accurately count the number of homeless individuals in their communities, gather adequate information to guide future planning, and meet the needs of the homeless in a more efficient, streamlined manner.

“If Kansas wishes to remain in a competitive position to receive federal homeless dollars, it must comply with federal mandates on HMIS implementation,” said Amy Apitz, Emergency Shelter Grant program manager for the State of Kansas. “We are very pleased that this grant will assist Kansas in meeting this objective.”

The grant will primarily be used to purchase HMIS equipment and software, and will also be used for maintaining computer services, managing and operating the system, analyzing HMIS data, producing reports, and training.

Kansas Housing Resources Corporation also learned last week that it received federal funding to send a 12-person delegation to a homeless policy academy in Houston, TX. The Policy Academies are sponsored by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Department of Education (ED), and are planned in collaboration with other Federal partners including HUD, and the Federal Departments of Labor, Veterans Affairs, Agriculture, Justice, and the Interagency Council on Homelessness. The Academy training will focus on new approaches to responding to the housing, treatment, education, and service needs of families with children experiencing homelessness.