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Project Description: Kansas Rural Health Information Service	
Time Frame when program was conducted: Unveiled in 2006	State: Kansas
Type of Project: Replacement and consolidation of many newsletters and other communications with a electronic notification system	Pick one: See expertise list from mentoring website
Description of Project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Describe value of project to your Office and if or why you consider it to be innovative ○ What are the short-term (one-year) and longer-term implications of this activity? For example:Are there follow-up activities? Where do you think the results to date will lead? ○ How was the project accomplished? ○ Describe the results of the project or initiative. ○ Describe the effectiveness of the project on building or enhancing collaborative relationships with other parties? <p>The Kansas Rural Health Information Service is a program that sends email notices to constituents based on their interests (defined through a constituent-developed profile) and archives notices in a searchable on-line database. Development of the system enabled the Kansas SORH to eliminate the publication of a number of expensive printed publications and to provide more timely information to constituents. The service is very active since implementation in 2006. The project was accomplished by utilizing an IT consultant who was able to modify the existing platform of our State Health Alert Network and create this notification system on a very limited budget. Today approximately 40 notices are delivered through the system each month. State and local partners subscribe to the system and are able to receive notifications of important announcements in a timely manner. We can use the system to notify our end users about new state and federal reports, to provide information on applying for grant opportunities, to share best practices, or to notify them about upcoming training or educational opportunities offered by the State Office of Rural Health. It is an important component in our information dissemination strategy.</p>	
Cost and funding sources	Approximately \$10,000 funded through federal SORH fund
Website where additional information or report may be located.	www.krhis.kdhe.state.ks.us
Outcome measurement: Any specific impacts on rural health? What are any quantitative and qualitative indicators that indicate the relationship of actions to meeting objectives of the Office?	We believe KRHIS is a robust methodology for disseminating information. Four hundred twenty (420) users of the system responded to a web survey last year. On a scale of 1-5 with one indicating the system was “not valuable” and 5 being “extremely valuable” the average response was 3.93. Many appreciative comments were made during the survey process about the value and timeliness of information.
Have any Economic Impact or Return-On-Investment assessments been done for this initiative? If so, please summarize the findings.	We have not undertaken any formal “ROI” studies, but we have saved thousands of dollars in staff time, printing and mailing costs, and have had few costs aside from initial system development and ongoing staff support for system maintenance issues.
Suggestions for SORH who may try to adapt this project?	It is important for SORHS who decide undertake this type of program to have internal IT support staff who can work internally or with a vendor (if you were to develop a system or buy a commercial product) to ensure smooth operation of the system. States should look into existing notification systems (like Health Alert Networks that are part of most state public health emergency response systems) to see if a system could be developed by modifying what already exists.