

# STATE OF KANSAS

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Kansas Department of Labor Receives Grant to Support Occupational Licensing Reform

**TOPEKA, Kan.** – The Kansas Department of Labor (KDOL) Labor Market Information Services (LMIS) division was awarded a grant from the US Department of Labor. The \$297,000 award was part of a \$7M grant to nine states and two associations of state governments.

The State of Kansas currently has a complex regulatory environment of occupational licensing. As part of the project, Kansas will compare barriers to obtaining licensure with common valid licensing criteria, including a focus on identifying criteria that commonly impact sidelined populations such as service members and veterans and their spouses, and persons with a criminal record. Such analysis will critically probe the necessity for each disqualifying criteria from the ground-up, starting with the essential functions of each job as described by O\*Net and other reliable sources, while still considering public safety.

"This grant presents an excellent opportunity for the State of Kansas to move forward on occupational licensing reform," said Governor Jeff Colyer, M.D. "Kansas needs healthcare workers. Our goal is to eliminate unnecessary restrictions on people's ability to work. Along with previous workforce expansion efforts like Executive Order 18-13 and HB 2386, this opportunity will allow us to balance protecting the public safety and welfare with policies designed to attract new workers in the state, including servicemembers, veterans and their spouses."

Engaging students in health care occupations, and ensuring pathways to careers in health care are available and attainable is critical to meeting the future needs of the state's population. Streamlining occupational licensing requirements, eliminating unnecessary requirements or barriers to licensure, and promoting portability of state license to other states are three specific steps the State of Kansas can take to help meet these challenges.

Beyond interstate licensing compacts, this research will reveal licensing requirements relating to: educational requirements; training requirements; residency requirements; and character and fitness or criminal records. Pertaining to methods for joining interstate compacts – to the extent model or enacted legislation exists, it will be provided in a final report.

"As the demand for labor in health care occupations remains strong, KDOL is committed to providing objective analysis on occupational licensing reforms in order to attract and retain individuals willing and able to supply labor in those occupations," said Kansas Secretary of Labor, Lana Gordon.

LMIS division will lead the review and analysis on this project for the next three years. For more information about LMIS go to <https://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/Default.aspx>.

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*The Kansas Department of Labor assists in the prevention of economic insecurity through unemployment insurance and workers compensation, by providing a fair and efficient venue to exercise employer and employee rights, and by helping employers promote a safe work environment for their employees. This facilitates compliance with labor laws while enabling advancement of the economic well-being of the citizens of Kansas.*