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RURAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION

Emerging Technology Committee

Thank you for joining!

The meeting will begin shortly.

Kansas' Rural Health Transformation Plan is supported by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling $221.89 million in Budget Period 1 with 100 percent funded by CMS/HHS.

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Meeting

Final RFP Feedback & Workplan Development

July 29, 2026

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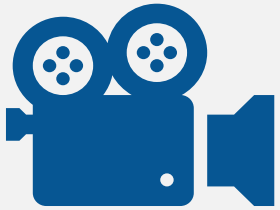
Before We Get Started

Use the **Q&A feature** to ask questions and drop your comments or thoughts in **chat**!



This session is being **recorded** for technical and content follow-up purposes. It is also being livestreamed.

Technical questions about Zoom?

Find **“Karsen DeWeese, KHI, IT Help”** in the Participants list.

Agenda

- **12:00** Welcome and Get Lunch
- **12:15** ETC Meeting Recap & Background
- **12:30** Vision for the ETC – Group Exercise
- **1:00** RFP Feedback + Use Case Identification
- ***2:00** Break*
- **2:15** Year-2 ETC Workplan Development
- **4:00** Adjourn

Today's Resources

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Workplan Development *Note Taker*

Name: _____ **Organization:** _____

Objectives

1. **Review** potential topics and areas of work for inclusion in the Year-2 ETC Workplan Development.
2. **Identify** focus areas for the ETC that have the potential to be the most transformative and meaningful for rural health in Kansas.
3. **Develop** specific activities, success metrics and timelines for each focus area in the Year-2 ETC Workplan.

Activity Instructions:

As we review each focus area, use your note taker to capture your insights. For the topic area you selected:

- Answer the discussion questions and identify the specific activities that you believe have the **most potential to be transformative and meaningful** for rural health in Kansas.
- Record any **questions, ideas or comments in the Notes section** — especially observations that could strengthen or clarify the plan.
- You can refer to the **discussion questions** on your note taker to help guide your thinking.

At the end of the session, turn in your completed note taker so the facilitation team can review your feedback and incorporate your insights into the workplan.

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Vision for the ETC

Instructions: Write your bold, inspirational and future-focused vision for the ETC in 2-3 sentences.

_____

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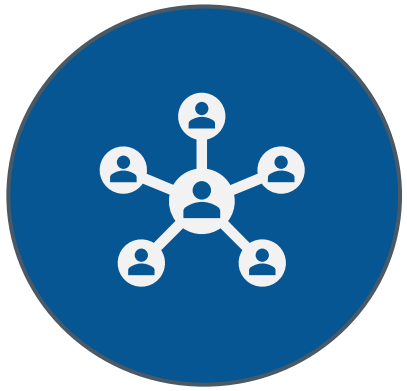
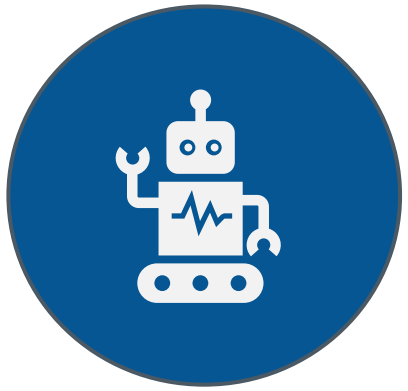
ETC Introductions: *Let's Get Acquainted*

Name



Role & Organization



Today's Connector:
What was your favorite technology from your childhood?

ETC Facilitators

Sheena L. Schmidt

Senior Analyst & Strategy Team Leader

Kansas Health Institute

Shelby Rowell

Analyst

Kansas Health Institute

Wyatt Beckman

Senior Analyst & Portfolio Strategist

Kansas Health Institute

ETC Timeline of Key Activities

May 2026 – Project launch and outreach activities underway

June 4, 2026 – ETC meetings initiated

July 1, 2026 – ETC Charter completed

July-August 2026 – Guidance provided to support CHRI Deliverables (Ambient AI RFP, Emerging Technology use cases

Aug. 1, 2026 – Draft Year-2 workplan and budget completed

Sept. 30, 2026 – Final ETC workplan and budget completed

Oct. 7-8, 2026 – Global Innovation Summit hosted by CHRI

Oct. 30, 2026 – Final deliverables submitted

ETC Meeting Schedule

Meeting	Date	Format	Time	Primary Focus
ETC #1	June 4	Virtual	9:00–11:00 a.m.	Kickoff, Introductions, Charter Development
ETC #2	June 18	Virtual	1:00–3:00 p.m.	Charter Development; Challenges and Solutions
ETC #3	July 9	Virtual	1:00–3:00 p.m.	Technology Discussions; Initial RFP Feedback
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Key Themes

What About this Work is Exciting?

From the Compass Points Discussion – Meeting #1 on June 4

Keeping Rural Kansans Home

Technology's potential to bring specialty care to communities rather than requiring patients to travel long distances.

Ambient AI for Clinician Burnout

The opportunity to explore a promising solution for easing documentation burden and supporting rural clinicians in the face of the projected provider shortages.

Speed of Innovation

The pace of digital health innovation is opening opportunities for rural communities that were not previously possible.

Whole-Person Solutions

Excitement about solutions that address both medical and non-medical drivers of health.

Key Challenges | Compass Discussion & Survey Responses

Financial Constraints & Sustainability

Infrastructure & Broadband Gaps

EHR Fragmentation & Integration Barriers

Workforce & Adoption Challenges

Cybersecurity Vulnerabilities

Reimbursement & Payment Uncertainty

Solutions & Strategies | What Members Recommend

Near-Term Priorities

Ambient AI Listening

- Reduces documentation burden for rural clinicians
- Must integrate with EHRs and clinical/financial workflows

Telehealth & Remote Patient Monitoring

- Expands access for specialty and behavioral health care
- Supports chronic disease management through integrated models

Group Purchasing & Shared Resources

- Leverages consortia to negotiate better vendor pricing
- Shares technical staff and infrastructure across facilities

Structural Enablers

Technical Assistance & Adoption Support

- Provides ongoing support beyond initial implementation
- Helps providers sustain use after funding ends

AI for Operations & Revenue Cycle

- Automates coding, billing and predictive analytics
- Offers high ROI with low clinical resource burden

Robust Vetting & Governance Framework

- Establishes affordability thresholds and vendor vetting
- Right-sizes AI governance for rural organizations

Overview

Martie Ross

Operations Director

Care Collaborative

KS Rural Health Transformation Plan Technology Crosswalk

$55.6M
Y1 Investment

Initiative	Program	Technology Components	Owner	Y1 Budget
1 Prevention	Consumer-Facing Technologies	Computerized CBT • LEAP! • My ALZ Journey • fitness/nutrition/lifestyle app • asynchronous DPP • ambulatory remote patient monitoring	CCA	$5.3 M
	Accountable Food is Medicine + CHW Deployment	Remote monitoring equipment integrated into program	KDHE	$4.1 M
	Integrated Care for Dual Eligible Beneficiaries	Care Coach • Ambient Monitoring Devices • Virtual Integrated Behavioral Health	KDADS	$7.6 M
2 Access to Primary Care	Anchor Hospital Advancement Program	Inpatient + post-discharge remote monitoring (wearables) • AI/EHR optimization fund	CCA	$10.2 M
5 Data & Tech	Remote Patient Monitoring Program	Statewide RPM vendor deployed at pilot, then all anchor, hospitals	CCA	$9.8 M
	Telehealth Navigator Program	Nurse navigators connecting rural clinics to specialty telehealth services	CCA	$0.2 M
	Data Infrastructure Program	All-Payer Claims Database • statewide HIE connectivity • Diabetes Data Dock • CCBHC Data Center • Kansas Data Trust	KDHE/KDADS/CCA	$2.3 M
	Emerging Technology Program	Emerging Technology Committee • Emerging Technology Grant Program • Oracle Clinical AI Assistant (~40 hospitals) • non-Oracle ambient-listening RFP (Y2)	KDHE/CCA	$16.1 M

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Visioning Session

Original Vision

Help identify technology solutions to improve outcomes and enhance efficiency for rural providers (make it easier for rural providers).

Creating a Shared Vision

Bold, inspirational and future-focused.

Articulates what the ETC hopes to achieve and hopes to be in the future

Group Exercise - Write Around

It's 2030. The ETC has become everything it set out to be.

Describe what that looks like: What has changed, who has been impacted and how is the world different because the ETC existed?

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Ambient Listening RFP Discussion

Ambient Listening AI RFP Discussion

Describe the requirements for the Ambient AI RFP to be developed by CRHI and released in Year 2 of the Kansas RHTP. The scope is limited to in-person encounters in the ambulatory setting for clinics not on an Oracle system.

Today, we will focus on:

Landscape

Eligibility

Requirements

Key Terms

A shared vocabulary before we talk vendors and requirements

Interoperability	Whether the tool **connects** to the systems around it — does it have the ability to connect data and systems to facilitate completing a task or doing a job?
Use case	A **plain-language story** of who uses the tool, to do what, where and when, essentially, what is the job to be done? It captures the need before any specification is written.
Requirement	The **precise, testable specification** a vendor is scored against — what must be solved technologically, operationally and culturally for the job to be done?
Interpretability	Whether users can **understand and verify** what the technology created — tracing a note to what was said, flagging uncertainty and explaining its reasoning.
Data sharing	How patient data **moves and is retained** — between the vendor, the EHR and third parties. A privacy and governance question, distinct from technical integration.

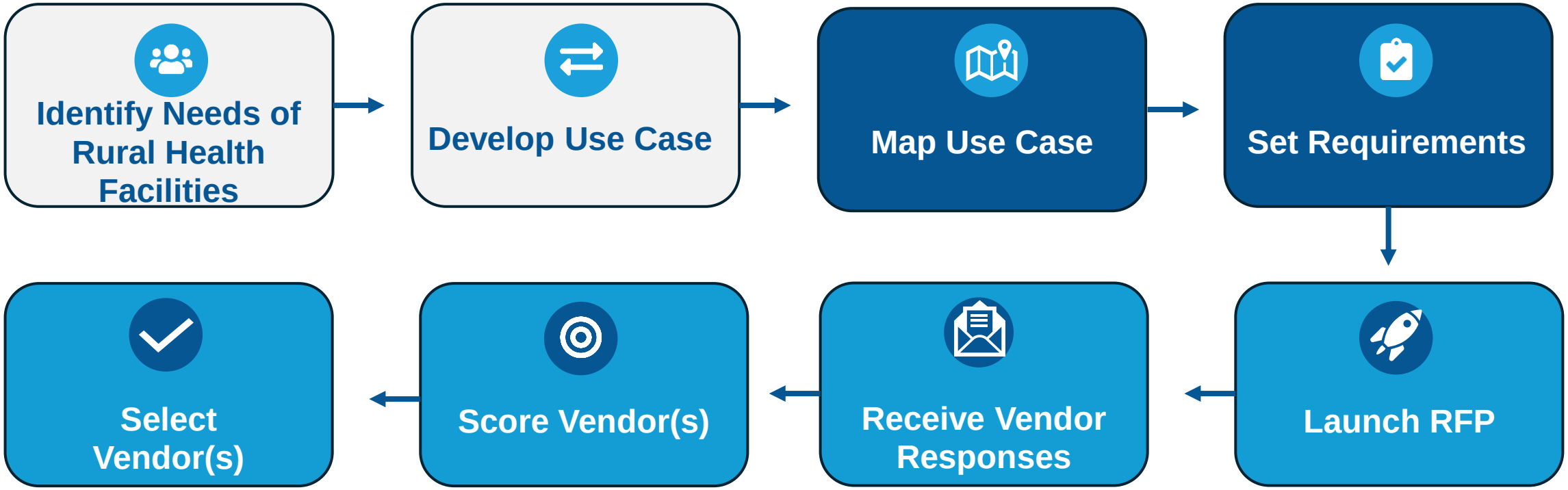
Informing ETC Activities

Kristin Ebert

Rural Health Innovation Center

From Use Cases to RFP Requirements

Translating a use case into RFP requirements:



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Year-1 Roadmap: Ambient Listening Use Case Development & RFP

Eligibility Overview

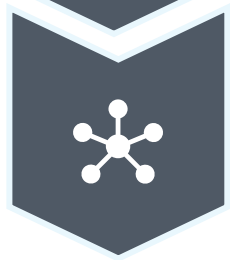
Rurality

Geographic Distribution

Technical and Organizational Readiness

Type of Facility

Financial Need



Multi-Site Grantee

Needs Assessment Overview

Purpose: Gather facility needs for ambient listening technology to shape the requirements and evaluation criteria for a shared RFP.

Covered Information:

- Current Tech Stack
- Implementation Readiness and Needs
- Deployment Constraints
- Internal Approval Process
- Identification of Outcome and Success Metrics

Scan the QR Code to View the Assessment

Needs Assessment Discussion

Questions on which to align before the survey goes out

- Who should take it?
- How should it be sent?
- How long does it need to be in the field?
- What is our ideal response rate?
- How will the info be used to inform the RFP? (A requirement for eligibility)

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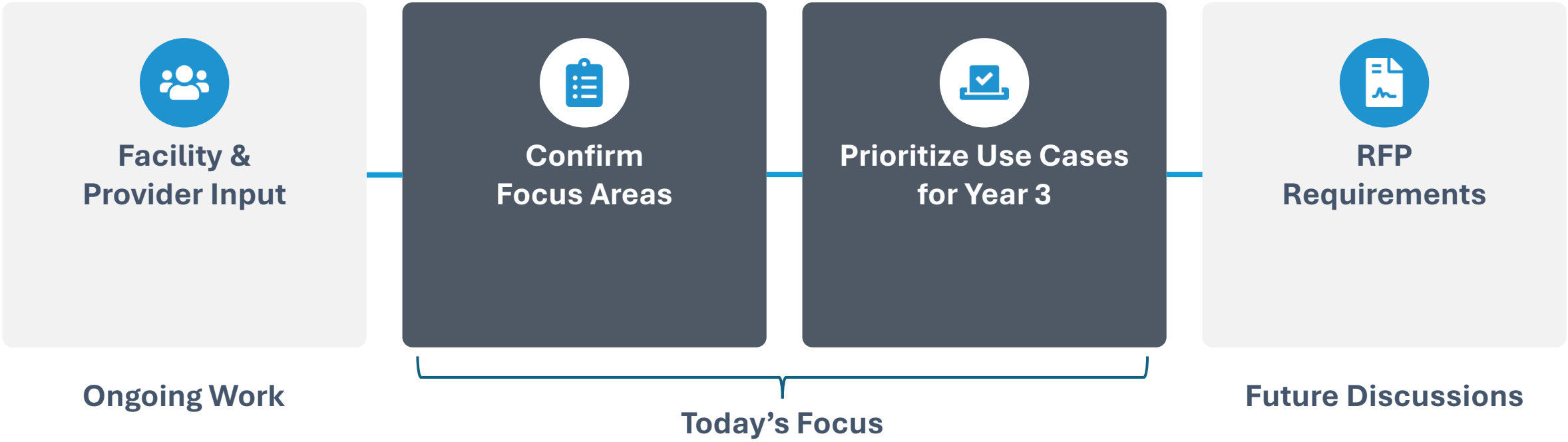
Emerging Technology Use Case Discussion

Year-2 Use Case Selection



How We Got Here

Meeting 1

Compass discussion & survey responses

Field Conversations

Rural providers & ETC members

Two Focus Areas Emerged

Revenue Cycle Management + Workforce Optimization

Today's Goal: Confirm focus areas, then select two use cases within them.

The Two Focus Areas

Revenue Cycle Management Optimization

Automate billing and reduce administrative burden

Workforce Optimization & Clinical Workflow Support

Reduce clinical burden with AI-enabled tools

Questions to Consider:

- Do these focus areas align with the needs that you are seeing in the field or experiencing in your own day-to-day work?
- If not, what other focus areas feel more pressing?

How to Assess Use Cases

Six factors that the committee should weigh in today's discussion:

Financial Impact

Workforce Impact

Operational Efficiency

Speed to Value

Financial Sustainability

Alignment with Vision

Focus Area 1: Revenue Cycle Management

Four options identified for discussion:

1	**Eligibility Verification Automation**	Auto-verifies coverage at registration, goal is fewer denials
2	**Prior Authorization Automation**	Auto-submits and tracks prior authorizations, resulting in faster care
3	**Denial Prediction & Management**	Flags likely denials pre-submission, faster reimbursement
4	**Billing & Collections Automation**	Automates billing and collections, faster payment

Focus Area 2: Workforce Optimization

Four options identified for discussion:

1	**Quality and Safety Abstraction Models**	Reads the chart automatically to pull the quality and safety measures staff now collect by hand.
2	**Evidence-Based Protocols for Next Best Action Guidance**	Evidence-based protocols built into the EMR, so the system prompts the recommended next step in real time.
3	**Intelligent Searchable Compliance and Knowledge Resources**	A searchable tool that answers staff questions on policies, training and procedures in real time.
4	**Extension of EMR Functionality Across Facilities**	Closes gaps so every facility and provider has the EMR features needed for their level of care.

Cast Your Vote

Rank Your Top Use Cases for Year 2 Funding

Revenue Cycle Management

1. Eligibility Verification Automation
2. Prior Authorization Automation
3. Denial Prediction and Denial Management
4. Billing and Collections Automation

Workforce Optimization

5. Quality Reporting and Abstraction Automation
6. Evidence-Based Protocols for Next Best Action Guidance
7. Intelligent Searchable Compliance and Knowledge Resources
8. Extension of EMR Functionality Across Facilities

Scan to Vote

menti.com

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ETC Workplan Development Year 2

Workplan Development

Purpose

- Shift the ETC's focus from charter to action — the charter defined how we work; the workplan defines what we'll do.
- Translate the ETC's structure and principles into concrete initiatives for rural health in Kansas.
- Build a shared roadmap that aligns members around common priorities for the year ahead.

Objectives

1. Review potential topics for the Year-2 ETC Workplan.
2. Identify the focus areas with the most potential to be transformative for rural health in Kansas.
3. Develop specific activities, success metrics and timelines for each focus area.

Year 2 ETC Workplan Outline

1. Purpose and Context
2. Acknowledgements
3. Workplan Development Process
4. Guiding Principles
5. Vision (Today)
6. Priority Focus Areas (Today)

Within Focus Areas, We'll Cover:

- Key Activities
- Deliverables
- Timeline
- Measures
- Role of ETC & Partners
- Resources Required
- Sustainability

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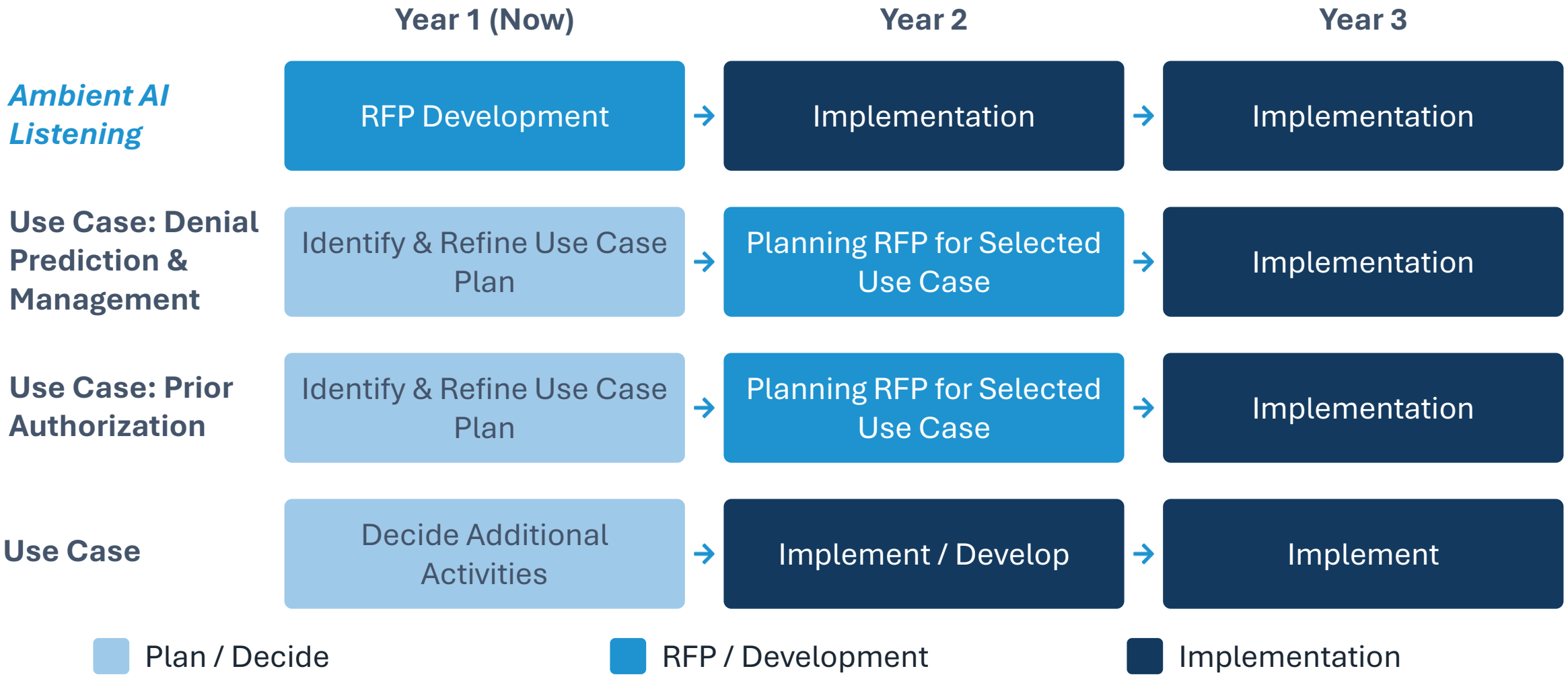
Workplan Focus Areas

Established ETC Activities



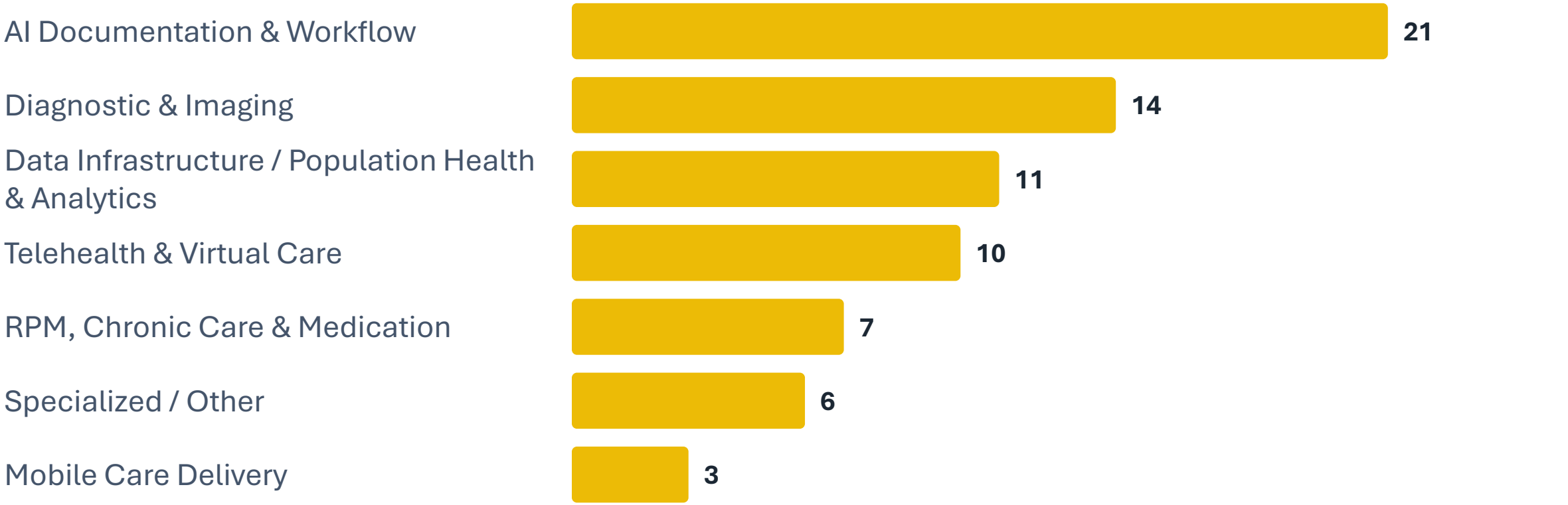
Draft – For Preliminary Discussion Only

KDHE RHTP Emerging Technology Grant Program: Background

Number of Applications by Technology Type, 2026

72 Total Applications Received

$5.4M ETC Grant Pool (Year 1)



KDHE RHTP Emerging Technologies Grant Program in Year 2

Reference: companion slide on KDHE's first round of grants and awarded focus areas

Year-2 Budget

$12.4M

How Should Year-2 Grant Dollars Be Allocated?

Individual Applications

Facilities apply individually for their identified solutions.

OR

ETC Use Case Model

ETC directs and pools funding behind identified use cases.

What direction should the ETC recommend to KDHE?

Potential Additional Activities

- Guidance, standards and best practices for IT and tech governance
- Development of centralized IT / shared services
- Provide input on other related RHTP programs (anchor hospitals, regional partnerships, etc.)
- Other ideas

Workplan Development - Group Exercise

1

Review a set of potential focus areas for the Year-2 ETC Workplan.

2

A Mentimeter poll narrows the full list to a shorter set of priority topics.

3

Self-select into a group based on the topic or activity category that interests you most.

4

Each group uses its table discussion and note-taker form to work through one focus area in depth.

Instructions for Workplan Development

In your group, discuss and a facilitator will record:

Key Activities
That you'd like to pursue within your focus area

Deliverables
Associated with the focus area

Timeline
For key activities and deliverables

Success Measures
How success will be measured

People & Orgs
Who should be involved

Resources & Sustainability
Needed resources and plans for sustainability

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We'll Be Right Back

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Full Group Discussion

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Q&A and Next Steps

Next Meeting

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