



**National AHEC
Organization**

Connecting students to careers,
professionals to communities,
and communities to better health.

Headquarters Office
7044 S. 13th Street
Oak Creek, WI 53154
Tel: (414) 908-4953
(888) 412-7424
Fax: (414) 768-8001
www.nationalahec.org
info@nationalahec.org

The National AHEC Organization supports and advances the AHEC Network to improve health by leading the nation in the recruitment, training and retention of a diverse health workforce for underserved communities.

President Obama's proposed FY13 Federal Budget eliminates funding to the Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Program (Title VII of the Public Health Service Act). This action eliminates a network that has been expanding for 40 years. The AHEC Program is an established and effective national primary care training network built on committed partnerships of 53 medical schools and academic centers, 253 AHEC centers within 48 states and tens of thousands of community practitioners affiliated with the AHEC's national clinical training network.

The AHEC Network's:

Impact is an economic engine that fuels the recruitment, training, distribution, and retention of a national health workforce. AHEC stands for JOBS.

- Primary Care services improve the health of the population, and therefore increase productivity of the U.S. workforce, while at the same time, contain costs within the US healthcare system. Primary care practitioners are the front-line in prevention of disease, providing cost savings in the United States healthcare system¹.
 - AHECs are critical in the recruitment, training, and retention of the primary care workforce.
- Research has demonstrated that the community-training network is the most effective recruitment tool for the health professions and those who teach remain longer in underserved areas and communities.
 - AHECs are in almost every county in the United States.
- With the aging and growing population, the demand for primary care workforce is far outpacing the supply.
 - AHECs continue to educate and train current workforce, as well as recruiting and preparing future workforce
- In 2010, AHECs trained 476,585 Health Professionals in 48 states in 13,842 Health Professions Shortage Areas (HPSAs) -- 26.4% of those trained were physicians (125,818).

Outcome is the backbone of the nation's community-based health professions training, with a focus on training primary care workforce.

- HRSA has encouraged functional linkage between Bureau of Primary Care and Bureau of Health Professions Programs. AHECs have partnerships with over 1,000 Community Health Centers nationally to recruit, train, and retain health professionals who have the cultural and linguistic skills to serve in HRSA designated underserved areas.
- AHECs via a cooperative agreement with HRSA are training 10,000 primary care providers throughout the county to address OIF/OEF/OND Veteran's mental health, substance abuse, traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress for those not utilizing the VA system

¹ <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203363504577185270518129952.html>



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- AHECs are a well-established longstanding, respected network with a presence in almost every county of the United States. Established in 1972, AHECs are poised to immediately respond to prepare both the current and future workforce.
- AHECs have worked on the local, state, and national level in preparing hospitals, clinics and practices for implementation of cost saving, high quality models of health care delivery, such as the 'medical home' model of care, and through interprofessional education for current health professions and future workforce on how to work together around the care of a patient.
- Message to Congressional Members: When you make your request to the L-HHS Appropriations Committee, please include the AHEC Program in your recommendation at the FY11 Funding Level: \$33.142 Million

¹ <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203363504577185270518129952.html>