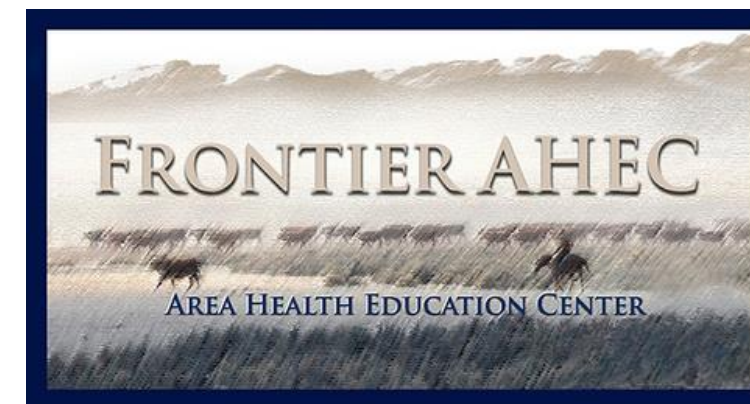


NEVADA AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTERS

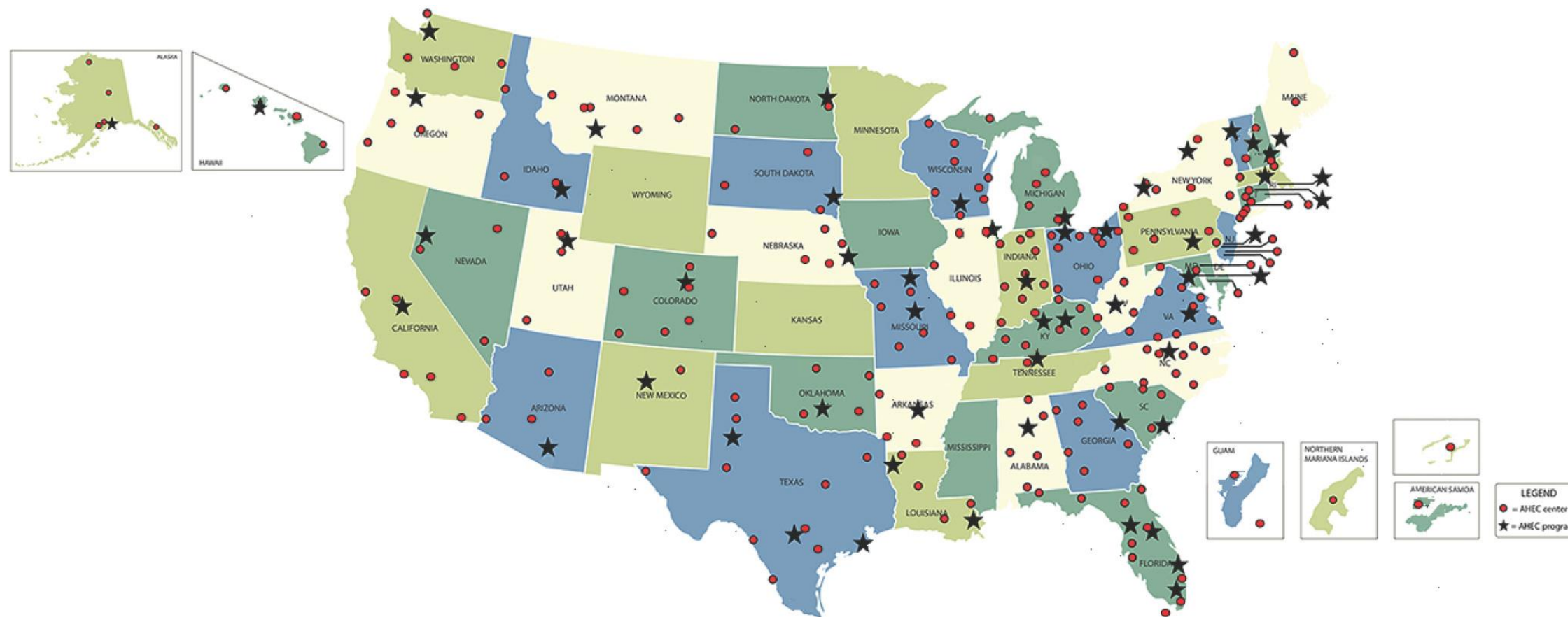


University of Nevada, Reno
School of Medicine



National AHEC Organization (NAO) Program

Mission: Enhance access to quality health care, particularly primary and preventive care, by improving the supply and distribution of healthcare professionals via strategic partnerships with academic programs, communities and professional organizations.



The National AHEC Organization represents a network of more than **300 AHEC program offices and centers that **serve over 85% of United States counties**. The NAO mission is to help its members achieve the AHEC mission through advocacy, education, and collaboration.

**Funded through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

**AHECs to receive \$47 million in federal funding for FY24

History of Nevada Area Health Education Centers



The AHEC program was **established by Congress in 1971** with the purpose of recruiting, training, and retaining a health professions workforce dedicated to serving underserved and populations.



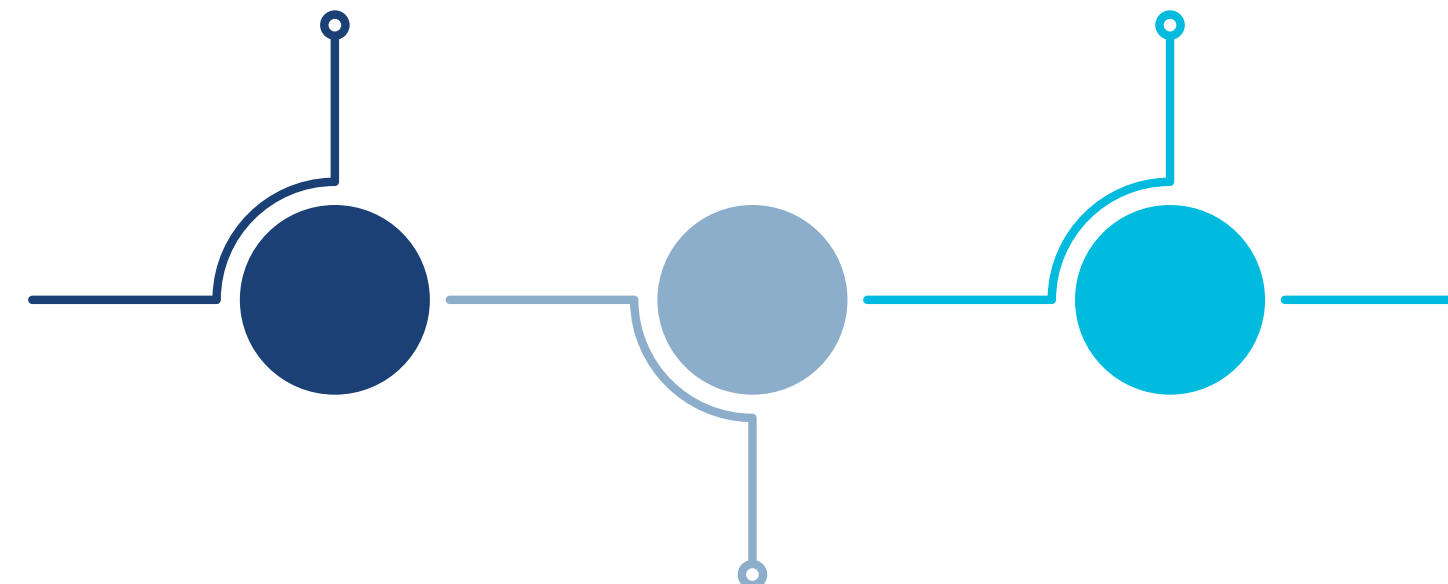
Nevada AHEC received its first federal grant in 1987. Legislation for Nevada was developed in 1989, in collaboration with Dean Robert M. Daugherty, with additional authorization granted in 2003.



For **over 35 years**, the Nevada Area Health Education Centers have been advancing their mission through **three designated centers, providing services statewide.**

1988: Frontier AHEC, Elko

2002: High Sierra AHEC, Reno



1990: Desert Meadows AHEC, Las Vegas

NRS 396.907

Area Health Education Center Program: Establishment; duties; use of gifts and other money.

1. The Area Health Education Center Program is hereby established within the University of Nevada School of Medicine to support education and training programs for students studying to become practitioners, or residents or practitioners who will provide or are providing health care services in medically underserved areas in this state, including urban and rural areas.

The Area Health Education Center Program shall:

- (a) Assist the area health education centers within Nevada in providing:
 - (1) Career opportunities in health care;
 - (2) Information to practitioners and other providers of health care;
 - (3) Continuing education for practitioners and other providers of health care; and
 - (4) Stipends for the education and training of students studying to become practitioners and residents who will provide or who are providing health care services in medically underserved areas in this state;
- (b) Assess and develop training programs concerning the appropriate curriculum for primary care and other priority health care services;
- (c) Enhance the training programs in primary care by providing additional entry-level positions and faculty to increase the availability of practitioners and other providers of health care;
- (d) Increase the percentage of medical students committing to residencies and careers in primary care;
- (e) Provide a greater percentage of primary care residents to medically underserved areas in this state;
- (f) Develop and enhance training programs necessary to address the primary health care needs of persons in this state; and
- (g) Establish interdisciplinary opportunities for education and training for practitioners and other providers of health care.

2. Any gift, donation, bequest, grant or other source of money received by the Area Health Education Center Program may be used to carry out the provisions of this section.

3. As used in this section, “practitioner” has the meaning ascribed to it in [NRS 439A.0195](#). (Added to NRS by [2003, 20th Special Session, 277](#))

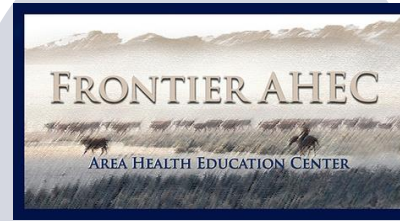
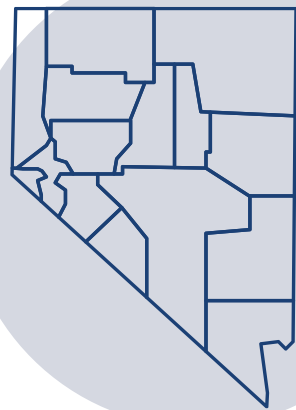
Statewide AHEC Infrastructure



University of Nevada, Reno

School of Medicine

Nevada AHEC Program Office is located within the University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine's Office of Statewide Initiatives.
Staff Size: 2.5 FTE
Operations Budget: \$306,938
Program Director: Gerald J. Ackerman



Frontier AHEC, Elko

Hosted by University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine
Counties Served: Elko, Eureka, Humboldt, Lander, Mineral, Pershing and White Pine
Staff Size: 1.5 FTE
Operations Budget: \$175,000
Center Director: Keith Clark



Desert Meadows AHEC, Las Vegas

Hosted by Comagine Health
Counties Served: Clark, Lincoln, Nye and Esmeralda
Staff Size: 1.5 FTEs
Operations Budget: \$140,400
Center Director: Edy Taylor



High Sierra AHEC, Reno

501c3 Nonprofit Organization
Counties Served: Washoe, Carson City, Douglas, Lyon, Churchill, and Storey
Staff Size: 9 FTEs, 3 Paid Interns
Current Operations Budget: \$861,526
Center Director: Andrea Gregg

How is each Center currently funded?

FY 23-24 Federal Funds (HRSA): \$432,750

25% to PO / 75% equally distributed to centers

10% Restrictions on Pipeline

*Requires a 100% match in state funds

FY 23-24 State Funds Allocated to Centers: \$51,000

Equally distributed to each AHEC Center

\$17,000 / Center FY 23-24

*The state matching funds are secured through partnerships with various programs and individuals within the University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine.

AHEC Program Office (Federal): \$123,400

AHEC Program Office (State): \$183,538

***Leveraged State Funds**

Frontier AHEC (Federal): \$123,400

Frontier AHEC (State): \$17,000

Additional Funds via Federal Grants and Contracts: \$34,600

Desert Meadows AHEC (Federal): \$123,400

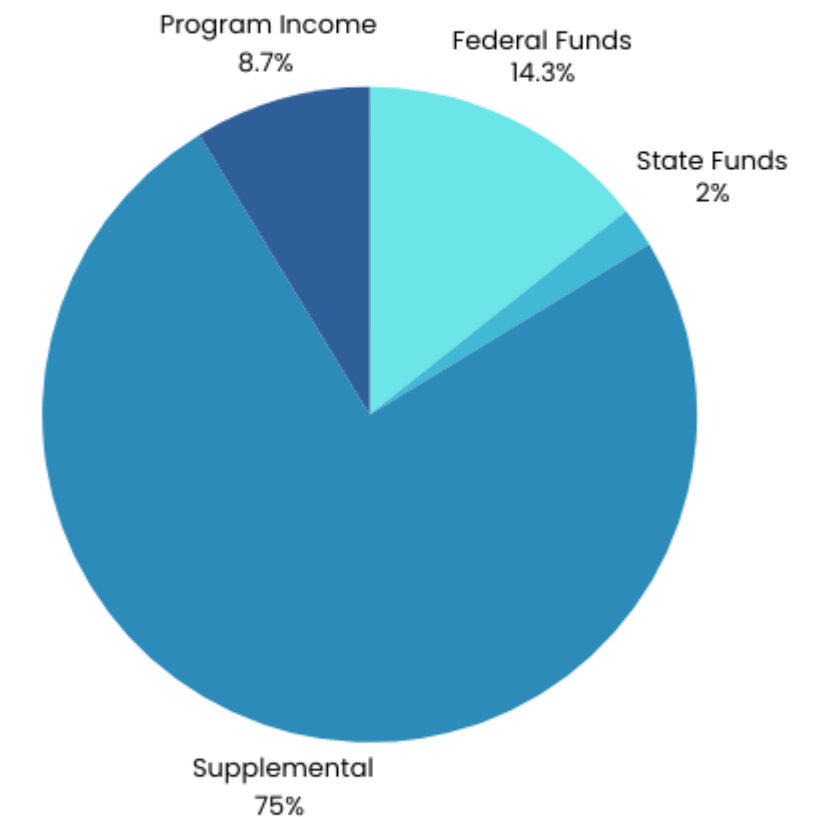
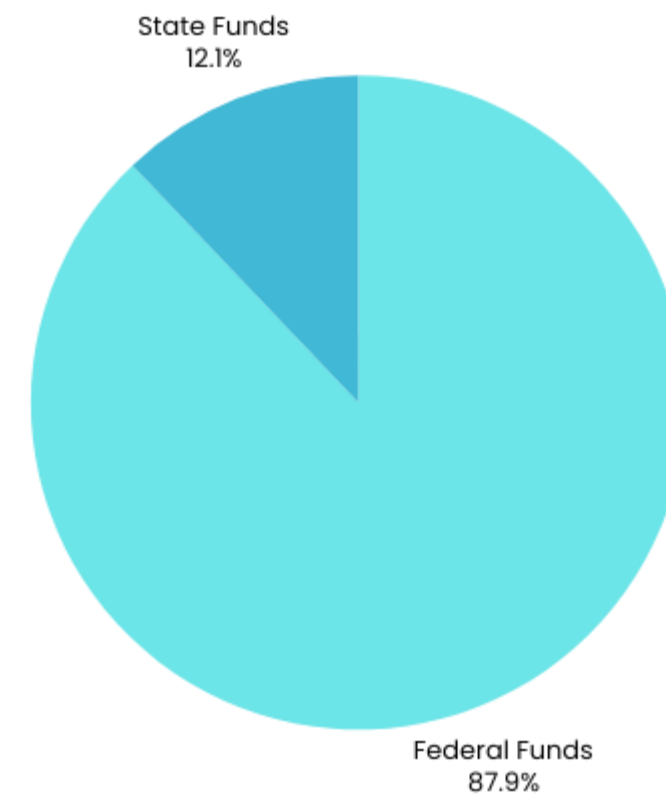
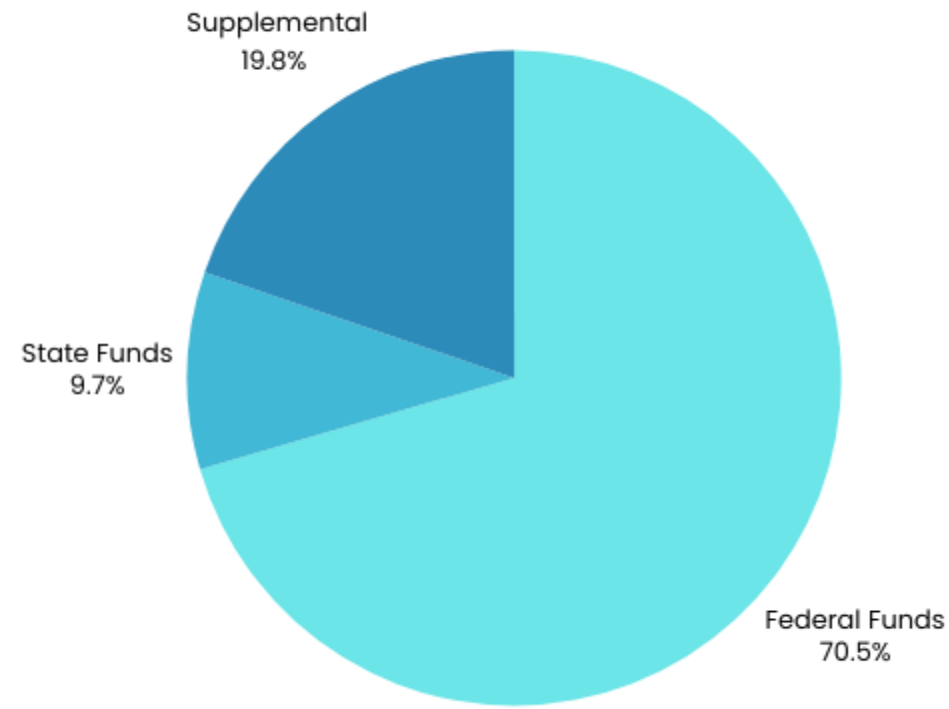
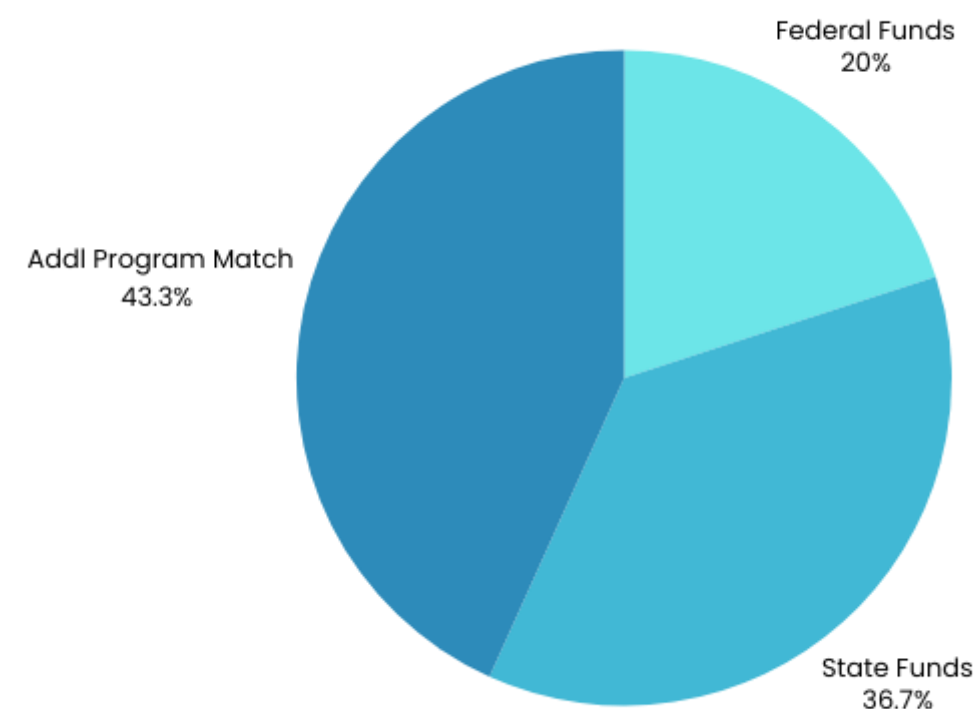
Desert Meadows AHEC (State): \$17,000

Additional Funds via Federal Grants and Contracts: \$0

High Sierra AHEC (Federal): \$123,400

High Sierra AHEC (State): \$17,000

Additional Funds via Federal Grants and Contracts: \$646,126

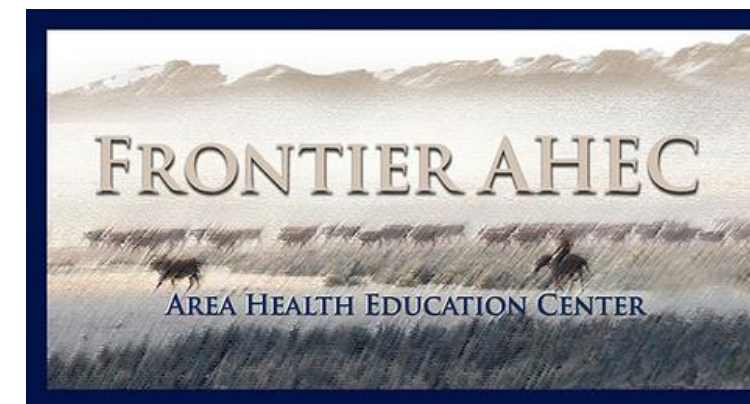


Building Bridges for Health Equity

Connecting Communities
Advancing Workforce Development
Cultivating Inclusivity
Transforming Care



University of Nevada, Reno
School of Medicine



OUR MISSION



The Nevada AHEC Program addresses Nevada's healthcare workforce shortages by recruiting, training, and placing diverse healthcare professionals into rural and underserved communities to improve access to quality care.



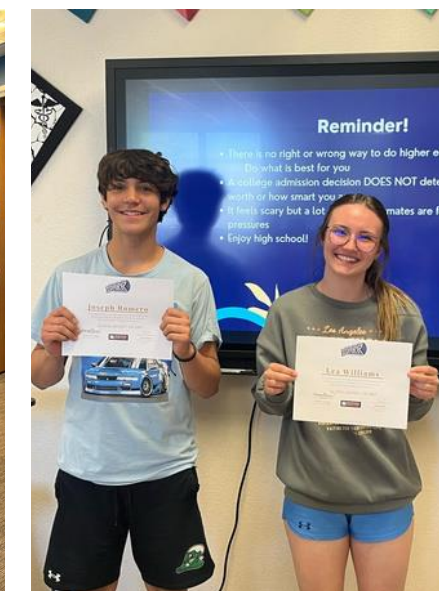
Connecting
Students to
Careers



Connecting
Professionals to
Communities



Connecting
Communities to
Better Health





AHECs Vision

01

Empower the next generation of Nevada's healthcare leaders by engaging with K-12 students in our community. Through dedicated efforts, we aim to **grow our own** skilled and compassionate future healthcare workforce, contributing to the well-being of our communities.

02

Foster the growth of committed healthcare students in Nevada through advanced education, **emphasizing mentorship and skill development** to drive excellence in healthcare services and shape the industry's future.

Promote **health equity**, compassion, and inclusive healthcare by empowering healthcare professionals with education and tools for safe, culturally aware practices, ensuring **equitable and empathetic care** for Nevadans.

04

Forge **strong statewide partnerships** to bolster the state's healthcare workforce ecosystem, fostering **collaboration** and unity to effectively address the evolving healthcare workforce development needs of Nevada.

HEALTH CARE

WORKFORCE PIPELINE



K-12
INITIATIVES

UNDERGRADUATE
LEVEL

GRADUATE &
DOCTORATE LEVEL

PROFESSIONAL LEVEL

K-12 Initiatives



The Nevada Area Health Education Centers are making significant contributions to healthcare education and workforce development across the state.

Contributions:

Diversity and Inclusion: AHECs work to increase diversity in the healthcare workforce, broadening its distribution and helping create a more inclusive and equitable healthcare system. High Sierra AHEC places a particular focus on this initiative. (Example: Nevada Cultural Competency)

Workforce Development: Nevada AHEC programs focus on recruiting, training, and retaining healthcare professionals, especially in underserved and rural areas. Starting as early as 5th grade, they offer early career exploration, continuing education, technical assistance, and student programs to enhance practice opportunities for healthcare providers.

Interprofessional Education: Nevada AHECs emphasize collaboration across health disciplines, preparing students to work together. This interprofessional approach with focuses on SODH and improves the quality of care, fostering a more integrated healthcare system within our communities. (Example: AHEC Scholars Program)

Rural Healthcare: Frontier AHEC focuses on improving healthcare access in rural Nevada, providing training for medical students, residents, and other health professionals to ensure quality healthcare for rural communities. (Example: Rural Outreach Clinics)

Community Partnerships: AHECs build strong relationships with community organizations, academic institutions, and employers. These partnerships address local healthcare needs, ensure educational programs are relevant and impactful, and improve the coordination of efforts across the state. (Example: Nevada Healthcare Workforce Pipeline & Development Workgroup)



Student Stories: AHEC's Impact on Healthcare Careers

“Going to Renown, the hospital by UNR, holding brains, dissecting a pig heart, and watching how they make casts—these activities were so much more educational and fun than I expected. I wish every camp was like this!”



Health Care Heroes
Camper, 7th Grade

“My journey with High Sierra AHEC began in high school through the ROARR program offered to Upward Bound. As a first-generation college student, AHEC helped me explore healthcare careers and solidified my decision to pursue medicine. With their support, I feel confident on the path to becoming a doctor. As a student ambassador, I hope to inspire others the way this program inspired me.”



Stephanie Lugo
ROARR to Ambassador
Pathway (Pre Med)

“Being an AHEC Scholar provided great education regarding social determinants of health and cultural nuances in my community, and I think this training ultimately made my medical education more well-rounded as I now have a much better understanding of the patients I serve”



FY 22-23
AHEC Scholar

K-12 participants who have interest in pursuing higher education after completion of program

91%

Program participants who represent Title I and/or rural communities

67%

Program participants who agreed that our programming motivated them to pursue a career in healthcare

76%

AHEC Scholars alumni who are working in rural areas/high volume needs hospitals in Nevada as of 2023

39%

Examples of Other State AHEC Models & Investments



Building a Legacy: North Carolina's AHEC Growth and Historical Investments in Primary Care

In 1972, North Carolina's effort to address primary care physician shortages and uneven distribution in rural areas aligned with the federal establishment of the AHEC program. Initially, North Carolina set up three AHEC regions under a federal AHEC contract with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine. By 1974, the North Carolina General Assembly supported this initiative by approving funds to expand the network to nine AHEC regions, create 300 new primary care residencies, and rotate students to off-campus sites. The assembly also provided funds for building or renovating AHEC facilities and developing program components. By 1975, all nine AHECs were operational, fully integrating with the federal AHEC framework.



Virginia Health Workforce Development Authority

The Authority is established to move the Commonwealth forward in achieving its vision of ensuring a quality health workforce for all Virginians. The mission of the Authority is to facilitate the development of a statewide health professions pipeline that identifies, educates, recruits, and retains a diverse, appropriately geographically distributed, and culturally competent quality workforce.

<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title32.1/chapter4/section32.1-122.7/>



Strengthening Kentucky's Health Workforce

Kentucky AHEC Program will receive \$2.5 million per year in FY25 and FY26, based on the state budget approved by the Kentucky General Assembly. Funding will support the state's eight regional centers and two program offices (at the University of Louisville and University of Kentucky) Funding is allocated to both program offices and disseminated equally to all regional centers. and will sustain and expand the following programs:

- Health careers promotion programming
- A statewide nursing pipeline for high school and college students
- Enhanced school-based (k-12) presentations and longitudinal pathway programs
- Development of new pre-med prep programs

Examples of Other State AHEC Models & Investments



Preceptor Tax Incentive Program (PTIP)

In 2014, Georgia became the first state to offer a tax deduction for community-based physicians providing uncompensated training to medical students. In 2019, this was replaced by a tax credit program. Now, community-based preceptors (licensed physicians, osteopathic physicians, advanced practice nurses, or physician assistants) who teach without compensation can earn tax credits. Physicians can receive up to \$8,500 annually, while APRNs and PAs can earn up to \$6,375. Credits are earned through rotations, with \$500 for each of the first three rotations and \$1,000 for rotations four to ten for physicians; APRNs and PAs receive \$375 and \$750, respectively.

The Georgia Statewide Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Program Office at Augusta University plays a key role in administering the Georgia Preceptor Tax Incentive Program (PTIP).





The AHEC Program Office is responsible for:

- Certifying rotations: Only the AHEC Program Office can certify eligible rotations.
- Issuing tax letters: Tax letters are issued by January 30 each year.
- Reporting qualifying hours: Individual academic programs report completed qualifying hours to the AHEC Program Office.

This oversight ensures the proper administration of the tax incentives and supports the important role of volunteer preceptors in training future healthcare providers.







Gerald Ackerman
Program Office Director

-  775. 327. 5070 ext. 3
-  <https://med.unr.edu/statewide/programs/nevada-area-health-education-centers>
-  gackerman@med.unr.edu
-  701 Walnut St. Elko, NV 89801



Andrea L Gregg
Chief Executive Officer
High Sierra AHEC, Reno

-  775. 507. 4022
-  www.highsierraahec.org
-  andrea@highsierraahec.org
-  639 Isbell Road, Suite 290 Reno NV 89509

THANK YOU

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