

Annual Impact Report

Learn more:



ahec@ohsu.edu
(503) 494-2528

Building a stronger rural health workforce

For 35 years, **Oregon Area Health Education Center (AHEC)** has worked to improve the distribution, diversity and quality of health care workers in rural and underserved areas.

Through five regional centers and a central office housed at Oregon Health & Science University, AHEC supports aspiring health professionals from career exploration to credentialing and beyond.

"Even though I am only in my second rotation, my experience as an AHEC Scholar has already given me invaluable insights into rural communities and has provided me with essential skills and knowledge for serving these communities."

Holli Davis, PA-S, AHEC Scholar

Programs

Purpose

Outcome

Career exploration

Creates a pathway for a health care workforce in rural and underserved communities by engaging school-age youth.

- 193 students attended our regional centers' health career exploration summer camps.
- Out of ~ 100 campers surveyed, 99% greater interest in a health care career.
- Most students surveyed were eligible for free or reduced lunch.

Professional programs

Promotes careers in underserved areas through clinical rotations in those communities.

- Organized clinical rotations in rural and underserved areas, along with other learning opportunities, for over 800 health professions students.

AHEC Scholars Program

Equips health professions students for future practice in rural and underserved communities.

- Upon completing the program, significantly more students reported intentions to work in rural and underserved communities.
- 47% of 2024 and 2025 graduates are from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- During the 2023-24 academic year, more than 12,000 clinical hours were completed in rural and underserved communities across Oregon.

Continuing education

Delivers high-quality education to health professionals.

- Educated and supported 1,955 professionals.
- Delivered high-quality education at little or no cost.
- Trained 175 participants in Mental Health First Aid.

This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under U77HP03052 Model State Area Health Education Centers. HRSA funds are matched by state of Oregon appropriations through Oregon Health & Science University.