All About AHEC

MI-AHEC

Established: 2010

Founding Institutions: Wayne State University's (WSU) College of Nursing and School of Medicine

Regional Centers: 5

Counties Served: 83

Founding Partners: WSU's College of Nursing, Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, School of Medicine, and School of Social Work; University of Detroit Mercy's School of Dentistry

Funders: U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration, The Kresge Foundation, Wayne State University

Host Partners: Central Michigan University, Covenant Community Care, MidMichigan Community Health Services, Northern Michigan University and Western Michigan University

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Congress established the Area Health Education Center (AHEC) program to build a healthcare workforce committed to serving medically disadvantaged populations. A national network of Area Health Education Centers was developed to improve the supply, distribution, diversity and quality of the health workforce and increase access to health care in medically underserved areas.

- **Progress.** This long-term initiative has traditionally cultivated relationships between university health centers and community health systems. There are about 50 AHEC programs and more than 200 regional centers throughout the U.S.

- **Structure.** AHECs are generally administered by medical schools, which serve as program offices and subcontract with regional centers. Centers are led by a Board of Directors that resides in and represents the local community; they help identify needs and priorities for healthcare professionals in their regions. Program offices collaborate with a multidisciplinary academic group of organizations that may include schools of nursing, allied health, dentistry, and/or social work.

- **Funding.** AHECs are funded by the federal government. Competitive grants make seed monies available to establish AHEC programs and centers. Program offices can receive funding for up to 12 years; regional centers must be self-sustaining by year seven.

- **Service.** AHEC programs are usually based in medically underserved and health professional shortage areas. Centers focus on improving the delivery and quality of healthcare in these regions.

AHEC by the Numbers

Year Established	1971
AHEC Centers	235
AHEC Programs	50
AHEC States	47