

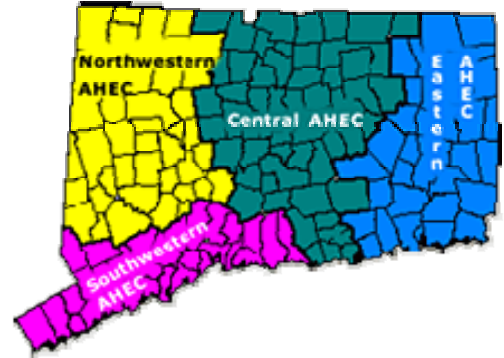


Connecticut Area Health Education Center Program

The Connecticut Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Program works throughout Connecticut to improve access to basic health care by linking local community groups with the resources of the University of Connecticut Health Center and other health professions training programs. For example, the AHEC Program brought University of Connecticut Health center students and faculty together with several community-based organizations to establish migrant farm worker health care in Connecticut. The AHEC Program is based at the University of Connecticut Health Center and is implemented through four regional centers located in the Norwich, Hartford, Waterbury, and Bridgeport areas.

AHECs improve access to health care by:

- **Recruiting minority students into the health professions.** AHECs work with Connecticut's public schools to provide health career programs for grades K-16.
- **Partnering with community organizations** to address local health issues. AHECs have helped local groups secure federal and private funding by ensuring an efficient and effective group process.
- **Providing continuing education** that improves the care received by vulnerable populations. Conference topics include HIV/AIDS, Cultural Competence and Continuous Quality Improvement.
- **Developing and supporting community-training** opportunities for health professions students. The AHEC program has been instrumental in helping UConn place more of its students in underserved communities.



The four centers enable the AHEC Program to carry out local programs with great efficiency. The AHEC Program provides statewide local coverage. As a statewide program, it functions locally to provide high quality, efficient, effective and flexible services that meet local needs.

The Model AHEC Grant supported by Health Resources and Services Administration was funded in the amount of \$334,442 for FY 2009. Besides the federal grant, the AHEC Program is supported by state appropriations (\$1,159,529) and a variety of other grants and contracts.

2009 AHEC outcomes:

Continuing education

The Connecticut AHEC Program is the largest single provider of continuing education at the University of Connecticut Health Center. AHEC continuing education programs are provided in collaboration with a wide variety of internal and external partners. Prominent among continuing education partners are the Connecticut Department of Public Health and the Community Health Center Association of Connecticut and its member community health centers. During 2008-2009, the AHEC Program sponsored or co-sponsored **106** continuing education programs with over **6,000** participants.

Health careers recruitment

Recruiting under-represented minority students into the health careers is single largest activity of the Connecticut AHEC Program. In 2008-2009, **4,492** students in grades K – 16 participated in an AHEC sponsored program. A total of **3,794** students in grades K – 12 received services through AHEC in FY 09. Over **2,470** teachers, parents and guidance counselors participated in an AHEC activity.