



Program Overview

Created by the Connecticut Area Health Education Center, the Youth Health Service Corps (YHSC) mobilizes diverse high school students to provide volunteer service in health care agencies, ultimately to help recruit high school students into health care careers. Students provide valuable services within their community while increasing their awareness of the health care issues facing underserved communities, public health careers, emergency preparedness, and primary care opportunities such as the National Health Service Corps (NHSC). Student volunteers complete a nine module curriculum and perform 50+ hours of volunteer service in health care agencies serving the underserved including community health centers, NHSC sites, homeless shelters, long term care facilities, physical therapy clinics and cancer centers. The nine modules include Vulnerable Populations, Ethical and Legal Issues, Applied Health Services, Cultural Competency, Health Career Exploration, Health Education and Disease Prevention, Observation and Data Collection, Emergency Preparedness, and Peer Education and Leadership. Students also complete CPR and AED Certification.

YHSC National Expansion

Through the national network of AHECs the YHSC is now operation in 17 states including Connecticut, California, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, Nevada, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Vermont, Virginia and Wisconsin.

National YHSC Vital Statistics December 2004 through June 2008

- 1,599 high school students trained as volunteers
- 33,724 hours of volunteer service performed at health care agencies
- 200 Volunteer sites participating

Key collaborators include: University of Connecticut School of Medicine, State of Connecticut Department of Public Health, Corporation for National and Community Service, Connecticut Health Foundation, Connecticut Primary Care Association and National Health Service Corps.

- The Associate Administrator of the NHSC, Rick Smith, signs the certificates for those YHSC students who graduate from the program (completion of 9 training modules, CPR certification and 50 hours of volunteer service). For the 2007-2008 program year 117 students received this recognition.

Recent Developments:

- Eleven YHSC students were awarded President Bush's Volunteer Service Award for the 2007-2008 program year which recognizes at least 100 years of community service performed within a 12 month time period.
- Northwestern Connecticut AHEC received Learn and Serve America funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service to support the YHSC program (this organization is affiliated with AmeriCorps). The grant, approximately \$900,000, is to expand the YHSC model on a national basis through the national network of AHEC programs.



Youth Health Service Corps National Consortium

*Developing a national pipeline of future health care practitioners
trained to serve our nation's most vulnerable*

Youth Health Service Corps National Rollout

In response to the YHSC's early successes, sister AHECs from across the nation have expressed an interest in utilizing the program. To address this interest the YHSC Consortium was created with the goal of mobilizing diverse high school students across the nation to provide much needed volunteer services while developing a national pipeline of future health care practitioners trained to serve our nation's most vulnerable. YHSC Consortium members receive the training, materials and support necessary to replicate the YHSC program.

Based on the success of the YHSC program and the strength of the National AHEC Network, in September 2007, Northwestern CT AHEC received a three year \$1.1 million Learn & Serve America grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service to support the replication of the YHSC model. Over the three year grant period at least 16 regional AHECs from across the nation will receive funding to replicate the YHSC program in their state. Grant funds are also supporting the creation of a web-based data management system to manage and evaluate student participation in the YHSC.

YHSC National Rollout

