The Montana Office of Rural Health (MORH) & Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Program Office are co-located on the campus of Montana State University, Bozeman. Our offices serve the State of Montana.

**MORH Mission:** "Dedicated to improving access to quality healthcare for rural Montana by providing collaborative leadership and resources to healthcare and community organizations."

**AHEC Mission:** "To enhance access to quality healthcare, particularly primary and preventive care, by improving the supply and distribution of healthcare professionals through community and academic educational partnerships."

This report provides programatic background and highlights activities the MORH & AHEC have engaged in for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. MORH & AHEC receive grant funding each year for programs that align with our mission. Over $4,056,500 in funding was received to provide services and resources to Montana's Critical Access Hospitals, Clinics, healthcare workforce, and State and Local partners.
KEY PROJECTS

Programs Managed
- State Office of Rural Health
- Area Health Education Center
- Montana Rural Health Association
- Small Hospital Improvement Program
- Montana Graduate Education Council
- AHEC Scholars
- Montana Healthcare Workforce Advisory Committee
- Community Health Worker Training
- Behavioral Health Education & Training

PROGRAMMATIC AREAS

Workforce Development
Interprofessional Education
Behavioral Health
Continuing Education
Community Health & Wellness
Hospital & Clinic Services
National Rural Health Day
**Program Highlights**

**Workforce Development**
Through the GME Council, supported Recruitment/Retention Assessments for 13 Critical Access Hospitals and hosted physician recruitment and networking events in association with MT residency programs.

**Interprofessional Education**
The Montana University System IPE Institute co-hosts learning opportunities for health professions students including Friday Medical Conference, and online courses (such as Human Health and Climate Change and Interprofessional Collaborative Practice).

**Behavioral Health Trainings**
MORH/AHEC provided 119 behavioral health related trainings to 1187 individuals. Courses were taught both in-person (47%) and virtually (53%). Trainings are ongoing through 2022.

**Hospital & Clinic Services**
The Community Health Services Development (CHSD) program provided community health needs assessments and implementation planning services to 13 hospitals; held focus groups or interviews with 300 community participants.
In its 2nd year, the Advanced Nurse Education Workforce Program at MSU has supported 22 graduate nursing students to be trained as Rural Ready Nurse Practitioners. Of the 22 Scholars, 15 are enrolled in the Family Nurse Practitioner track and 7 are enrolled in the Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner track.

The Rural Primary Care Track (RPCT) at MSU is in its 3rd year. Currently there are 124 RPCT students enrolled and 37 graduates to date. MSU BSN students received support to travel to 45 different rural clinical sites with over 750 clinical rotations completed.

MORH/AHEC supported 12 two to five week long clinical rotations for dental students in the University of Washington Regional Initiatives in Dental Education (RIDE) Program in 2020, for a total of 1,760 hours of oral healthcare training in rural, underserved Montana.

AHEC Scholars is now in the 3rd year, offering interprofessional learning and clinical experience for over 220 students from 10 health professions disciplines.

AHEC Scholars Program

Graduate Nursing

Undergraduate Nursing

Dental Program: RIDE