

MONTANA AHEC

HRSA: Area Health Education Center (AHEC)

Montana AHEC is dedicated to enhancing access to quality healthcare, particularly primary and preventive care, across the state. We achieve this by strategically improving the supply and distribution of healthcare professionals through strong community and academic educational partnerships. By operating across five distinct regions, Montana AHEC ensures a localized approach that enables us to better serve the unique healthcare needs of individual Montana communities. To better serve our American Indian communities, a sixth AHEC center is under development.

PROGRAM GOAL

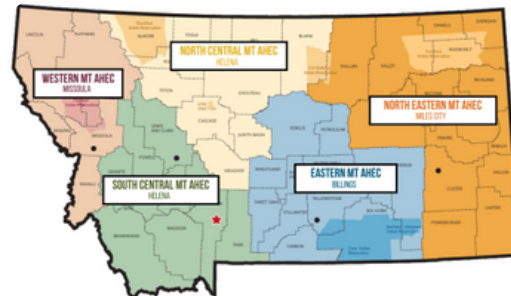
To create a healthcare workforce representative of Montana communities that is prepared to deliver high-quality care in a transforming system and is distributed throughout the state, particularly in rural and underserved areas and populations.

PROGRAM TIMELINE

September 1, 2022 - August 31, 2027
Established 1985

FOCUS AREAS

Key focus areas include offering pathway programs for high school students, providing comprehensive support and training for healthcare students, delivering continuing education for current professionals, and conducting specialized training in areas such as behavioral health and CNA courses.



"As a first-generation college student, MedStart was my first introduction to college and medicine, sparking my interest in the Montana WWAMI program and the crucial belief in my potential to become a doctor – a vital first step in my journey to becoming the physician I am today."

- Dr. Bergren, 2008 AHEC MedStart Camp Participant

2024 NUMBERS

276

High school students participated in a healthcare career exploration camp

242

New Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) trained

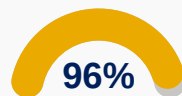
3508

Continuing Education participants statewide

446

Participants completing health career exploration/training using virtual reality

Montana AHEC supported **1,554** clinical rotations for healthcare students across Montana.



were in a **rural or medically underserved** setting

IMPACT & RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Why This Program Matters:

- Builds a stronger healthcare workforce by engaging students, training professionals, and fostering community connections in rural areas
- Equips the healthcare workforce with crucial skills for unique local health challenges
- Strengthens the pipeline of healthcare professionals committed to serving rural Montana

This program is funded through HRSA's Area Health Education Center Program. A continued investment ensures that both future and current health professionals gain the crucial skills needed to **effectively serve communities across Montana**, directly reinvesting federal dollars to strengthen our local healthcare infrastructure and **improve access to quality care** for all Montanans.

