

WHO ARE WE?

The Montana Office of Rural Health (MORH) and Area Health Education Center (AHEC) are two federal-state partnership grant programs whose mission is to support efforts and **improve healthcare across Montana** through public/private partnerships and initiatives in rural health development. Programmatic activities include workforce development, pipeline programs, and technical assistance programs. These statewide programs are delivered through the Program Office based at the Mark & Robyn Jones College of Nursing at Montana State University in Bozeman, and five (5) regional AHEC centers: Eastern (Billings), North Eastern (Miles City), Western (Missoula), and North and South Central (Helena).

2023 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Increasing the number of adequately trained behavioral health paraprofessionals in rural Montana to aid in the improvement of health outcomes for residents.

- 116** Free behavioral health trainings available to all
- 34** Paraprofessionals trained to work with youth and families impacted by OUD & SUD
- 34** Behavioral health paraprofessionals trained
- 116** Attendees at Montana's annual Community Health Worker (CHW) Summit

COVID-19 & HEALTH EQUITY

Addressing COVID-19 and advancing health equity by using strategies that reduce systemic barriers such as workforce development and equity-based education and community collaboration.

- 66** Community Health Workers trained
- 84** Community Integrated Health (CIH) professionals trained
- 52** CHW & CIH supervisors trained
- 102** EMS agencies funded to support technology and connection needs
- 9** Telehealth Assistance Programs funded

The Montana Health Equity Task Force has **over 150 members** and works to identify health disparities and possible solutions. MORH/AHEC has provided over **\$250,000** to support rural health equity projects through this task force.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COLLEGIATE PROGRAMS

Preparing the next generation of healthcare leaders to serve rural Montana.

- 470** Montana health professions students of all levels trained through AHEC Scholars Program
 - 32** Students from rural MT funded to pursue DNP education
 - 121** Rural clinical sites served by nursing students (BSN & DNP) through clinical rotations
 - 771** Health screenings provided to children in Head Start programs across the state
- 92%** of our program graduates left **confident** in their ability to practice in a rural or underserved setting

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION (GME)

Supporting recruitment events for Montana hospitals and community health centers

- 48** Future health professionals participated, including medical residents and nursing students
- 30** Montana healthcare facilities of all sizes represented

COMMUNITY & HEALTH SYSTEM TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Supporting rural and frontier communities in building healthcare delivery systems through the collection and dissemination of information, technical assistance, and coordination of statewide rural population health interests.

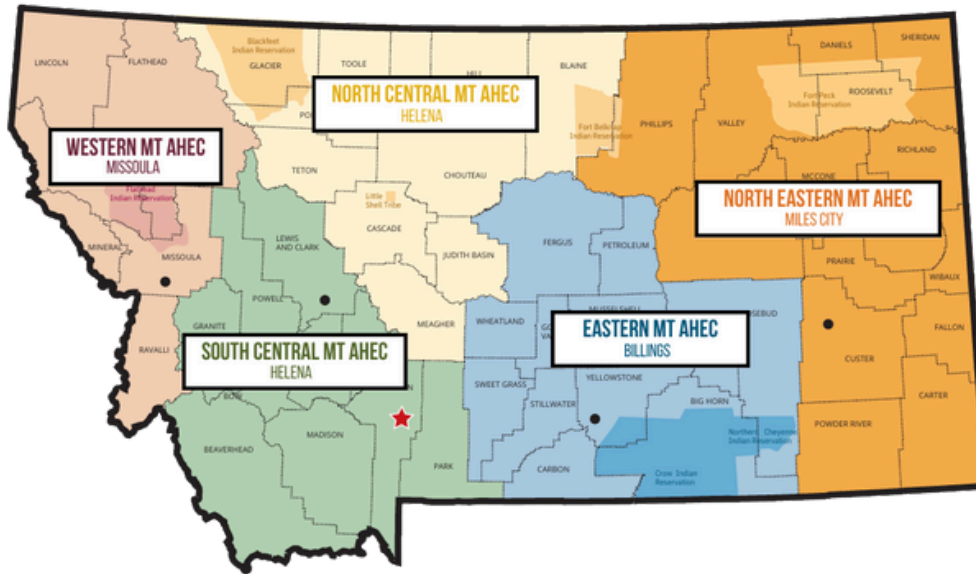
- 16** Critical Access Hospitals supported in Community Health Needs Assessment process
- 81** Community interviews conducted and a total of **2,362** surveys completed
- 12** Educational webinars hosted for Rural Health Clinics (RHC)
- 18** RHCs received funding for access to the Practice Operations National Database (POND)

Facilitated over **\$14M** in Small Rural Hospital Improvement (SHIP) grant funding to **48 Critical Access Hospitals** to support COVID testing and mitigation.

MONTANA AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



MAP OF MONTANA AHEC REGIONS



SCAN FOR REGIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION

PIPELINE PROGRAMS

Region-based healthcare career exploration camps for high school students focused on building the pipeline for tomorrow's healthcare professionals

- 322** Students participated in 1-day REACH camps
- 92** Students participated in 5-day MedStart camps
- 280** Students participated in Heads Up camp, focused on behavioral health careers

WESTERN MT AHEC

Based in Missoula at the University of Montana

- 17** Behavioral health graduate students supported in traveling to rural/underserved clinical sites
- 9** Simulation trainings hosted for interdisciplinary health profession students
- 12** Podcast episodes of *All Things Vagus* released - focused on well-being for health professionals

Friday Medical Conference interprofessional continuing education series averages **35** live attendees and **29** recroded attendees per weekly session.

NORTH CENTRAL & SOUTH CENTRAL MT AHECS

Based in Helena at the Montana Hospital Association

- 23** Healthcare students networked with potential MT employers at Montana Clinical Connect
- 10** Housing arrangements secured for visiting UW Dental Students completing rotations in MT
- 9** CNA students received online didactic training

Implemented the NEXT Healthcare Leaders Program for nursing students to bridge the transition from academia to practice by hosting **7** events with **11** healthcare facilities and **58** students participating.

EASTERN MT AHEC

Based in Billings at Riverstone Health

- 398** Students received educational training
- 116** 3rd & 4th year medical students placed in clinical rotations in the Billings area
- 164** Field placements arranged for PA, pharmacy, MA, dental, nursing, and dietetic students

Expanded and redesigned the simulation lab at Riverstone Health to support onboarding practices and create an immersive learning experience for healthcare students and professionals.

NORTH EASTERN MT AHEC

Based in Miles City at the Montana Health Network

- 248** New certified nursing assistants (CNAs) trained through hosting **11** courses
- 21** CNAs trained on the Blackfeet reservation and ready for local employment
- 59** Health professionals trained on Comprehensive Advanced Life Support (CALs)

Partnered with local high school career exploration programs at **4** high schools to train **14** high school students as CNAs, filling a local healthcare workforce need while exposing the students to healthcare careers.