

# MONTANA OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH & AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER



## 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).

## 2024 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

### BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Providing training and scholarship opportunities to enhance Montana's behavioral health workforce and expand access to mental health services across rural and underserved communities.

- 16** Free public behavioral health trainings
- 55** Paraprofessionals trained to work with youth and families impacted by OUD & SUD
- 106** Behavioral health paraprofessionals trained
- 38** Scholarships awarded to students for attendance at behavioral health trainings

### COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Equipping communities to enhance their health and well-being by improving access to care, addressing social determinants of health, and strengthening the healthcare workforce.

- 37** Community Health Workers trained
- 1500** People trained in our new program, Caring for Indigenous Montanans
- 3** Tribes partnering with MORH/AHEC on the CDC's REACH program - the first time REACH has been implemented in Montana
- 51** Nurses engaged in Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) training - **53%** of Montana's counties do not have a SANE nurse

Received a planning grant from the Montana Governor's Office of Community Service to explore how an **AmeriCorps program** can help meet Montana's community and mental health needs

### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COLLEGIATE PROGRAMS

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

- 427** Montana health professions students of all levels trained through AHEC Scholars Program
- 36** Students from rural MT funded to pursue education to become a nurse practitioner (DNP)
- 177** Rural clinical sites served by nursing students (BSN & DNP) through clinical rotations
- 1158** 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

### HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE RECRUITMENT

Supporting statewide recruitment events for Montana healthcare facilities.

- 42** Future health professionals participated, including medical residents and nursing students
- 27** 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.

- 7** Critical Access Hospitals supported in Community Health Needs Assessment process
- 15** Community interviews conducted and a total of **931** surveys completed
- 12** Educational webinars hosted for Rural Health Clinics (RHC)
- 17** RHCs received funding for access to the Practice Operations National Database (POND)

Facilitated over **\$600k** in Small Rural Hospital Improvement (SHIP) grant funding to **44 Critical Access Hospitals** to support investments in value-based care

SCAN ME



### CONTACT INFORMATION

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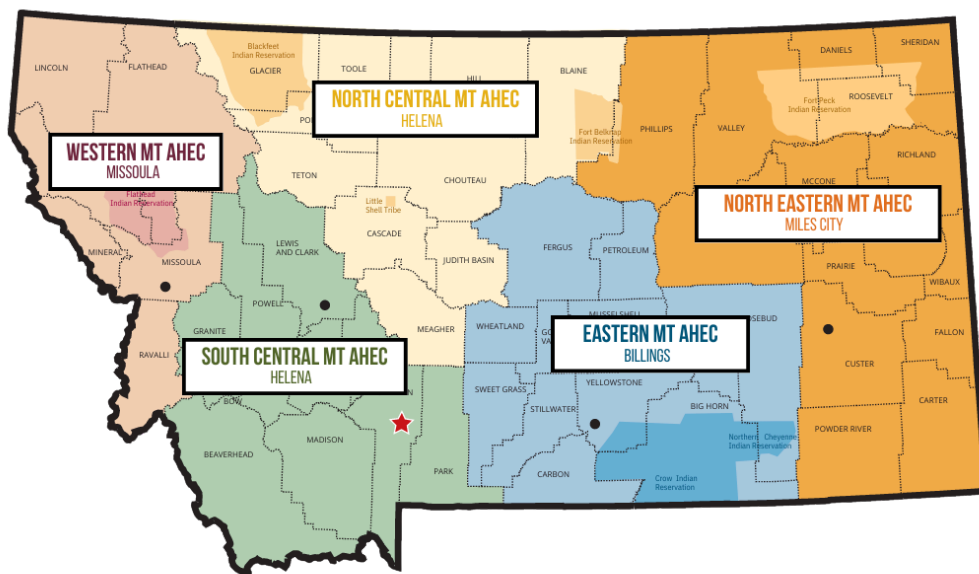
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# MONTANA AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



## MAP OF MONTANA AHEC REGIONS



LEARN MORE ABOUT  
MONTANA AHEC  
REGIONS

## PIPELINE & PATHWAYS PROGRAMS

Region-based healthcare career exploration camps for high school students designed to develop the next generation of healthcare professionals.

- 156** Students participated in 1-day REACH camps
- 93** Students participated in 5-day MedStart camps
- 27** Students participated in Heads Up camp, focused on behavioral health careers

## WESTERN MT AHEC

Based in Missoula at the University of Montana

- 14** Health professions graduate students supported in traveling to rural/underserved clinical sites
- 1** Simulation training hosted for interdisciplinary health profession students
- 10** Podcast episodes of *All Things Vagus* released - focused on well-being for health professionals

Friday Medical Conference interprofessional continuing education series averages **33** live attendees and **28** recorded attendees per weekly session

## NORTH CENTRAL & SOUTH CENTRAL MT AHECS

Based in Helena at the Montana Hospital Association

- 16** Healthcare students networked with potential MT employers at Montana Clinical Connect
- 11** Housing arrangements secured for visiting UW Dental Students completing rotations in MT
- 56** CNA students receiving online didactic training
- 446** Participants between the ages of 14 and 21 that completed health career exploration and/or health career training utilizing virtual reality

## EASTERN MT AHEC

Based in Billings at RiverStone Health

- 208** Students received educational training
- 98** 3rd & 4th year medical students placed in clinical rotations in the Billings area
- 58** 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

- 186** New certified nursing assistants (CNAs) trained through hosting **12** courses
- 102** CNAs trained on the Blackfeet, Crow, and Fort Belknap reservations and ready for employment
- 45** Health professionals trained on Comprehensive Advanced Life Support (CALs)

Partnered with local high school career exploration programs at **15** high schools to train **45** high school students as CNAs, filling a local healthcare workforce need while exposing the students to healthcare careers