

Alaskans need your support to produce and sustain Alaska's health care workforce.

We believe that funding, as a state appropriation to the University of Alaska, directed to the Alaska AHEC program, would systemize statewide health care workforce development initiatives.



Young future leaders of Alaska demonstrate controlling bleeding at Camp Mammittuq as they learn about health care careers and skills in Nome Alaska in May 2022.

## THE PROBLEM

Alaska's vast size, isolated communities and large medically underserved areas present challenges accessing health care.

- **79%** of the state's county-equivalents are considered frontier (less than 6 people/sq. mile).
- Most of Alaska's geographic area is designated as a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA).
- Only **17%** of Alaska's primary care and **18%** of mental health care needs are being met.
- **98%** of the state is considered medically underserved.

## THE SOLUTION

Addressing complex workforce shortages requires multiple strategies implemented simultaneously. The Alaska Area Health Education Center (AHEC) program, administered by the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA), delivers three types of programming through established Regional Centers across the state.

- Long-term strategies: Provide **Health Care Career Pathway Programs** (all ages) inspire the future workforce.
- Mid-term strategies: Administer **AHEC Scholars Program** (current students in health profession training programs) provides exposure to practice in rural/underserved communities.
- Short-term strategies: Deliver **Continuing Education** (practicing health care professionals) focuses on overcoming burnout while staying in tune with the rapidly transforming health care landscape.

These strategies, when orchestrated systemically across education, industry and government partnerships, streamline efforts toward a sustainable health care workforce for the state of Alaska.



Youth participants touring Bartlett Hospital as part of a 2022 Juneau Health Careers Transition Camp for youth with disabilities.



## Statewide Reach

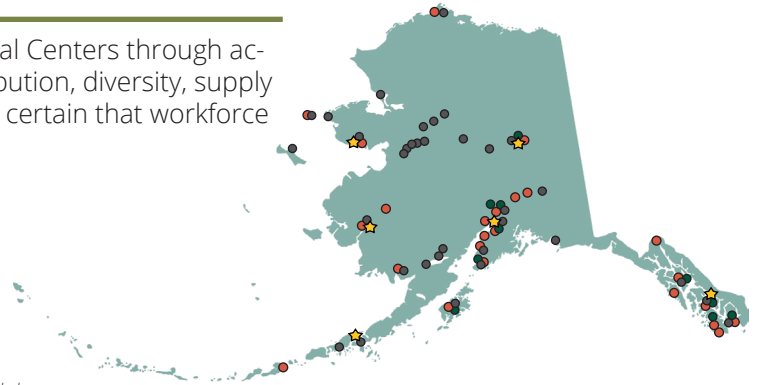
The Alaska AHEC Program Office at UAA contracts with six Regional Centers through academic and community-based partnerships to improve the distribution, diversity, supply and quality of health care personnel. The statewide model makes certain that workforce development initiatives are community driven.

★ Regional Centers (*Anchorage, Bethel, Fairbanks, Juneau, Nome, Unalaska*)

● Locations AHEC Scholar graduates are working  
(*Anchorage, Fairbanks, Homer, Juneau, Ketchikan, Klawock, Kodiak, Palmer, Petersburg, Wasilla*)

● Locations AHEC Scholars have been placed (*Anchorage, Bethel, Chickaloon, Craig, Dillingham, Homer, Juneau, Kalskag, Ketchikan, Klawock, Kodiak, Nome, Little Diomed, Nikiski, Palmer, Petersburg, Port McKenzie, Sitka, Skagway, Soldotna, Sutton, Unalaska, Utqiagvik*)

● Locations Pipeline Programming has been run (*Allakaket, Anchorage, Bethel, Cordova, Dillingham, Fairbanks, Galena, Glennallen, Homer, Hughes, Huslia, Igiugig, Juneau, Kaltag, Kenai/Soldotna, Ketchikan, King Cove, Kodiak, Kotzebue, Koyukuk, Little Diomed, Nenana, Newdalton, Newhalen, Nome, Nulato, Palmer, Petersburg, Ruby, Sand Point, Savoonga, Tanana, Utqiagvik, Wales*)



UAA health care students, faculty, and staff discuss health equity during Grand Rounds breakout sessions in Nov. 2022.

## Current AHEC Program Impact

**84%**

of AHEC Scholars graduates working in health care in Alaska

**40%**

of AHEC Scholars graduates working in rural/underserved locations

**13,624**

Continuing Education participants in last 5 years

**6,579**

Health care Career Pathway Program participants in last 5 years

## Future Funding Impact

A state appropriation for AHEC core operations would result in the minimum required operational budget to expand:

AHEC participant capacity annually from 4,154 to

**8,300**

Pipeline Program participant capacity annually from 1,837 to

**3,600**

Clinical & Community Based Learning participant capacity annually from 77 to

**150**

AHEC Scholars program capacity annually from 50 to

**90**

Continuing Education participant capacity annually from 2,119 to

**4,200**



State of Alaska Department of Health staff gather at a Resiliency Retreat facilitated by AHEC in Anchorage in Dec. 2022.