



January 22, 2024

**NY State Assemblymember Paulin, Chair
Assembly Health Committee**

**NY State Senator Rivera, Chair
Senate Health Committee**

Dear Committee Chairs,

On behalf of the **NYS Area Health Education Center System (AHEC)**, we thank you for the opportunity to present this as testimony to the Assembly Joint Committees' Public Hearing on Healthcare Workforce.

The NYS AHEC System, comprised of its Statewide Office housed at University at Buffalo, nine Area Health Education Centers (AHECs), and two regional offices located throughout New York State respectfully request the **continued inclusion of \$2.2 million for AHEC in your 2024-25 State Executive Budget**. We would also like to express our sincere gratitude for including a restoration of this base funding for NYS AHEC in your proposed 2023-24 Executive and Final Budgets.

As New York State continues to address the healthcare workforce shortages, made worse by the Covid-19 pandemic, **NYS AHEC is proud to have partnered with the State to attract new providers to areas with severe shortages and where culturally competent care is most needed**. The \$2.2 million, combined with the legislature's commitment of \$500,000 in the enacted 2023-24 State Budget represents a critical investment in AHEC and the State's healthcare workforce. The annual continuation of these funds allows the NYS AHEC System to meet the 1:1 state funding match as required by HRSA. Without state funding, NYS AHEC will not receive federal funds.

Detailed information about our history and impact are provided in the **attached document**.

Sincerely,

Leishia B. Smallwood, MPA
Director, New York State AHEC System

Leadership for the New York State AHEC System is provided by community-based centers, the Statewide Office at the University at Buffalo and regional offices at Upstate Medical University, Albany Medical College and The Institute for Family Health.

(716) 816-7225

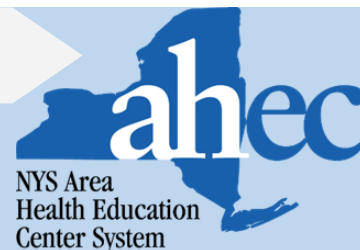
Fax (716) 845-6899

www.nysahec.org

New York State AHEC System Statewide Office University at Buffalo Department of Family Medicine 77 Goodell Street, Suite 220, Buffalo, NY 14203

YOUR PRIORITIES ARE OUR PRIORITIES!

New York State AHEC System



Connecting students to careers, professionals to communities, and communities to better health!

AHEC—Addressing Health Equity Challenges
We help **REDUCE** healthcare shortages, and **INCREASE** access to health care across the state through proven, educational training and community-based programs!

YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS!

Your support of AHEC is **vital** for successful statewide recruitment, training and retention programs throughout the healthcare sector. **We are dedicated to providing members of your community an opportunity to excel in the health professions**—youth are exposed to viable healthcare careers, current matriculated health students are placed in clinical rotations and internships in underserved communities, and continuing education for current healthcare professionals is ongoing to ensure that they are prepared to provide quality care to a diverse patient population.

We wish to thank Governor Hochul for including the NYS AHEC System in the FY23-24 State Executive Budget! We are relying on your help to pursue our continued inclusion in the FY24-25 budget with the NYS Department of Health to support our efforts to provide critical health-related programming and trainings in your community! This funding will support our efforts to continue our mission of providing:

- ⇒ **Healthcare Career Exposure** for HS and College students focused on **primary care and public health careers**.
- ⇒ **Clinical Training and Internships** in rural and underserved locations ensuring that future healthcare professionals are trained and skilled within diverse settings.
- ⇒ **Continuing Education** for current healthcare professionals to improve overall skill development and quality of care in a transforming healthcare system.

Funding Spotlight: AHEC Scholars Program

Continue to support funding for the **only** statewide, longitudinal program for current interdisciplinary health profession students. Adapted from best practices, this program is **specifically designed to address federal and state priorities of better care, better value, and better health outcomes**.

NYS AHEC System

Since 2000
Your Funding Supported:

528,800

Health professionals enrolled in NYS AHEC Continuing Education Programs

288,450

Students (grades 7-12 and college) engaged in NYS AHEC Pipeline Programs

39,110

Medical & Health Care Students placed at NYS AHEC rotations in Underserved or Rural communities

State support for the NYS AHEC System **returns XX the funding** in federal and local monies.



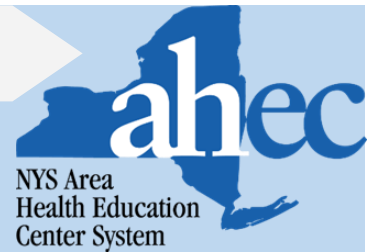
NYS AHEC System Statewide Office

77 Goodell St., Suite 220, Buffalo, NY
P | (716) 816-7225 F | (716) 845-6899
www.nysahec.org



YOUR PRIORITIES ARE OUR PRIORITIES!

New York State AHEC System



Connecting students to careers, professionals to communities, and communities to better health!

OUR LOCATIONS

The NYS AHEC System proudly serves all 62 counties of New York State, with nine local centers, two regional offices, and its statewide office in Buffalo, NY.

NYS AHEC System

NYS AHEC System Statewide Office
University at Buffalo, Dept. of Family Medicine
www.nysahec.org
Phone: (716) 816-7225

Northern AHEC
1 Main St., Canton, NY 13617
Phone: (315) 379-7701
www.northernahec.org

WNY R-AHEC
Western New York Rural AHEC
20 Duncan St., PO Box 152, Warsaw, NY 14569
Phone: (585) 786-6275
www.r-ahec.org

Erie Niagara AHEC
77 Goodell St., Buffalo, NY 14203
Phone: (716) 835-9358
www.erieniagaraahec.org

Central New York AHEC
9 Main St., Cortland, NY 13045
Phone: (607) 756-1090
www.cnyahec.org

Manhattan-Staten Island AHEC
8 W. 126th Street, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10027
Phone: (347) 480-1205
www.msiahec.org

Brooklyn-Queens-Long Island AHEC
300 Cadman Plaza West, Brooklyn, NY 11201
Phone: (718) 797-1558
www.bqliahec.org

Hudson Mohawk AHEC
13 British American Blvd., Latham, NY 12110
Phone: (518) 867-8388
www.hmahec.org

Catskill Hudson AHEC
60 Park Lane, Suite 1, Highland, NY 12528
Phone: (845) 883-7260
www.chahec.org

Bronx Westchester AHEC
2823 Third Ave., Suite 102, Bronx, NY 10455
Phone: (347) 736-0587
www.bwahec.org

Regional Offices

- Central Regional Office**
SUNY Upstate Medical University
www.upstate.edu
- NYC Metro Regional Office**
Institute for Family Health
https://institute.org/

Legend:
★ AHEC site locations
⊙ AHEC Regional Offices
○ AHEC Statewide Office



NYS AHEC System Statewide Office
77 Goodell St., Suite 220, Buffalo, NY
P | (716) 816-7225 F | (716) 845-6899
www.nysahec.org



The NYSAHEC System is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under the Award titled Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Program (U77). The content and information is solely the responsibility of the authors and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government.