

**FINDING FUNDING AND
Preparing the Pipeline**

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'WHAT THE HECK'S AN AHEC?'

- Created by Congress in 1971 to enhance access to quality health care
 - Kentucky AHEC began in early 1980s (hosted centers)
- Four primary strategies:
 - Health careers promotion, facilitate clinical rotations, continuing education, community health initiatives

AN EXISTING STATEWIDE NETWORK

KY AHEC PROGRAM
STATE FUNDING FLOW CHART

THE CHANGING ENVIRONMENT

- Declined state funding for AHEC programs
- Healthcare professional shortage exasperated by COVID-19

DECLINING FUNDS

- State/affiliated university funding (from FY16 to FY22):
 - 57%
 - \$204,495

HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE SHORTAGE

- KY nursing supply:
 - Governor declared a state of emergency in December 2021
 - An additional 16,000 nurses needed by 2024



RECONNECTED WITH PARTNERS

- Agencies KY's regional AHEC directors met with during summer/fall 2021:
 - KY Primary Care Office
 - KY Primary Care Association
 - KY Cabinet for Health and Family Services/DPH
 - KY Council on Post-secondary Education
 - Governor's Office (Sr. Advisor Rocky Adkins)
 - KY Rural Health Association
 - KY Medical Association
 - KY Hospital Association
 - Select state legislators

KY AHEC'S STATE funding push (2021)

- CHFS/DPH
- State budget:
 - In Gov. Beshear's proposed and House-approved budgets for \$2.5 million per year (July 2022-June 2024)

IT GOT APPROVED!

- **\$2.5 million/yr for KY AHEC in FY23 and FY24**
 - \$250,000 per year for each regional center and program office
- **What we're doing:**
 - Expanding healthcare workforce programming
 - Strengthening programming for post-secondary students (e.g., medical school prep)
 - Developing nursing pipeline programs (from high school to employment)

FUNDING LEADS TO INCREASED PROGRAMMING

- Created Nursing Pipeline Programs
- Expansion of the medical school preparation programs - 6 of 8 regions

FUNDING LEADS TO MORE PROGRAMMING

- Expanded Summer Health Career Camps
- Expanded Classroom Presentations
- Expanded Health Career Expos
- Expanded Health Career Exploratory Clubs

EXPANSION OF HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOM PROGRAMMING

- Funding has enabled AHECs to enter classrooms and engage students through hands-on programming.
- Example: South Central expanded Future Healthcare Professionals (FHP) program from 2 to 14 counties (with more counties reached this year).

EXPANSION OF HEALTH CAREER EXPOS

- Provided in multiple regions throughout the state
- Offers health career exploratory opportunities for high school students
- Hands-on activities

RESULTS FROM FY23

- Academic Prep Programs – 134 Students
- Health Career Expos/Fairs – 8,912 Students
- Classroom/Health Ed Presentations – 13,073 Students
- Longitudinal Health Career Clubs – 914 Students
- Clinical Experiential/Shadowing – 517 Students
- Exploratory Field Trips – 244 Students
- Health Career Summer Camps – 294 Students

24,088!

FY23 OUTCOMES DATA

- 12,700 additional students were reached with this new funding
- Number of Kentucky counties served with extended high school programming went from 25 to 85
- 81% of students indicated increased confidence in achieving a future in health professions after participating in AHEC programming

OUR FY23 HEALTH CAREERS 'REACH'

MEASURING SUCCESS

- Developed statewide data collection tools
- Utilized existing tools to track students over the long-term

SHARING SUCCESS

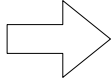
- Developed statewide approach
- Disseminate quarterly updates to stakeholders
- Visited Frankfort



ENSURING SUCCESS MOVING FORWARD

- It takes more than 2 years to address the healthcare shortage in KY.
- Long-term investment

From Rural Health Scholars (2018)



To Physicians (2023)

- From L to R
- Chase = M4 UKCOM BG
 - Lexie = M3 UK COM BG
 - Jonathan = Resident
 - Kathleen = EM resident
 - Tyler = M3 UKCOM BG
 - Abby = M4 UKCOM BG

WHAT'S NEXT? THE ASK

- \$3.5 million per year in the next biennial budget
 - \$7 million total for FY25-26



WHAT'S NEXT? EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES

- NAO/DOL 'Workforce Pathways for Youth' grant
 - 2023-2026
 - Healthcare focused virtual reality sims
- NAO Maternal Health Workforce Promotion grant
 - ~ 100 high school, college undergraduate, and health professions students attended event

**QUESTIONS? WANT TO PARTNER?
REACH OUT TO US!**

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