

1. Name of your project:

Illinois Area Health Education Centers Network Program

2. Key project personnel, roles and contact information:

Karen E Peters, DrPH
Program Director
IL AHEC Network Program
University of Illinois at Chicago
Institute for Health Research and Policy
1747 W Roosevelt Road Ste 500
Chicago, IL 60607
p) 312-413-4944
Email: kpeters@uic.edu

3. Is there information on a website? URL?

<http://ahec.rockford.uic.edu>

4. What is the target population?

Disadvantaged youth, health professions students and practicing health professionals in underserved areas throughout Illinois

5. Provide a short description/overview of project:

The Illinois Area Health Education Centers Network Program (IL AHEC) is a statewide initiative designed to address the development and retention of the State's health workforce by providing educational 'pipeline' programs in partnership with health care organizations, academic institutions, and other community based agencies. The Program Office is located at the National Center for Rural Health Professions in the UIC College of Medicine- Rockford and two regional AHE Centers located in Polo, IL and Centralia IL with 2 additional Centers to be located in Fairfield, IL and Chicago, IL.

6. Describe the elements of practice transformation within your project. Are you using the medical home model? Are you using a standard definition or evaluation tool for medical home model?

IL AHEC is available as a state-wide resource to promote awareness, development and evaluation of the medical home model through training and educational opportunities for our target populations

7. Describe the elements of community linkages within your project.

IL AHEC uses a community needs focused approach to promoting awareness of health professions careers among disadvantaged youth and a workforce development and retention assessment approach to program development for health professions student and practicing health professionals.

8. Describe key collaborative relationships.

IL AHEC collaborates with health care organizations and providers, educational institutions (primary school through post graduate education) and community based agencies across the state.

9. Length of time in existence: September 2010

10. Describe the funding of the project.

Primary funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration – Bureau of Health Professions with supplemental funding from the University of Illinois at Chicago and the Illinois Department of Public Health, Center for Rural Health.

11. Describe how you intend or are currently evaluating the project. What outcomes are you tracking?

IL AHEC has contracted with an independent external evaluator located at the Center for Social Research at Illinois State University as well as the Performance Monitoring evaluation and reporting tools mandated from HRSA. Primary process evaluation outcomes include increased awareness, knowledge and skill development among program participants. Major outcome evaluation measures are focused on career choice, entrance and graduation from a health professions training program as well as recruitment and retention rates of health professionals into underserved areas.

12. What are the results of the project to date?

We have established numerous health careers awareness activities for youth statewide (career camps, shadowing experiences), preceptorships and rotations for students in training and continuing education opportunities for practicing health professionals

13. Briefly list key challenges and successes?

Successes – development of high quality programming, training and educational opportunities statewide

Challenges – funding/sustainability

14. What support or resources do you need in order to expand or replicate your project?

State funding to supplement federal base support for this statewide program. Participation of providers as community sites for student rotations to gain exposure to real world practice in the health professions