



*National AHEC (Area Health Education Centers) Organization: Connecting Students to Careers, Professionals to Communities, and Communities to Better Health*  
*[www.NationalAHEC.org](http://www.NationalAHEC.org)*

**1. Request for Title VII, FY10 Budget to be Appropriated at \$50 Million**

We request that the AHEC line item under Title VII in the FY2010 Budget receive funding in the amount of \$50 million. The 54 AHEC Programs and their 220-plus AHEC Centers across the country are vital to training primary care providers for rural and underserved populations. These Centers have more than 38 years of experience with federal, state, and local partnerships that provide training in local underserved and rural communities. AHECs are making a big difference. Approximately 45,000 health providers were trained in underserved and rural communities in 2007-2008, 20,000 of whom were primary care providers and 4,000 were advance practice nurses and PAs. ♦ AHECs provide a unique focus on the diversity of the primary care workforce and promote training and placement in underserved communities.

**2. Increase in Federal Funding to AHECs Needed to Meet the Demand for High-Quality Health Professionals**

The unprecedented investment made by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 will create and expand Community Health Centers (CHCs) and produce additional National Health Service Corp (NHSC) Scholars and Loan Repayors. In order for the investment in the CHCs to be effective, many more health professionals will be needed. AHECs help train the healthcare workforce who practice in CHCs and assist with the training, recruitment and retention of NHSC Scholars and other primary care providers to work specifically with vulnerable, disadvantaged, minority, and rural and urban underserved populations. Therefore, an increase in federal funding to AHECs is needed to meet the demand for more high-quality, culturally competent health professionals created by this infusion of capital into CHCs, NHSCs, and other safety net provider programs.

**3. Support of the Health Professions and Primary Care Reinvestment Act S. 3708**

We request your support of the Health Professions and Primary Care Reinvestment Act S. 3708 (This is the bill number from the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress as introduced by Senator Clinton. The bill is yet to be introduced in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress). This bill specifically reauthorizes the functions of the programs funded under Title VII of the Public Health Services Act.