

Catskill Hudson Area Health Education Center (CHAHEC) is one of nine Area Health Education Center's (AHECs) in New York State whose goal is to develop, implement, and support educational programs for K-12 students, health professions students, medical students, career seekers, and standing health professionals to introduce, encourage, and promote health professions in order to improve regional healthcare accessibility and outcomes.

AHEC centers in New York State:

- Brooklyn-Queens-Long Island AHEC - www.bqiaheec.org
- Bronx Westchester AHEC - www.bwaheec.org
- Catskill Hudson AHEC - www.chaheec.org
- Central New York AHEC - www.cnyaheec.org
- Erie Niagara AHEC - www.erieniagaraheec.org
- Hudson Mohawk AHEC - www.hmaheec.org
- Manhattan-Staten Island AHEC - www.msiaheec.org
- Northern AHEC - <http://www.northernaheec.org>
- Western New York Rural AHEC - www.r-aheec.org

The CHAHEC region encompasses 11 counties within the Mid-Hudson Valley region. They include:

- Columbia County
- Delaware County
- Dutchess County
- Greene County
- Orange County
- Otsego County
- Putnam County
- Rockland County
- Schoharie County
- Sullivan County
- Ulster County

Approximately 1.7 million people live within the 11-county CHAHEC region. It is home to 28 hospitals, 108 school districts, and 72 health professions schools.

The National AHEC Organization (NAO) is the professional association of Area Health Education Centers (AHECs) in the United States. AHECs are regional organizations associated with The National AHEC Program. AHECs work in designated regions through community and academic partnerships to advance the availability of health care and health care education, focusing on rural and medically underserved areas. According to the NAO, approximately 120 medical schools and 600 nursing and allied health schools work with the AHEC system. AHECs affiliated with the NAO collaborate to educate, share resources, and strengthen local and national partnerships. Within each state, AHECs are coordinated by one or more central program offices. "In 2009, 54 AHEC programs with more than 200 centers operated in 48 states in the U.S." [and in the District of Columbia]. Of these, 51 AHEC program offices and 192 regional AHECs were members of the NAO.

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