

American Indian Health – Area Health Education Center Overview

March 20, 2023

Jeff Axtell, AIH - AHEC Director

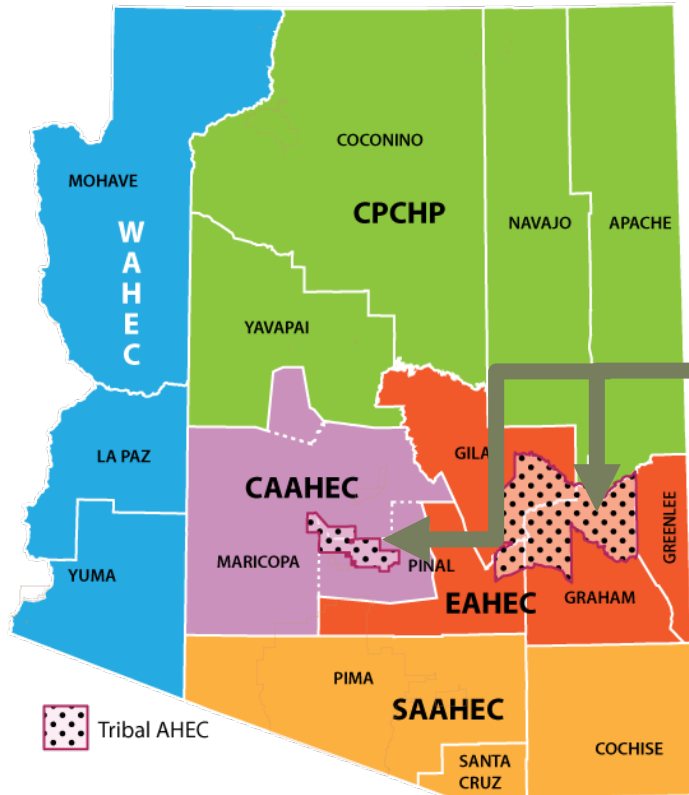


ARIZONA ADVISORY
COUNCIL ON INDIAN
HEALTH CARE

Purpose of the AIH-AHEC

- The new American Indian Health - Area Health Education Center (AIH-AHEC) will be the sixth Area Health Education Center (AHEC) in the state and the first to focus exclusively on the American Indian health care system and its workforce.
- American Indians and Alaskan Natives have some of the highest rates of health disparities, poverty and poor health outcomes when compared with other ethnic and minority communities in the U.S., according to Indian Health Service.
- The American Indian Health AHEC will help build a future health care workforce by assisting with continuing education, supporting health care staff and promoting health care careers for K-12 students.
- Additionally, the center will conduct training and coach individuals to become health care providers serving in their home communities. The partners plan to adopt a “Grow Your Own” strategy to address the shortage of health care professionals and health disparities that persist through Arizona’s tribal communities.

SIX STATE SUPPORTED AZAHEC REGIONAL CENTERS



American Indian Health - AHEC

Gila River Health Care and San Carlos Apache Health Care
Focused on American Indian Communities and Individuals

- Eastern Arizona AHEC (EAHEC)
- Central Arizona AHEC (CAAHEC)
- Colorado Plateau Center for Health Professionals (CPCHP)
- Southern Arizona AHEC (SAAHEC)
- Western Arizona AHEC (WAHEC)



American Indian Health - AHEC STATEWIDE FOCUS

- Community-based Experiential Training (CBET)
- AHEC Scholars Community Immersion
- Continuing Education for Health Professionals
- 9th-12th grade and undergraduate student structured pipeline activities
- K-8 grades unstructured pipeline activities
- Community events on health-related topics
- AIH-AHEC three-year strategic plan development

WHAT ARE PIPELINE PROGRAMS?

- HEALTH CAREER PREPARATION PIPELINE PROGRAMS include an introduction for students in Grades K-16 to health careers and health career topics
- There are two types of pipeline programs:
- Structured/formalized programs have a duration of more than 20 hours, and have four or more participants in Grades 9-16. Structured programs are classified as a "Club". Participants must be identified by name and demographics. Centers may establish their own clubs and may also collaborate on creating one club with students from different regions as club members.
- Unstructured programs have a duration of less than 20 hours. Unstructured programs are recorded as a health career event. Usually, these are one-time events and participants' names and demographics are not collected. Programs for participants in grades K-8 are always classified as unstructured. Demographics are not collected for this population. These programs are only reportable to the State of Arizona.

K -8 Grade Level Youth Pipeline Activities

- K – 8th grade activities are designed to introduce youth to healthcare careers and the health care environment
- Examples include career and health fairs, job shadowing, visits to local health professions schools or facilities, health science days, health careers seminars and early college readiness programs
- The AIH-AHEC program is interested and available to help support existing or new youth pipeline activities to help promote health care interests

AIH-AHEC is looking at supporting youth programs that are considered a “Grow your Own” concept to help strengthen the American Indian health workforce. It is believed that providing youth the opportunities to learn more about health-related fields will create an interest and ability to strengthen the health care workforce with students returning to their community.

9 – 16 Grade Level Youth Pipeline Activities

- **HOSA Clubs** - Organized activities with a specific health-career focused curriculum, regular meetings, and on-going participants in Grades 9-12. Clubs may be financially supported by the AIH-AHEC program for various activities and events.
- **Med-Start Health Careers Program** - A six-week summer academic enrichment program focused on improving access to information and resources for 11th Grade High School students interested in the health professions.
- **AZ INMED** - Collaborative partnerships with tribal nations, K-12 school districts, community-tribal colleges, universities and health professional schools to recruit, support and encourage Native American students to enter and succeed in the health professions.
- **Future Health Leaders** – This week-long summer camp brings together high school students from across Arizona and provides opportunities for students to interact with professionals from a wide range of health careers.
- **BLAISER** - Border Latino & American Indian Summer Exposure to Research program works to address health disparities in Arizona's ethnically diverse communities. The 10-week, paid undergraduate research experience provides an extraordinary laboratory training opportunity, pairing the student scholars with preeminent faculty researchers at UAHS.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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