

SEARCH ABSTRACT

SEARCH Program	AHECs for a Healthy Louisiana (AHL)
Contractor Organization Type	Non Profit Area Health Education Center
Project Director	Gayla Strahan
Address	1302 J.W. Davis Drive
Phone	985-507-4433
Fax	985-419-9486
Email	Ahecgsms@i-55.com
Secondary Contact Name	Susan Moreland
Secondary Contact Phone	877-946-4644
Secondary Contact Email	moreland@nlahec.org
Website	In progress (will be SEARCHLouisiana.org)
Project Service Focus	Statewide Louisiana HPSAs in Rural and Urban Underserved Areas
Length of Rotation	4 Weeks
Disciplines eligible for rotation	Family Medicine, General Internal Medicine, General Pediatrics, Obstetrics/Gynecology, Psychiatry, Dentistry and Dental Hygiene, Clinical Psychology, Clinical Social Work, Psychiatric Nursing, Marriage and Family Therapists, Family/Primary Care Nurse Practitioners, Primary Care Physician Assistants
Project Infrastructure Focus	Successful site rotation training through Dr. Sheila Chauvin's <i>A Standardized Model for Creating Successful and Sustainable Academic Residency and Clinical Rotations in Community Health Centers</i> . Preceptor Orientation. Models for Preceptor Training Effectiveness.
Products and Dissemination	SEARCH Fact Sheet, SEARCH Application, Site Assessment Questionnaire, Site Checklist, MOU after reviewed by Project Officer
Stipend/Living Cost	Yes \$950
General Description of Your Program	Louisiana consistently ranks poorly in health care outcomes and sixty-three of Louisiana's sixty-four parishes have been identified as containing health professional shortage areas. It is especially difficult for rural and urban underserved areas to recruit and retain health care professionals. Exposing health care professionals to opportunities in these underserved areas will encourage placements upon completion of their health care training. AHECs for a Healthy Louisiana (AHL) will utilize the services of the Student/Resident Experiences and Rotations in Community Health (SEARCH) program to provide rotation opportunities for health professions students to

	<p>serve on multidisciplinary health care teams in rural and urban underserved areas in Louisiana. Exposing health care professionals to opportunities in these underserved areas will encourage placements upon completion of their health care training. AHL will 1) assist the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Bureau of Clinician Recruitment and Services (BCRS) with its recruitment and retention efforts of health care professionals by utilizing funds to increase capacity of existing rotations and by expanding these opportunities to needed allied health professionals. AHL will 2) facilitate and strengthen partnerships between communities and academic institutions building on existing partnerships between Medical Schools, Universities and other higher education institutions that offer programs included in the SEARCH program. AHL has researched best practices of successful primary care recruitment and retention programs that focus on effective academic rotations in underserved rural and urban areas. Increasing the quality and number of rotations in underserved communities exposes students to interdisciplinary training programs and offers many opportunities for students to develop an interest for primary care and the health care teams found in these communities.</p>
<p>Goals and Objectives</p>	<p>SEARCH Objective 1 is to provide opportunities for students to implement their classroom experiences in a primary health care setting. The first task is to establish the SEARCH program infrastructure as this is a new opportunity for Louisiana. AHL will identify all training sites for SEARCH supported disciplines. Increasing primary care rotation sites with a focus on community health centers will provide more opportunities for students to implement their classroom experiences in a multi-disciplinary, culturally diverse setting. SEARCH Objective 2 is to provide opportunities for students and residents to train on multidisciplinary health care teams. Since using sites that provide primary care, mental and dental health services supports the multidisciplinary training approach targeting CHCs as SEARCH rotation sites is paramount. There are four general types of community health centers identified by HRSA (http://bphc.hrsa.gov/about/): Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), Community Health Centers (CHCs), Federally Qualified Health Center Look-Alikes, and Outpatient health programs and facilities. These clinics serve as <i>Medical Homes</i> for many patients in rural and urban underserved areas. FQHCs receive 330 grant funding from HRSA and are required to offer all services primary care, mental and dental health services. Many of these FQHCs provide these services at one location. At these sites patients may take care of all their health care needs. Since the health care providers are in close proximity they are able to understand the appropriate use of consultation and referral between family physicians and specialists, allied health professionals, and community agencies. These venues not only offer multidisciplinary training experiences but help students understand the concept of primary care throughout all stages of the life cycle. Identifying CHCs that have effective multi-professional and inter-professional teams</p>

	<p>provide an educational clinical experience that illustrates collaboration as a means to improving the quality of patient care. <u>SEARCH Objective 3</u> is to nurture the development of culturally competent, community focused primary and allied health care providers. Louisiana has historically struggled with poverty, education, literacy, and health.</p> <p>AHL will encourage rotation experiences that promote cultural and linguistic competency. Cultural competency SEARCH projects may report on how the patient's culture or their own culture effected how they interacted with the patient. It may express how they overcame barriers by offering recommendations for complying with a health care plan while not abandoning cultural beliefs and customs. It will be important for students to recognize how his or her own beliefs, customs, religion, socioeconomic status may affect their approach to health care. <u>SEARCH Objective 4</u> is to expand statewide partnerships including the State Primary Care Association (PCAs), State Primary Care Office (PCOs), Office of Rural Health (ORHs), professional associations, academic institutions and Area Health Education Centers (AHECs) to form a network of organizations to meet the diverse primary care needs of the underserved. AHECs current list of network partners include those mentioned in SEARCH objective 4. AHL's strategy will be to increase the number of network partners by reaching out to the medical societies, academic institutions that produce mid-level mental and dental health professionals. Introducing the opportunities for SEARCH participants will provide an opening to begin establishing those relationships. Specifically, offering student stipends for those participating in site rotations will add value to the collaboration. Currently, there are a large number of existing partnerships and rotation sites for nursing students. These could be prime locations for introducing interdisciplinary experiences since the nursing rotation has already been established and the nurses would play a significant role in the team approach.</p> <p>AHL will have face-to-face meetings and utilize questionnaires to engage these institutions.</p>
<p>Activities undertaken by Students/Residents in Program</p>	<p>The goal and objectives of this Program will be met through a variety of activities which are listed below: Community Projects, Multi-disciplinary training experiences, Working with diverse populations that may experience cultural barriers, Telemedicine opportunities.</p>
<p>Coordination</p>	<p>Four week rotations in the summer</p>
<p>List of Sites Students can/will be rotating through</p>	<p>Louisiana's Federally Qualified Health Centers, satellite sites and other sites located in health professional shortage areas.</p>
<p>Evaluation</p>	<p>Generally, students and preceptors will complete a brief summation of the experience. Dr. Chauvin will work closely with the SEARCH staff and representative stakeholders to design, implement, and use the results of an overall program evaluation plan targeting the</p>

	<p>project objectives set forth in this proposal. While the details of such a plan will be determined as the program elements are finalized and approved by the Project Officer (as described in the work plan), the evaluation design will likely reflect a mixed methods approach in which both quantitative and qualitative data are gathered and used. In addition to assessing outcomes (e.g., the numbers of learners impacted and the participation of various academic institutions and community health sites), qualitative data will contribute to interpreting the practical significance of quantitative results and to explaining common characteristics of partnerships and learning experiences (e.g., least and most meaningful/successful). For the quantitative component, participant and implementation data will be supplemented by survey methodology of relevant participant groups (e.g., academic and community health leaders, faculty/preceptors, learners). Such survey methods will contain both rated items (quantitative) and open-ended questions to solicit narrative responses. The qualitative component will include focus group and interview methods, as determined appropriate to the objectives-based evaluation questions. In addition to assessment of objectives-related outcome measures, the overall program evaluation will seek to further understand the particular individual and organizational features that facilitate and inhibit the creation of sustainable academic-community partnerships and meaningful learning rotations/experiences in community health centers. The program evaluation design will adhere to the Joint Committee Standards for Program Evaluation - 2 (http://www.wmich.edu/evalctr/jc/) that serve as the professionally-endorsed standards of quality</p>
Are you a former SEARCH Program	N