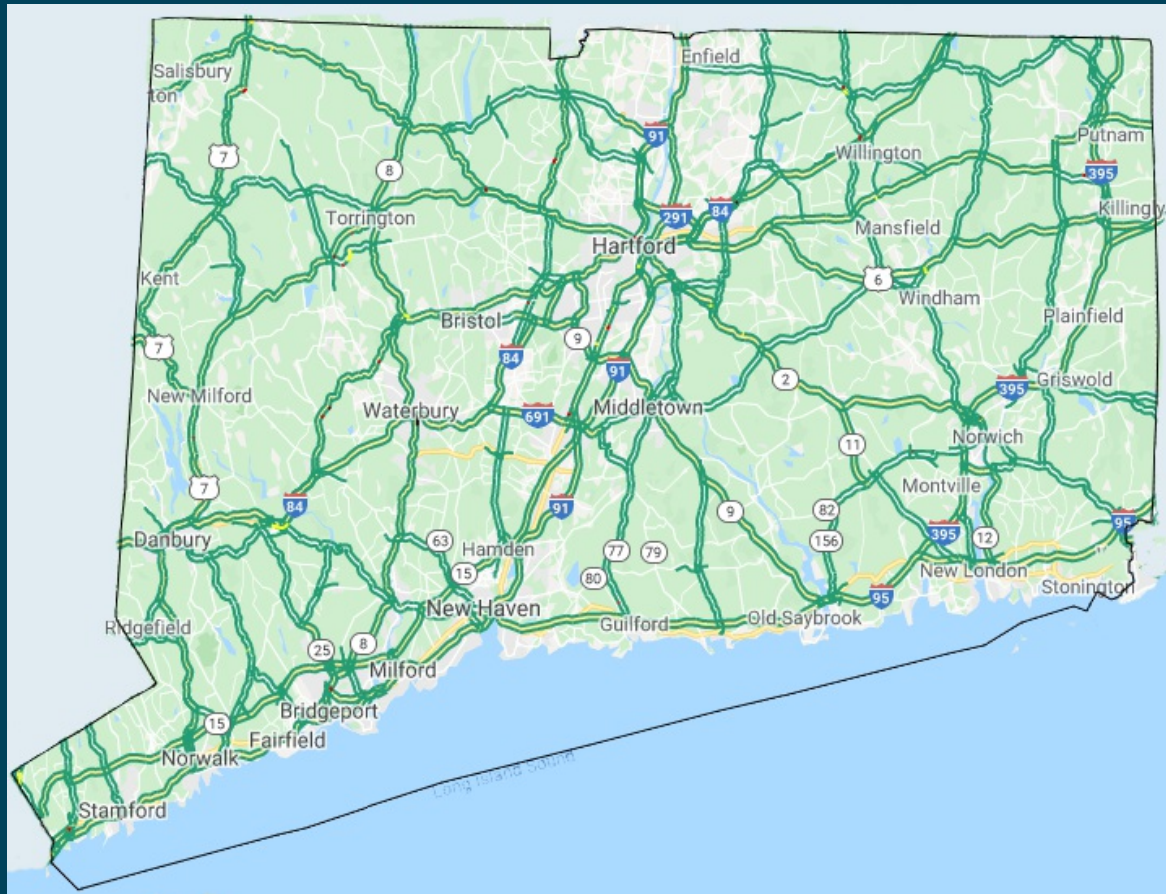




CT AHEC FYI

Connecticut Area Health Education Center Network

Connecting students to careers, professionals to communities and communities to better health.



Supporting Primary Care Workforce Development in Connecticut By:

- ▶Promoting Strong Community/Academic Partnerships
- ▶Creating Pipeline Programs for Pre-Health Professions Students
- ▶Supporting Health Careers Awareness Programming
- ▶Providing Community-Based Training for Health Professions Students
- ▶Supporting Community-Based Health Education and Screenings
- ▶Promoting Strategies to Address Health Disparities

CT AHEC Network Regional Centers:

Central AHEC, Inc. (Hartford and Middlesex Counties, Meriden and Wallingford)

www.centralctahec.org

Health Education Center, Inc. (New London, Tolland)

CT AHEC Trains Tomorrow's Primary Care Healthcare Professionals

The CT Office of Healthcare Strategy's draft report, [The Roadmap for Strengthening and Sustaining Primary Care](#) (December 2021) lays out a strategy to improve and reform primary care in Connecticut.

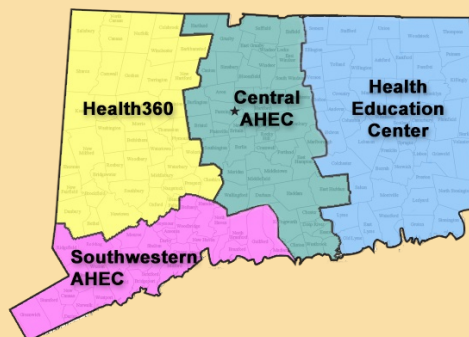
Rooted in Executive Order No. 5, the primary care "roadmap" highlights three policy priorities: "Improve affordability of health care; improve quality of care, equity and population health; and support the state's primary care infrastructure." (p. 1)

CT AHEC's mission of training health professions students and providing health careers awareness for non-health professions students aligns well with CT

and Windham Counties)
www.healtheducenter.org

Health360, Inc.
(Greater Waterbury, Greater
Danbury and Litchfield
County)
www.health360.org

Southwestern AHEC, Inc.
(Southern Fairfield and New
Haven Counties)
www.swctahec.org



OHS's primary care "roadmap". More than 1,775 health professions students from multiple schools and disciplines participate annually in CT AHEC's community-based training programs. Schools include UConn, University of Saint Joseph, Quinnipiac University and Three Rivers Community College. Pillars of CT AHEC's training programs include primary and public health care, collaborative practice and care for the underserved.

CT OHS's primary care "roadmap" describes the need to "consider strategies for attracting and training a professionally diverse primary care workforce to deliver care in communities where it is most needed and that reflects the communities it serves." (p. 2) A prime example of a successful CT AHEC training program is the six-discipline Urban Service Track/AHEC Scholars (UST) program at UConn Health. Of 439 UST graduates between 2013 and 2021, 65% percent indicated that their career plans post-commencement included working in a medically underserved community.

As Associate Dean for Primary Care at the UConn School of Medicine, Dr. Bruce Gould knows the value added by such programs. "The creation of a primary care provider, especially one that cares for the underserved and vulnerable, is a complex process that includes not only raw intelligence, knowledge and skills, but also commitment, compassion and a yearning for justice and equity. Our 'pipeline programs' are there to guide and assist them in their journey as they follow their calling. If there is no pipeline then there would be no future primary care workforce!"

CT AHEC's health professions training programs are supported financially by the UConn School of Medicine, the U.S. Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) Bureau of Health Workforce, and state appropriation.

The statewide Connecticut Area Health Education Center (CT AHEC) Network, based at UConn Health, is implemented through four regional centers which enable the CT AHEC Network to

provide high-quality, efficient, effective and flexible services that meet local needs. Thank you for your continued support of the CT AHEC Network.

Call us at 860-679-7969 or **visit:**
h.uconn.edu/ct-ahec