



## National AHEC Organization HPV Immunization Project: Raising HPV Immunization Rates Through Provider Education

The National AHEC Organization (NAO) is a membership organization for AHEC's across the country. The AHEC (Area Health Education Centers) program was developed by Congress in 1971 to recruit, train and retain a health professions workforce committed to underserved populations.

The AHEC program helps bring the resources of academic medicine to address local community health needs. The strength of the AHEC Network is its ability to creatively adapt national initiatives to help address local and regional healthcare issues. Today, 56 AHEC programs with more than 248 centers operate in almost every state and the District of Columbia to improve health for underserved and under-represented populations.

The National AHEC Organization (NAO) received funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for a project to provide education to health professionals regarding the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine.

Through this cooperative agreement, NAO will strengthen HPV vaccination recommendations, resulting in a decrease in missed opportunities to vaccinate adolescents.

### **NAO Activities**

#### **Objective 1: Provide clinician outreach and training**

- Provide funding to one AHEC State Entity in each of the 50 states to facilitate continuing education opportunities for primary care providers, registered nurses, nurse practitioners, pharmacists and physician assistants. State Entities will utilize the CDC's "You Are the Key" presentation materials.

#### **Objective 2: Disseminate educational materials**

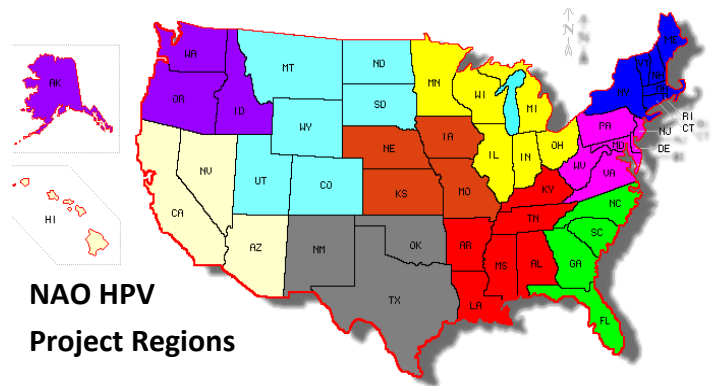
- Create an HPV Resource Guide and HPV Environmental Scan protocol for distribution internally and sharing with partners.
- Develop state profile sheets to explain the burden of HPV and disseminate internally as well as with partners.
- Distribute CDC and other evidence-based educational materials to health professionals through their connections with State Entities.

#### **Objective 3: Increase and form strong partnerships**

- Develop national-level partnerships with other CDC-funded projects, as well as national associations including: American Cancer Society; National Rural Health Association; and the American Academy of Family Physicians, among others.
- Increase partnerships with health profession schools to integrate training into curriculum and provide training to high-level health professions students.

#### **Objective 4: Push prioritization of HPV vaccination efforts**

- Meet with national level officials, insurers and clinical groups to increase discussion of HPV vaccination efforts.



### **Learn more:**

**National AHEC Organization**  
7044 S. 13<sup>th</sup> Street  
Oak Creek, WI 53134  
(414) 768-8001

[www.nationalahec.org/hpv](http://www.nationalahec.org/hpv)

**Robert Trachtenberg, CEO**  
[rtrachtenberg@nationalahec.org](mailto:rtrachtenberg@nationalahec.org)

**Gretchen Forsell, Project Manager**  
[gforsell@ntc.nationalahec.org](mailto:gforsell@ntc.nationalahec.org)



## Participating States (as of 7/7/15)

Selected AHEC entities in all 50 states will work to increase awareness as well as train health professionals about the HPV vaccine. Each State Entity will tailor their approach to clinician training based on needs in their states.

Activities planned to date include:

- Grand Rounds presentations
- Educational presentations at local, regional and state health profession conferences Texas Nurses Association, Indiana Association of Physician Assistants)
- Webinars and Online learning modules
- Dissemination of CDC "You are the Key" materials to AHEC preceptors, educating health professional students in rural and underserved communities

Alabama	Alaska	Arizona	Arkansas
California	Colorado	Florida	Georgia
Illinois	Indiana	Iowa	Kansas
Louisiana	Maine	Maryland	Massachusetts
Michigan	Minnesota	Mississippi	Missouri
Nebraska	Nevada	New Hampshire	New York
North Carolina	North	Ohio	Oklahoma
Pennsylvania	South Carolina	South Dakota	Texas
Utah	Vermont	Virginia	West Virginia
Wisconsin	Wyoming		

### Anticipated Results

- The creation of state and national HPV needs assessment and inventory resource books
- Increase awareness among clinicians of available HPV vaccine information, resources and tools
- Increase in clinician education and awareness and partnerships that strengthen and leverage efforts to increase HPV vaccination rates
- Decrease in missed opportunities of parents who report their child's provider did not recommend HPV vaccination and, most importantly, increase HPV vaccination rates.