

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**  
**Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)**  
Bureau of Health Workforce  
Division of Health Careers and Financial Support

***Area Health Education Centers Program***

Project Period: September 1, 2017 through August 31, 2022 (5 years)  
Application Due Date: March 29, 2017

The UTRGV School of Medicine in collaboration with the College of Health Affairs is requesting that Hidalgo County partner with them to submit a funding application to HRSA.

Program Purpose

Develop and enhance education and training networks within communities, academic institutions, and community-based organizations. Networks support BHW's strategic priorities:

- increase diversity among health professionals
- broaden the distribution of the health workforce
- enhance health care quality, and
- improve health care delivery to rural and underserved areas and populations
- establish and maintain community-based training programs with an emphasis on primary care in off-campus rural and underserved areas.

Proposed Program

Approximately 25 students each year would commence a two-year program requiring them to learn and practice inter-professional collaborative team work, learn about the social determinants of health and health disparities, while providing educational and health care services to the community. Two cohorts of students (50 total) would be engaged in the community annually. In addition, a pipeline program will be developed to provide interested high school students exposure to the health professions. Faculty, including clinicians (e.g., M.D., NP, PA) will be hired to supervise the students and provide primary medical care to the community. Students will be involved from medicine, nursing, pharmacy, physician assistant, social work, rehabilitation services, dietetics and other health-related disciplines.

Requested Commitment by Hidalgo County

Requesting to partner with Hidalgo County to establish an AHEC, which will include primary care clinics, in the following facilities: Alamo Community Resource Center, San Carlos Community Resource Center, Proyecto Desarrollo Humano (Penitas). (We hope to add Paraiso in the future). We request that Hidalgo County allow UTRGV (i.e., the AHEC) to develop and use a primary care clinic in each of the facilities listed above. The use of these facilities would be considered an in-kind contribution by the County. Each AHEC requires a community-based advisory board. Equipment, staffing and operational costs will be covered by the AHEC.