

Area Health Education Centers (AHEC)  
House Health Care Committee  
February 29, 2024  
Liz Cote

**FY24 AHEC Actual**

Notes	Grant Description	Amount	Funding Source(s)
FY25 Governor's Budget proposes level funding	VT AHEC Network (\$166,667 to each UVM AHEC, NVT AHEC, and SVT AHEC). <b>Level funded since FY06 despite an expanded work plan and consistently exceeding all federal HRSA and state metrics.</b>	\$500,000	CMS Global Commitment
	Academic Detailing	\$250,000	Special Fund: Evidence-based education 21912
	Project ECHO	\$200,000	Special Fund: Evidence-based education 21912
	Physician Placement Services	\$62,000	CMS Global Commitment
	VT Educational Loan Repayment (ELR)	\$667,111	CMS Global Commitment
Federal Grant	Federal State Ed Loan Repayment (SLRP)—HRSA grant	\$687,500	HRSA NHSC (not a state appropriation)
NEW 2023-24	VT Health Care Professional Loan Repayment (PLRP)—Act 183	\$2,500,000	COVID relief; grant runs until December 31, 2024
NEW 2023-24	VT Nurse Faculty Loan Repayment (NFLR)—Act 183	\$500,000	COVID relief; grant runs until December 31, 2024

**FY25 AHEC Proposal**

Notes	Grant Description	Amount	Funding Source(s)
	VT AHEC Network	<b>\$500,000</b> <b>\$1,000,000</b> <b>\$1,500,000</b>	CMS Global Commitment <b>Special Fund:</b> Evidence-based education 21912 (see page 2) <b>TOTAL</b>
	Academic Detailing	<b>\$350,000</b>	<b>Special Fund:</b> Evidence-based education 21912
	Project ECHO	<b>\$300,000</b>	<b>Special Fund:</b> Evidence-based education 21912
	Physician Placement Services	<b>\$100,000</b>	CMS Global Commitment
	VT Educational Loan Repayment (ELR)	<b>\$5,000,000</b>	CMS Global Commitment <b>Consider opportunities to use Special Fund:</b> VT Healthcare Ed Loan Repayment 21238. This fund was established in 2007 with former Senator Jim Leddy leading its establishment. The FY23 end balance of this fund is \$0 (source: Commissioner, Dept of Finance's Special Fund Balances Report dated Nov 1, 2023).
Federal Grant	Federal State Ed Loan Repayment (SLRP)—HRSA grant	<b>\$687,500</b>	HRSA NHSC (not a state appropriation), FY25 is estimated

Special Fund **Evidence-based Education 21912** had an FY22 end balance of \$4,719,152 (source: Commissioner, Dept of Finance's Special Fund Balances Report dated Nov 2, 2022), an FY23 end balance of \$10,883,657 (source: Commissioner, Dept of Finance's Special Fund Balances Report dated Nov 1, 2023), and continues to generate new revenue in FY24.

A suggested language amendment is noted below in red. This amendment provides sustainable funding for structured, longitudinal, outcomes-based activities necessary to impact an appropriate and adequate health workforce in Vermont.

[Title 33 : Human Services](#)

[Chapter 019 : Medical Assistance](#)

**Subchapter 005 : Prescription Drug Cost Containment**

(Cite as: 33 V.S.A. § 2004a)

- **§ 2004a. Evidence-Based Education and Advertising Fund**

(a) The Evidence-Based Education and Advertising Fund is established in the State Treasury as a special fund to be a source of financing for activities relating to fund collection and analysis of information on pharmaceutical marketing activities under 18 V.S.A. §§ 4632 and 4633; for analysis of prescription drug data needed by the Office of the Attorney General for enforcement activities; for the Vermont Prescription Monitoring System established in 18 V.S.A. chapter 84A; for the evidence-based education program established in 18 V.S.A. chapter 91, subchapter 2; for statewide unused prescription drug disposal initiatives; for the prevention of prescription drug misuse, abuse, and diversion; for the Substance Misuse Prevention Oversight and Advisory Council established in 18 V.S.A. § 4803; for treatment of substance use disorder; for exploration of nonpharmacological approaches to pain management; for a hospital antimicrobial program for the purpose of reducing hospital-acquired infections; for the purchase and distribution of fentanyl testing strips; for the purchase and distribution of naloxone to emergency medical services personnel; and for the support of any opioid-antagonist education, training, and distribution program operated by the Department of Health or its agents; **and for AHEC health care workforce development activities (early pipeline, recruitment, and retention)**. Monies deposited into the Fund shall be used for the purposes described in this section.

(b) Into the Fund shall be deposited:

(1) revenue from the manufacturer fee established under section 2004 of this title; and

(2) the proceeds from grants, donations, contributions, taxes, and any other sources of revenue as may be provided by statute, rule, or act of the General Assembly.

(c) The Fund shall be administered pursuant to 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5, except that interest earned on the Fund and any remaining balance shall be retained in the Fund. (Added 2007, No. 80, § 20a; amended 2011, No. 162 (Adj. Sess.), § E.311.1, eff. May 17, 2012; 2013, No. 50, § E.312.2; 2013, No. 95 (Adj. Sess.), § 85, eff. Feb. 25, 2014; 2015, No. 173 (Adj. Sess.), § 13; 2019, No. 72, § E.313.1.)

**1) Follow up to discussion with House Health Care Committee on January 26, 2024**

Joint Fiscal Report on January 15, 2024: *Review of Workforce Incentives, Loans, and Scholarship Programs*

Status of AHEC's recommendations, requested updates and technical corrections?

**2) NEW REQUEST (not included in the January 26<sup>th</sup> report): The following is a recommendation for edits/technical corrections:**

From 2022, S.11/Act 183

Sec. 26. 18 V.S.A. § 35 is added to read: § 35. VERMONT HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM

(e)(1) An eligible individual shall be entitled to an amount of loan cancellation and repayment under this section equal to one year of loans for each year of service as a nurse, physician assistant, **medical technician**, child psychiatrist, or primary care provider in this State. Employment as a traveling nurse shall not be construed to satisfy the service commitment required for loan repayment under this section.

**AMEND to read:**

e)(1) An eligible individual shall be entitled to an amount of loan cancellation and repayment under this section equal to one year of loans for each year of service as a nurse, physician assistant, medical **(lab) technician or medical (lab) technologist**, child psychiatrist, or primary care provider in this State. Employment as a traveling nurse shall not be construed to satisfy the service commitment required for loan repayment under this section.

**NOTES**

Lab medical technicians and medical technologist are different roles. Neither profession requires licensure or registration in the state of Vermont.

A medical technician assists lab professionals and technologists with the process of analyzing specimens. They often work in a clinical setting or a hospital laboratory. Medical technicians may also help with the collection of samples from patients, but only under the supervision of a medical technologist. A degree is not required, on the job training is common.

A medical technologist, also known as a **clinical laboratory scientist**, work with samples from patients to determine different types of illnesses or other information. This is done by using microscopes, computers, and lab instruments in order to determine the findings. A bachelor's degree and certification are typical.

- 3) Request for automatic, guaranteed carry forward for loan repayment programs.** This is necessary for multi-year awards, strategic disbursement of award funds, and to design effective recruitment processes that respond to employer needs (the design needs are different from retention processes).
- 4) Naturopathic physicians (NDs)** are funded via PLRP (COVID relief funding) and not included in the historical ELR program. New ELR funding is needed to support the addition of and continued support for the ND primary care provider profession.