



Johnson Towers Project

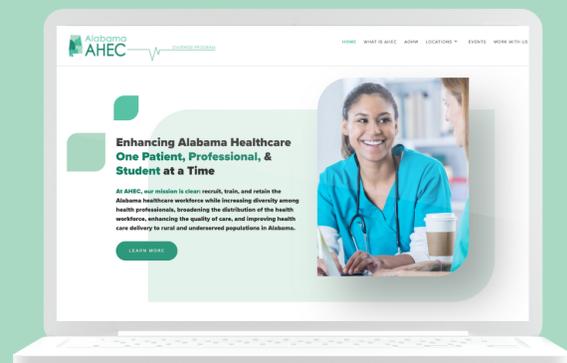
North Alabama AHEC to Provide Community Health Workers for Johnson Project

Johnson Towers is an eight-story public housing property in downtown Huntsville, AL and is home to more than 70 residents who are disabled or over the age of 55. A partnership between [The Legacy Center](#), [Huntsville Hospital](#), [Huntsville Housing Authority](#), and [North Alabama AHEC \(NAAHEC\)](#); planning began in 2022 with a proposal submitted for NAAHEC to assist residents with health care services and support. Services will include standard health screenings, support for chronic diseases, health education, and referrals to partnerships with primary care services.

Community Health Workers (CHW's) and AHEC Scholars provided by NAAHEC will survey residents about the health-related needs of the community and the results will guide educational classes hosted by CHW's. An on-site clinic will also be available, with CHWs or AHEC Scholars providing services and referrals to local and affordable clinics and specialists. The Johnson Project hopes that having these readily available resources will be helpful to this underserved community in an impactful way.

**CHECK OUT OUR
NEW WEBSITE!**

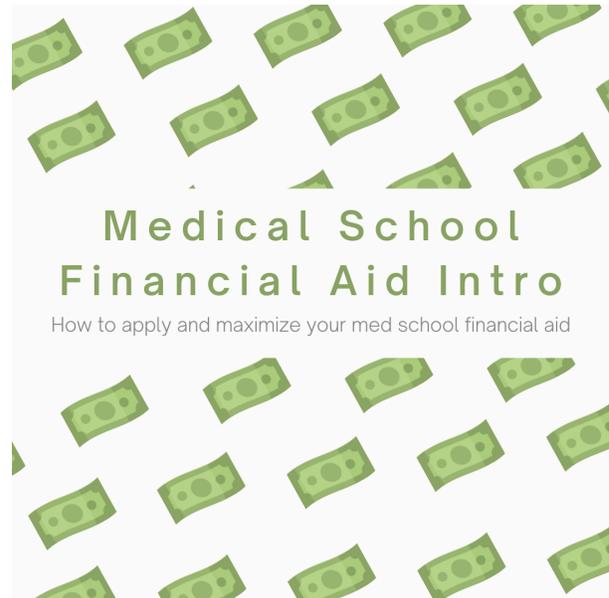
alahec.org



VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE

Working in underserved areas while being a part of rural loan repayment programs can be the most efficient way to rid yourself of mounds of student debt. These underserved areas desperately need quality care, and if you have debt, it could be a productive exchange of services (while still making your regular salary)!

Medical School is expensive. There is no getting around that. “Total costs vary by institution type and location, ranging from \$159,620 (in-state, public school) to \$256,412 (out-of-state, private school)” (Hanson). However, leveraging financial aid is the best way to pay for school and set yourself up in a career without thousands of dollars in debt.



Aspiring medical school students should research all the available loans, scholarships, grants, bursaries, awards, fellowships, and private funding. It is crucial to set yourself up for success when in Med school.

There are three primary paths you will need to explore in this order:

- Start with grants, scholarships, and assistantships
- Explore federal student aid for medical students
- Find out about debt relief programs where placement in a career guarantees loan forgiveness.

To find a starting point for grants, scholarships, assistantships, and federal aid: read our longer article that details the financial possibilities to get through Medical School.

As AHEC actively works to uplift rural, medically underserved communities, we have found that one of the most mutually beneficial ways to relieve yourself of student debt is to participate in debt relief programs. Once you get into the workforce, there are programs in place that will repay your student debt if you follow their criteria.

The [NHSC Loan Repayment Program](#) will provide debt relief to fully licensed clinician who work two-years in a health professional shortage area at an approved NHSC site. They have various types of Loan Repayment programs for various health professions.

The [Alabama Rural Medical Service Award \(ARMSA\)](#) provides service-payback loans to primary care physicians in return for practicing in rural communities that have a shortage of PCPs

Sources: Hanson, Melanie. “Average Cost of Medical School” EducationData.org, December 2, 2022, <https://educationdata.org/average-cost-of-medical-school>

Upcoming Events

ALAHEC.ORG/EVENTS

Annual AHEC Scholars Appreciation Luncheon 2023

Join us in person at the Hyatt Regency Birmingham on Thursday, April 27, 2023 from 9am – 12:30pm for the first Annual AHEC Scholars Appreciation Luncheon. Scholars will learn about Oral Health in Rural Alabama, followed by the AHEC Scholars Appreciation Luncheon and a group activity.

[Register Here](#)

About Alabama AHEC Statewide



The Alabama Statewide Area Health Education Center is dedicated to recruiting, training, and retaining the Alabama healthcare workforce while increasing diversity among health professionals, broadening the distribution of the health workforce, enhancing the quality of care, and improving health care delivery to rural and underserved populations in Alabama.