AHEC Scholars Core Topics
Educational and training activities will support the following eight (8) Core Topics:

Inter-professional Education (also known as interdisciplinary training), which supports a coordinated, patient-centered model of health care that involves an understanding of the contributions of multiple health care professionals.

Behavioral Health Integration which promotes the development of integrated primary and behavioral health services to better address the needs of individuals with mental health and substance use conditions. Addressing clinician burnout and improve provider resiliency. Burnout in health care professionals is widespread and growing; recent studies indicate elevated levels of burnout, along with related conditions of depression and emotional exhaustion.

Connecting Communities and Supporting Health Professionals, which aims to increase training and development of CHWs and paraprofessionals to be the connectors who are able to serve as a liaison/link/intermediary between health professionals and the community to facilitate access to service and improve health equity, community/population health, and social determinants of health.

Virtual Learning and Telehealth, which seeks to improve virtual learning and telehealth curricula and community-based experiential training. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced all health care systems, hospitals, and clinics to rapidly implement telehealth services, simulation-based technology, and virtual trainings to continue delivering patient care.

Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) are the conditions in the environments where people are born, live learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks. SDOH can be grouped into five (5) domains: economic stability, education access, and quality; neighborhood and built environment and social and community context.

Cultural Competency, which seeks to improve individual health and build healthy communities by training health care providers to recognize and address the unique culture, language and health literacy of diverse consumers and communities19 (e.g., National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) in Health and Health Care).

Practice Transformation, which aims to fully support quality improvement and patient-centered care through goal-setting, leadership, practice facilitation, workflow changes, measuring outcomes, and adapting organizational tools and processes to support new team-based models of care delivery.

Current and emerging health issues (e.g., COVID-19, Zika virus, pandemic influenza, opioid use disorder, maternal mortality, geographically relevant health issues, etc.).

Source: HRSA Funding Opportunity Announcement