



Background

The Minnesota Hospital Association (MHA), in collaboration with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), supports the growth of Minnesota's health care workforce with its Summer Health Care Internship Program (SHCIP). Through paid internships, the program brings students and employers together to give students experience in hospitals, clinics, nursing facilities, and with home care providers. SHCIP encourages students to pursue a career in the health care sector as they provide hands-on support in their communities. Employers benefit from more team support for the summer and bolster long-term health care workforce development. **Since 2014, 1,275 interns have participated in SHCIP. The program has not been able to support 1,000 interns requested by employers with its current funding.**

SHCIP interns' work has included:

- Registering and transporting patients/residents/clients
- Cleaning and sterilizing instruments
- Scheduling appointments
- Transporting lab specimens
- Cleaning, restocking, and preparing exam rooms
- Preparing and pulling medical charts
- Accompanying residents to appointments
- Providing nutritional services
- Offering companionship

"This was an amazing opportunity to immerse myself in the world of rural health care and meet some incredible people along the way. The knowledge I have gained in medical terminology and the inner workings of the health care system will carry over into my future career endeavors."

Intern testimonial

Eligibility and employment information

- High school students completing their junior or senior year as well as postsecondary students enrolled in a health care degree program
- Participating organizations employ students in paid internships for six to 12 weeks during the summer.
- Up to half of the interns' wages are reimbursed through the SHCIP funding.
- Interns worked up to 480 hours earning an average wage of \$16.29.

2022 SHCIP impact

- A record of **81** employers requested **351** interns, but only **106 total interns** were able to participate due to funding availability. Each employer that applied received funds for at least one intern.
- **59%** of participating organizations were hospitals and/or health systems, **35%** were nursing facilities, and **6%** were community care providers or other eligible organization types.
- **65%** of funding was utilized in greater Minnesota.

Due to the significant demand for interns and the benefit SHCIP offers for long-term support of the health care workforce, additional funds are needed to grow the program in future years. The annual appropriation of \$300,000 has not changed since 2002 despite drastic increases in demand and wages, resulting in decreased capacity to serve students.

Support HF 2090 to increase annual appropriations by \$450,000 per year.