

# Project **NEXT**: Network Cross Training for Future Telehealth & Health IT Careers in the Rural Upper Midwest

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**Avera** 

Moving Health *Forward.*

# 37

ACUTE CARE  
HOSPITALS

# 200

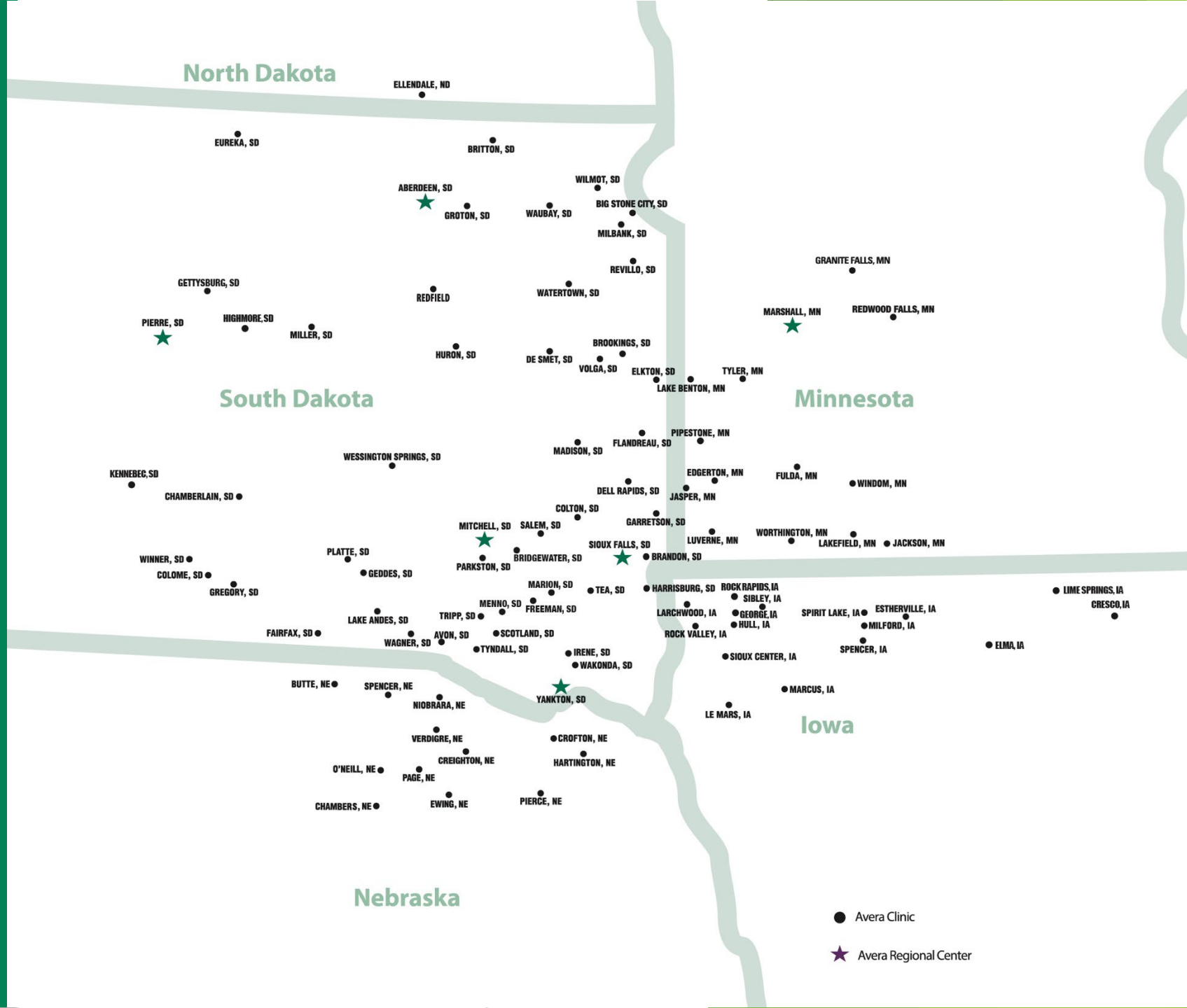
OUTPATIENT  
CLINICS

# 26

avera@home  
LOCATIONS

# 40

LONG-TERM CARE  
ASSISTED LIVING &  
RETIREMENT  
COMMUNITIES



● Avera Clinic

★ Avera Regional Center

# What is the need?

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- ▶ Sioux Falls Growth - Limits Access for Tertiary Transfers
- ▶ Healthcare workforce
- ▶ Shortage of nurses to treat growing and aging patient population
  - ▶ Dwindling nursing graduate numbers
  - ▶ Inability to retain graduates
  - ▶ Increasing demand for services
  - ▶ Highly competitive markets
  - ▶ Increased nurse retirements
  - ▶ Difficulty navigating other factors (i.e. childcare)

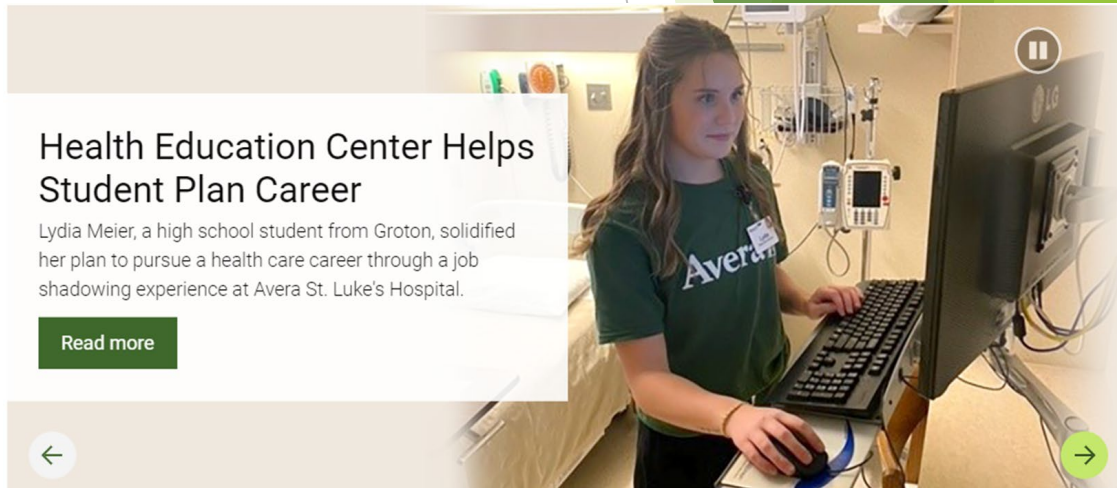
# Project NEXT Goals

- ▶ Establish and strengthen outreach programs for future health workforce members for experiential training opportunities for current students. *AHEC Telehealth Student Practicum*
- ▶ Create hands on learning and internships in telehealth and health IT roles. *DSU Online Modules & DSU Internships*
- ▶ Establish *Remote Telemetry* monitoring to support rural hospital facilities.
- ▶ Establish *Site Coordinators* for telehealth and health informatics.
- ▶ Support the development of a *Virtual Nursing* program.

# AHEC Telehealth Student Practicum: *Establish and Strengthen Future Workforce*



- ▶ 40 hours: Online Education & On-Site Shadowing
- ▶ Over 40 students completed
- ▶ Residing in 28 communities
- ▶ Affecting 24 school systems
- ▶ Shadowing in 12 healthcare facilities
- ▶ Lessons learned -
  - ▶ Local ownership & connections
  - ▶ Cater to student interest
  - ▶ Need more collaboration with schools/students



## Health Education Center Helps Student Plan Career

Lydia Meier, a high school student from Groton, solidified her plan to pursue a health care career through a job shadowing experience at Avera St. Luke's Hospital.

[Read more](#)

*43 Site Coordinators, from 26 different facilities, participating in the program*

## Telehealth Site Coordinators: *Ongoing training and support for Telehealth staff*

- 12 hours of online education
  - Includes AHA Telehealth Certification
- Monthly workshops focused on topics such as telehealth regulations, telehealth equity, troubleshooting technical issues, SDOH and more
  - More than 20 hours of workshop content delivered
- Networking and best practice sharing opportunities

# Dakota State University Internships - *Hands on Learning in Telehealth and Health IT*

- ▶ Cybersecurity Internships
  - ▶ 4 completed, 2 in-process
- ▶ Health Informatics Internships
  - ▶ 4 completed, 1 pending
  - ▶ Challenges
- ▶ Student feedback - Balance of remote / on-site
- ▶ While positive, not continuing post-award



# Remote Telemetry Monitoring - *Maximizing Staff Monitoring Resources*

- Hospitals in Aberdeen & Pierre - 165 miles
- Aberdeen Telemetry Tech monitors both
- Staffing efficiencies and improved patient monitoring
  - ▶ Reduction in ICU nurse time (Pierre)
  - ▶ \$180,000 annual estimated cost savings
  - ▶ Savings shared with St. Luke's
- Continuing but not expanding until post EMR transition





# Virtual Patient Care

## Current State:

- ▶ 24/7 Virtual Monitoring (sitting) and Virtual Nursing live across 170 beds (medical, surgical, oncology) in two facilities
- ▶ Majority of virtual staff work in central hub; piloting with virtual nursing working from home
- ▶ Addition of Virtual OB Nursing in Jan 2025 across 3 facilities

## Future State:

- ▶ Programs will continue post-award
- ▶ 2 year expansion plan to include additional 300+ beds across 20 facilities
- ▶ Evaluation of different staffing models & care models
- ▶ Expansion in specialty nursing areas and LTC

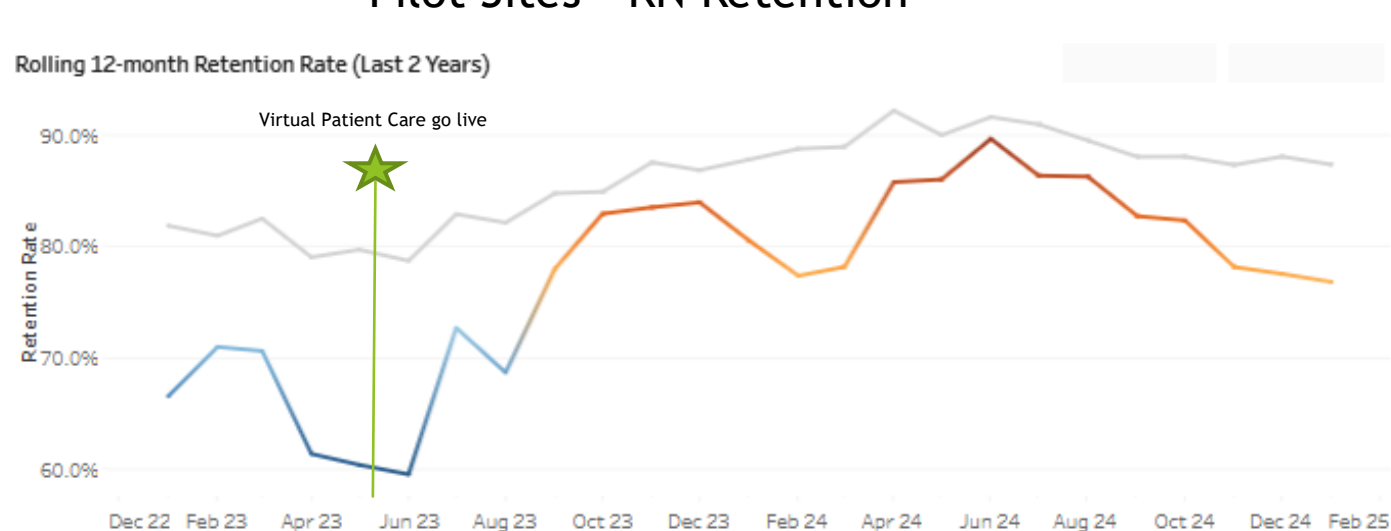


# Virtual Monitoring and Virtual Nursing

## Pilot Outcomes:

- 45% reduction in injury falls since Virtual Monitoring go-live
- >3,400 patients virtually monitored for more than 277,000 hours
- 11,262 patients cared for by Virtual Nurses
- More than 9,000 hours given back to bedside nurses
- Significant improvement of compliance for sepsis bundles
- Improved nurse retention

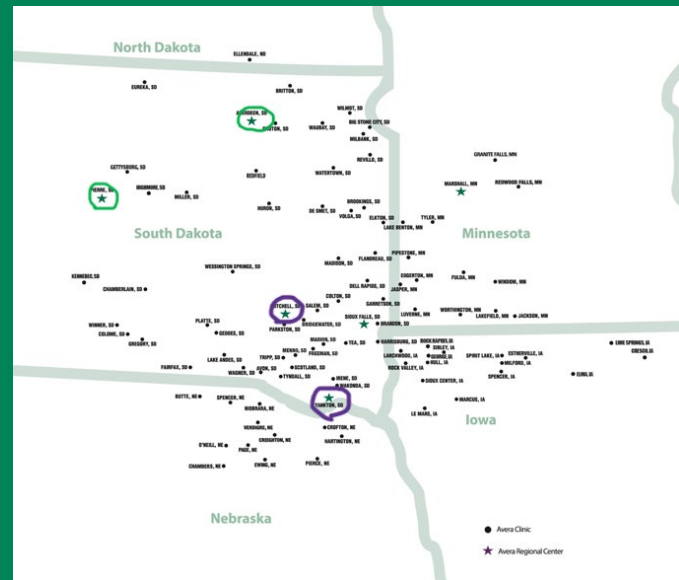
### Pilot Sites - RN Retention



# Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Camp



- ▶ Meet ever-present demand for nursing assistants in long-term care facilities
- ▶ Full CNA Training through Certification
- ▶ Initiated in Yankton & Mitchell Regions
- ▶ 2025 Expansion to Aberdeen & Pierre, SD
- ▶ Cost effective
  - ▶ Camp = \$1,100 per CNA
  - ▶ 1:1 New Employee Training = \$3,900 per CNA



**CNA Training Camp**  
CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT

**ABERDEEN:**  
June 11, 12, 13,  
16, 17 & 18  
(ALL 6 DAYS REQUIRED)  
9 A.M. - 3 P.M.  
Avera Mother  
Joseph Manor

**WHO SHOULD ATTEND?**  
Applicants for CNA Training Camps must be a **current high school student or recent grad & 16 years or older**. Anyone turning 16 before August 2025 is encouraged to apply for this free training. Online training must be completed prior to attending on-site camp.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT**  
AVERA MOTHER JOSEPH MANOR  
**605.622.5841**

**APPLY TODAY**  
USING THE QR CODE!  
DEADLINE: MAY 1

**BENEFITS OF ATTENDING**

- ▶ **ATTENDING COLLEGE?**  
A majority of college Health Science Programs require CNA Certification.
- ▶ **WANT TO HELP PEOPLE?**  
CNA Training will provide you with the necessary skills to pursue employment in a healthcare career.
- ▶ **WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?**  
Skilled healthcare providers are in high demand. You can provide quality care for those in need.
- ▶ **WANT TO SAVE MONEY?**  
CNA Camp is a value of over \$1,000. Saving you money for other education needs.

Avera Mother Joseph Manor Retirement Community | Avera St. Luke's Hospital | AHEC

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# Thank You!

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