



RRPD Grantee Newsletter
September 2021



Welcome New Grantees

HRSA recently awarded 10 new grantees up to \$750,000 each for the [Rural Residency Planning and Development \(RRPD\) Program](#) across 8 states. Each grantee will focus on strengthening its health care workforce through the development of a newly accredited, sustainable rural residency programs in family medicine, internal medicine, general surgery, and psychiatry. The new grantees are the third cohort in the RRPD grant.

Congratulations to the new RRPD grantees:

- Arkansas Rural Health Partnership - Lake Village, AR - Family Medicine
- Charlotte Hungerford Hospital - Torrington, CT - Psychiatry
- Family Health Centers, Inc. - Orangeburg, SC - Family Medicine
- Kaweah Delta Health Care District - Visalia, CA - Internal Medicine
- Indiana Regional Medical Center - Indiana, PA - Family Medicine
- Indiana Rural Health Association - Linton, IN - Family Medicine
- Marshall University Research Corporation - Huntington, WV - General Surgery
- New Mexico Primary Care Training Consortium - Silver City, NM - Family Medicine
- UPMC Williamsport - Lycoming, PA - Family Medicine
- Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education - Scranton, PA - Family Medicine

Recent Publications



Members of the Technical Assistance Center recently published an article in the Journal of Graduate Medical Education. "[Rural Residency Training as a Strategy to Address Rural Health Disparities: Barriers to Expansion and Possible Solutions](#)" was published in the August volume.



The Annual Meeting was held virtually August 12-13, 2021. There were 227 attendees, with representatives from each of the 46 programs. The meeting began with introductions from each program. Tom Morris, MPA and Sheena Johnson, MPH gave the keynote address entitled: "HRSA Efforts to Encourage Education and Training in Rural Communities." There were also breakout sessions about "Finances for Rural GME Programs," facilitated by members of the Technical Assistance Center. The first day ended with a "Summary of Medicare Rule Changes" from Randall Longenecker, MD and Judith Pauwels, MD.

The second day began with a presentation from Daniel Elswick, MD about "The Mental Health Crisis in Rural America: Impacting Change through Rural GME," followed by breakout sessions regarding "Common Questions Regarding Program Development," facilitated by members of the Technical Assistance Center and grantees. Mackenzie Mady, DO and Drew Keister, MD spoke about "Program Director Recruitment and Retention." Edward Bope, MD from the Department of Veteran Affairs shared about the "Rural Interprofessional Faculty Development Initiative (RIFDI)." The meeting ended with a Question and Answer session with HRSA and the Technical Assistance Center.

Sessions from the meeting can be found at the links below. The majority of recordings and slides are also available in the [Rural GME portal](#).

Day 1

- [Welcome and Interactive Introductions](#)
- [Keynote address: HRSA Efforts to Encourage Education and Training in Rural Communities](#)
- [Breakout - CMS GME Bootcamp](#)
- [Breakout - Hospital CMS Cost Reports](#)
- [Breakout - Other Revenue Streams](#)
- [Breakout - Expenses](#)
- [Summary of Medicare Rule Changes](#)

Day 2

- [The Mental Health Crisis in Rural America: Impacting Change through Rural GME](#)
- [Breakout - How can I tackle division of responsibility between rural and urban leadership?](#)
- [Breakout - How can I identify and develop strong community faculty members?](#)
- [Breakout - How can I manage residents in difficulty?](#)
- [Breakout - How can I prepare for the residency interview season?](#)
- [Breakout - How can I effectively function as residency coordinator/manager?](#)

- [Breakout - How can I prepare for ACGME institutional and/or program accreditation?](#)
- [Program Director Recruitment and Retention](#)
- [Rural Interprofessional Faculty Development Initiative \(RIFDI\)](#)
- [Question and Answer Session with the TA Center and HRSA](#)



Important Dates

Upcoming Webinars

9/14/21 - Update from ACGME: Rural Track Program Designation - 12-1pm Eastern, 9-10am Pacific
Please register for the webinar [here](#).

10/12/21 - Cultivating a Healthy Program Director and Program Manager Relationship - 12-1pm Eastern, 9-10am Pacific

11/16/21 - National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH) - 12-1pm Eastern, 9-10am Pacific

Grantee Program Profile



Program: The Cherokee Nation
Institution: Oklahoma State University
College of Osteopathic Medicine
Rural Location: Tahlequah, OK

What are some of the strengths and/or accomplishments of your program?

The strength of the program comes from the support of Cherokee Nation Health Services administration. Health leadership is committed to furthering the education and advancement of the residents in the program. Our most recent accomplishments include receiving the ACGME initial accreditation and successfully recruiting a diverse class of residents in addition to graduating three residents this past year.

What barriers have you had to overcome in developing your program and how did you overcome them?

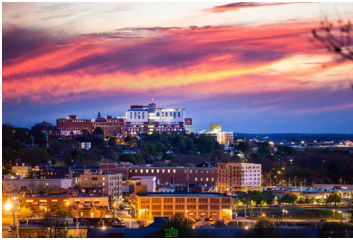
Establishing specialty rotations for residents is a challenge in rural residency programs. We have utilized the existing tribal relationships to establish rotations in cardiology, nephrology, neurology, endocrinology, pulmonology, dermatology, ophthalmology, and rheumatology.

Describe the area you serve and what appeals to you most about the location.

The program is located in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, which is the capital of the Cherokee Nation. The health system provides care to Native American citizens of all federally recognized tribal nations in the fourteen county reservation in rural Northeastern Oklahoma. The community is rich in local history as well as Cherokee culture. Tahlequah is only an hour commute to metro Tulsa where there is fine dining, shopping, recreational parks and the Tulsa International Airport.

Grantee Program Profile

Program: Maine Medical Center
Institution: Maine Medical Center
Rural Location: Rockport, ME



What are some of the strengths and/or accomplishments of your program?

Maine Medical Center’s Psychiatry Residency Rural Training Track benefits from the longstanding urban program and faculty, with the new addition of a rural patient population in a beautiful setting. Residents see a wide range of psychiatric diagnoses in both the urban and rural settings. We are fortunate to have a medical/geriatric psychiatric inpatient unit at MMC, one of only 48 in the country, and strong rotations in both Consultation Liaison psychiatry as well as Child and Adolescent psychiatry before transitioning to the rural environment, where those specialty skills will be put to good use. Our teaching faculty in all locations are unwavering in their desire to teach new generations of physicians and improve the mental health and wellness of the state of Maine and beyond.

What barriers have you had to overcome in developing your program and how did you overcome them?

Our Psychiatry Rural Training Track is one of the first of its kind in the US. While exciting, this has also lead to challenges along the way, as the process is new to everyone involved—there isn’t a clear blueprint or guideline. We’ve been able to overcome some of these challenges with the help and guidance of the ACGME, our institution’s GME office, and also the Internal Medicine program at our own institution, which started a rural track 3 years ago. We have learned a lot throughout this process and hope to be able to one day assist others who are looking to start these very important and needed rural training programs.

Describe the area you serve and what appeals to you most about the location.

Maine is a beautiful place with friendly people and a great way of life. We have the ability to work and train at the only tertiary care center in Maine, but also have access to the great hiking, boating, camping, food and entertainment that Maine has to offer. All sites, urban and rural, are right on the coast and several have beautiful views right out the window!

Interested in Sharing About Your Program?

We'd love for you to share your tips and tricks that have worked for your program with other grantees. If you are interested in facilitating one of the monthly webinars, please email info@ruralgme.org. Hearing from other grantees is beneficial to all of our programs.

EASTERN U.S. HUB

[Dr. Cristen Page, MD MPH welcomes the HRSA RRPD Grant Recipients](#)

CENTRAL U.S. HUB

[Dr. Randall Longenecker, MD introduces the Central Hub](#)

WESTERN U.S. HUB

[Dr. Frederick Chen, MD MPH of the University of Washington School of Medicine introduces the Western Hub team](#)



Technical Assistance Center
Rural Residency Planning and Development Program



