



RRPD Grantee Newsletter  
March 2022

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## CMS Rule Changes



**Featured** Program Design and Development | Specialty: Not Specialty Specific | Type: Rules & Regulations

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### GME CMS Rule Interpretations Summary from CAA 2020

There are several CMS rule changes in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020 that impact Graduate Medical Education. This document summarizes the interpretations of these rule changes and which programs and hospitals will be impacted.

On February 8 Judith Pauwels, MD, Randall Longenecker, MD, and Louis Sanner, MD of the RRPD Technical Assistance Center facilitated a webinar regarding "Impact of CMS Rule Changes on Rural GME." The webinar covered implications of Sections 126, 127, and 131 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020. There will be another webinar on Tuesday, March 8 entitled "Impact of CMS Rule Changes on Rural GME, Part II. Please register [here](#).

The summary document, slides, and recording of the webinars are available in the [RuralGME toolbox](#).

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## Pre-Conference at RTT Collaborative

In conjunction with our partners the RTT Collaborative, the RRPD TAC will be hosting an optional pre-conference meeting prior to the start of the RTT Collaborative Annual Meeting. Attendance at the RTT Collaborative Annual Meeting and/or the pre-conference meeting is not mandatory (per HRSA's RRPD grant program) but we encourage you to attend to network with fellow RRPD grantees. For more information about your HRSA RRPD program requirements, please contact your HRSA Project Officer.

The pre-conference meeting will be held Wednesday, April 27, 2022, from 2-5 p.m. PST, and the RTT Collaborative Annual Meeting will take place on April 27-29, 2022, at the [Skamania Lodge](#) in Stevenson, Washington. You must register separately for these 2 events.

- If you'd like to attend the optional pre-conference RRPD meeting, please register [here](#) by April 1, 2022.
- If you'd like to attend the RTT Collaborative Annual Meeting, please register at this [link](#) by April 1, 2022.



## Important Dates

### Upcoming Webinars

3/8/22 - Impact of CMS Rule Changes on Rural GME; Part II - 12-1pm Eastern, 9-10am Pacific  
Please register for the webinar [here](#).

## Grantee Program Profile



**Program:** Massachusetts General Internal Medicine Residency  
**Institution:** Massachusetts General Hospital  
**Rural Location:** Rosebud, SD

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

The program will become one of the first residencies based at an Indian Health Service site and the first in the IHS Great Plains Area. Also, the program will become one of the first internal medicine RTTs.

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

We have established the nation's most robust physician faculty exchange with an Indian Health Service hospital, which will be the anchor for the RTT. The partnership is closely linked with the community and developed in response to the community's request for improved health care access and quality.

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

The Rosebud Indian Reservation is the beautiful home of the Sicangu Oyate, with whom we are honored to work, at the Oyate's invitation and direction.

## Grantee Program Profile



**Program:** Cahaba - UAB family Medicine Residency  
**Institution:** Cahaba Medical Care Foundation  
**Rural Locations:** Marion and Camden, AL

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

Cahaba - UAB Family Medicine Residency successfully completed the Rural Residency Planning Program (RRPD) for the establishment of the Cahaba - UAB Family Medicine Frontier Track (RTT) in 2021. During this implementation process we were granted ACGME accreditation in May 2021, which was effective as of July 1, 2020. We also received THCGME (Teaching Health Center) funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) with a program start date of July 1, 2022. Since that time, we have been recruiting for four residents who will start July 1, 2022

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

During the planning and development phase of the project, we experienced issues relating to CMS GME funding sustainability as well as faculty recruitment. Funding barriers were overcome when we applied for and received funding through the THCGME program, instead of CMS, in 2021 to implement the Frontier track. In regards to faculty recruitment, we were able to successfully fill three of our open faculty positions from a 10-year alumni who graduated from our original rural track in 2008-2010, as well as two of our current family medicine residents who will stay on faculty in the Frontier track. This is a great example of the power of rural training tracks to recruit and retain workforce for rural communities as well as rural programs!

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

The rural areas to be served through the Frontier track include Perry and Wilcox counties in the Black Belt Region of Alabama. Both of these counties are in health provider shortage areas (HPSA) and ranked at the bottom for healthcare rankings in Alabama, and among the most impoverished and underserved counties in the U.S.. We chose these areas primarily because of the need – in the case of Marion, our Community Health Center had already opened a clinic there, staffed by a former chief resident, now co-director of the RTT. Rural areas provide valuable learning experiences (small community, legitimate experience working with poor and underprivileged populations) that are beneficial as we train new physicians to come back to these areas to serve.

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## **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](mailto:info@ruralgme.org). Hearing from other grantees is beneficial to all of our programs.

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#### **EASTERN U.S. HUB**

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

#### **WESTERN U.S. HUB**

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

#### **CENTRAL U.S. HUB**

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



**Technical Assistance Center**

Rural Residency Planning and Development Program



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