



# Arkansas Community Match Rural Physicians Recruitment Program

- **What is the purpose?** To increase the number of Primary Care physicians practicing full time in medically underserved, qualified communities in rural Arkansas.
- **Who can apply?**
  - Any physician who is a graduate from an accredited United States medical school or
  - Any physician who is a graduate of an international medical school provided they were an Arkansas resident prior to enrolling in the international medical school AND
  - Currently enrolled in a Primary Care residency OR completed training no more than two years prior to applying
  - Any Community in Arkansas that is medically underserved (based on criteria below)
  - Physician and Community must apply jointly. Deadline is January 5th of each year.
- **What is the benefit?** **Total of \$80,000.00. (\$20,000.00 per year for a 4 year commitment)** This money can be used for any purpose (not just student loan debt). \$10,000.00 is paid by the community and is matched by \$10,000.00 from state appropriations (per year).
- **Definition of Primary Care:** Family Medicine, general Internal Medicine, general Pediatrics, general Internal Medicine/Pediatrics, general Obstetrics/Gynecology, General Surgery, Emergency Medicine and Geriatrics.
- **What is a medically underserved area (MUA)?** Any medically underserved area with an unmet need for medical services due to factors including and without limitation to: the ratio of primary care physicians to population and the infant mortality rate; the percentage of population with incomes below the federal poverty level; resident individuals 60 and older; physicians 60 and older; accessibility within the area to primary care medicine; and other relevant criteria the Arkansas Rural Practice Board may deem necessary.
- **What is a qualified community?** Any city in Arkansas that is less than 20,000 in population and is at least 20 miles from a city with over 20,000 in population, according to the latest decennial census.
- **When do I choose my community?** In the last two years of residency or first two years of practice.
- **Is there a penalty for defaulting?** Yes. Please see contract for details or contact Tammy Henson, Administrator – Arkansas Rural Practice Program.



For Information Contact: Tammy Henson, Administrator  
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