

NC Department of Health and Human Services Primary Care Physicians Initiative (NC PCPI)

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Programs at ORH

<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/orh>



Placement and HPSA Services

Recruit providers and designates health professional shortage areas



Rural Health Operations (NC Rural Health Centers)

Supports state designated rural health centers that serve the entire community



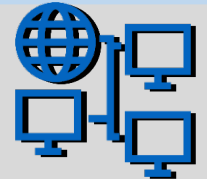
NC Community Health Grants

Supports the primary care safety net system with increasing access to health care for vulnerable populations



NC Farmworker Health Program

Supports medical, dental and educational services for members of the North Carolina agricultural labor force and their families



Rural Health Information Technology Program

Provides technical assistance to improve the use of Electronic Health Record (EHR) Systems and the use of health information exchange



NC Rural Hospital Program

Funds operational improvement projects for the benefit of all critical access hospitals and eligible small rural hospitals



NC Medication Assistance Program

Provides free and low-cost medications donated by pharmaceutical manufacturers to patients who cannot afford them



NC Statewide Telepsychiatry Program

Supports psychiatric evaluation of patients through videoconferencing technology in emergency departments



NC Analytics and Innovations Program

Support data analytics, shortage designations, and pioneering efforts to improve health

Office of Rural Health Placement Services

- Serves rural *and urban underserved populations* across the state
- Recruits primary care Medical, Dental and Behavioral Health providers
- Makes compatible matches based on the needs of the community and the provider
- No placement fees (vs. firms)



Conrad 30 J-1 Visa Waiver

- ORH serves Interested government agency to implement the waiver provision
- Foreign Medical Graduate (FMG) Physicians
- US Residency Program on J-1 visa
- Seek waiver vs. 2-year return to home country
- Commit to practice site for 3 years

- Applications accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. No application fee.
- Application cycle: Annually October 1 - September 30

- Number of Slots: 30
 - In North Carolina, 20 of those slots are reserved for primary care physicians (including Hospitalists) practicing in:
 - Family Medicine
 - General Internal Medicine
 - General Pediatrics, Med-Peds
 - OB/Gyn
 - Psychiatry- all subspecialties
 - Geriatrics

- Practice locations must be in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA).
- HPSA score must match physician's discipline.

NEW Innovative loan repayment program tailored for independent private practices located in Tier 1 or Tier 2 Counties as defined by the North Carolina's County Distress Rankings (Tiers).

Primary Care Physicians Initiative:

- **Loan Repayment ONLY**
- **First come, first served—be ready to apply!**
- **Anticipate 16 Awards per Medicaid Region**
- ***Application portal opens April 21, 2025, at 8:00 a.m.***
- **Provider Eligibility:** Licensed allopathic or osteopathic primary care physicians in rural, underserved areas of the State. Rural and underserved is defined as being located in a Tier 1 or Tier 2 County.

Provider Eligibility, Awards, and Service Commitment

Physicians Unrestricted license to practice in the State of NC United States citizenship or permanent resident status	Incentive Awards (Based on Full-Time Employment)	Service Commitment
Primary Care Physician <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allopathic (MD) • Osteopathic (DO) <p>Serving within the following specialties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Medicine • General Internal Medicine • General Surgery -FOR CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITALS ONLY • Obstetrics/Gynecology (OB/GYN) • General Pediatrics • Psychiatry 	Up to \$100,000	Up to 4 years
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pro-rated awards are given for Part-Time employment. • All award amounts (whether full or part-time employment) are based on documented educational (student) loan debt or up to the maximum award amounts listed above. For Example: A provider with an educational loan debt of \$45,000 could only receive an award amount up to \$45,000 instead of the maximum award amount of \$100,000 (allowed for a provider). 		

Primary Care Physicians Initiative Site Eligibility

- Must be an **Independent Private Primary Care Practice that is wholly-owned and operated by physicians** rather than by a hospital, health system, or other entity.
- Located in **Tier 1 or Tier 2 County**
- Sites must have **at least one provider enrolled in the North Carolina Medicaid program and accepts patients who are Medicaid recipients.**
- For General Surgeons only, the site must be at a Critical Access Hospital
- Sites must **provide comprehensive outpatient primary care services** in eligible sites serving those with high needs. Comprehensive outpatient primary care is defined as preventive, acute and chronic primary health services that provide a continuum of care not focused or limited to gender identity, age, organ system, a particular illness, or categorical population (i.e., developmentally disabled or those with cancer)

Note: Urgent care centers, emergency room departments, or sites owned or operated by hospitals or other health systems are not eligible.

Primary Care Physicians Initiative

- Application window: Applicant must apply within 5 years of employment start date or within 5 years after completing service obligation
- Cannot have any other current service commitments (e.g. FELS, NHSC Scholars, NHSC LRP, NCMS CPP)
- Payments made direct to provider
- Not Taxable



Primary Care Physicians Initiative Application Requirements

- **Basic information:** Name, Email, Address, NPI #, License #
- **Written official verification documenting any outstanding educational (student) loan debt** obtained from a U.S. institution showing recent date, current principal owed, lender's name and provider's name
 - Lender cannot be an individual (i.e., a parent)
 - Must be a private or public entity within the U.S.
 - Debt must be for educational (student) loans only
 - No statements with other expenses (i.e., credit card expenses) added to educational (student) debt
 - Refinanced educational student loans and loans transferred to various loan servicers are considered as long as the documentation shows a recent date, current principal owed, lender's name and provider's name.
- *Any document which does not appear official or does not include all of the requested information will not be accepted. Notepad documents will not be accepted*

Primary Care Physicians Initiative Application Requirements

A signed statement from the provider's employer on company letterhead documenting:

- Start date of employment/first day on the job
- Site name
- Site address: If the provider is working at multiple sites, the letter must document the address of each site.
- Total hours worked per week by the provider
- Total hours devoted to direct patient care per week by the provider
- Direct Supervisor's Name, Phone Number and Email
- Attestation that the site is wholly owned and operated by physicians.
- Attestation that at least one provider is enrolled in the North Carolina Medicaid Program and accepts patients who are Medicaid recipients
 - Name of Provider(s) enrolled in the North Carolina Medicaid Program.

If the letter does not include all of the items listed above, the application will be deemed incomplete

Application Process

- Funding is limited and the awards will be based on a **first-come, first-served basis for eligible and complete applications**. ORH anticipates up to 16 awards in each of the six Medicaid Regions. The application portal will not accept more than 20 applications per Medicaid Region.
- Physicians should review the entire Primary Care Physicians Initiative (NC PCPI) guidelines to ensure they meet the provider and site eligibility criteria. This is important so physicians can be prepared to upload the required information and documentation during the electronic application process.
- **Only electronic applications will be accepted**. Paper applications will not be accepted or reviewed. Electronic Primary Care Physicians Initiative (NC PCPI) applications must be signed by physicians.
- The on-line application requires that applicants attest that the information submitted on the application is true, accurate and complete.

Application Process

How To Apply: There is a two-step application process.

Application Link: On April 21, 2025, at 8:00 a.m., the link to begin the application process will be added to these guidelines.

To apply, applicants will complete the following two-steps:

- Complete the eligibility screening questionnaire (screening questionnaire link will be provided on April 21, 2025) to access individual link to the on-line application.
- Physicians must submit an on-line NC PCPI application and upload all required documentation using the NC PCPI Application Link sent to be considered for an award.

Processing Applications: Applicant will receive an email confirmation that the application is received immediately.

Award Notification: On or before May 5, 2025, applicants will receive an email notification of their applicant status. Awards are contingent upon availability of funding, final departmental approval, and completion of the contract process.



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**Rural Recruitment &
Retention Network**
www.3RNet.org

Let's Talk 😊

