

# ARKANSAS COMMUNITY MATCH RURAL PHYSICIANS RECRUITMENT PROGRAM

Program for Physicians leaving Residency Training or in the first two years of practice

## **PURPOSE**

To increase the number of Primary Care physicians practicing full time in rural Arkansas.

## **WHO CAN APPLY?**

Any physician who is a graduate from an accredited United States medical school and currently enrolled in a Primary Care residency OR a physician in their first two years of practice.

Any Community in Arkansas that is medically underserved (based on criteria below). Physician and Community must apply jointly. Deadline to apply is January 5th of each year.

## **WHAT IS THE BENEFIT?**

\$20,000 per year for a four year commitment (total of \$80,000). This money can be used for any purpose (not just student loan debt). \$10,000 is paid by the community and is matched by \$10,000 from state appropriations (per year). This benefit is taxable.

## **WHAT IS THE 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 AN UNDERSERVED COMMUNITY?**

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 Board may deem necessary.

## **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. Loan repayment/interest/penalties as well as potential loss of Arkansas license.

For more information contact:  
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