144.1507 PRIMARY CARE RESIDENCY TRAINING GRANT PROGRAM.

Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** (a) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the meanings given.

(b) "Eligible program" means a program that meets the following criteria:

(1) is located in Minnesota;

(2) trains medical residents in the specialties of family medicine, general internal medicine, general pediatrics, psychiatry, geriatrics, or general surgery in rural residency training programs or in community-based ambulatory care centers that primarily serve the underserved, or trains postdoctoral psychology residents; and

(3) is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education or the American Psychological Association or presents a credible plan to obtain accreditation.

(c) "Rural community" means a Tribal Nation, statutory city, home rule charter city, or township in Minnesota that is outside the seven-county metropolitan area as defined in section 473.121, subdivision 2, excluding the cities of Duluth, Mankato, Moorhead, Rochester, and St. Cloud.

(d) "Rural residency training program" means a rural medical residency program or a rural psychology residency program that provides training in an accredited residency program in Minnesota. At least two-thirds of the residency training must be based in rural communities, utilizing local clinics and community hospitals, with specialty rotations in nearby regional medical centers. When specialty rotations cannot take place within rural communities, training may occur in nonrural sites provided that at least one-half of all training occurs in rural communities. For residency training programs in general surgery, pediatrics, and psychiatry, at least one-half of the residency training must be based in communities outside the seven-county metropolitan area, with rotations in rural communities.

(e) "Community-based ambulatory care centers" means federally qualified health centers, community mental health centers, rural health clinics, health centers operated by the Indian Health Service, an Indian Tribe or Tribal organization, or an urban American Indian organization or an entity receiving funds under Title X of the Public Health Service Act.

(f) "Eligible project" means a project to establish and maintain a rural residency training program.

Subd. 2. **Rural residency training program.** (a) The commissioner of health shall award rural residency training program grants to eligible programs to plan, implement, and sustain rural residency training programs. A rural medical residency training program grant shall not exceed $250,000 per year for up to three years for planning and development, and $225,000 per resident per year for each year thereafter to sustain the program. A rural psychology residency training program grant shall not exceed $150,000 per year for up to three years for planning and development and $150,000 per resident per year for each year thereafter to sustain the program. Medical and psychology residency programs that meet eligibility guidelines and continue to demonstrate financial need shall be granted sustaining funds, renewable every five years.

(b) Funds may be spent to cover the costs of:

(1) planning related to establishing accredited rural residency training programs;

(2) obtaining accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, the American Psychological Association, or another national body that accredits rural residency training programs;

(3) establishing new rural residency training programs;

(4) recruitment, training, and retention of new residents and faculty related to the new rural residency training program;

(5) travel and lodging for new residents;

(6) faculty, new resident, and preceptor salaries related to new rural residency training programs;

(7) training site improvements, fees, equipment, and supplies required for new rural residency training programs; and

(8) supporting clinical education in which trainees are part of a primary care team model.

Subd. 3. **Applications for rural residency training program grants.** Eligible programs seeking a grant shall apply to the commissioner. Applications must include the number of new primary care rural residency training program slots planned, under development or under contract; a description of the training program, including location of the established residency program and rural training sites; a description of the project, including all costs associated with the project; all sources of funds for the project; detailed uses of all funds for the project; the results expected; proof of eligibility for federal graduate medical education funding, if applicable; and a plan to seek the funding. The applicant must describe achievable objectives, a timetable, and the roles and capabilities of responsible individuals in the organization.

Subd. 4. **Consideration of grant applications.** The commissioner shall review each application to determine if the residency program application is complete, if the proposed rural residency program and residency slots are eligible for a grant, and if the program is eligible for federal graduate medical education funding, and when the funding is available. If eligible programs are not eligible for federal graduate medical education funding, the commissioner may award continuation funding to the eligible program beyond the initial grant period without requiring a competitive application. The commissioner shall award grants to support training programs in family medicine, general internal medicine, general pediatrics, psychiatry, geriatrics, general surgery, psychology, and other primary care focus areas.

Subd. 5. **Program oversight.** During the grant period, the commissioner may require and collect from grantees any information necessary to evaluate the program. Notwithstanding section 16A.28, subdivision 6, encumbrances for grants under this section issued by June 30 of each year may be certified for a period of up to five years beyond the year in which the funds were originally appropriated.

Subd. 6. **Clinical training program coordination.** The commissioner may award grants to the University of Minnesota to provide technical assistance to residency training programs for coordinated development of rural clinical training programs statewide.

History: *2023 c 70 art 4 s 26; 2026 c 127 art 1 s 22-25*