



## Issue Brief: Rural Residency Training Program

HIGHER EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS

IB: MEC RURAL PROGRAM

### SUMMARY

The Rural Residency Training Program, directed by the Utah Medical Education Council, is a program designed to promote physician practice, including medicine and dentistry, in rural areas of the state. The purpose is to create opportunities for graduate medical education that will attract medical school graduates to serve in rural areas of Utah. This brief includes a discussion on the rollout of the program, including progress and achievements.

### OBJECTIVE

In the 2005 General Session, the Legislature authorized \$300,000 ongoing from the General Fund to the Medical Education Council (MEC) for the Rural Residency Training Program. Funding for the program was designated to promote an “accredited clinical training program...which places a physician into a rural county for a part or all of the physician’s clinical training” (Utah Code, Title 63C, Chapter 8, Section 106, Medical Education Program). The MEC was given direction by the Legislature to develop a “pilot program [that] shall begin July 1, 2005 and sunset July 1, 2015” and report each year on “increasing the retention or recruitment of physicians in rural counties in the state” (ibid.).

### DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Over the past three fiscal years (FY 2006-2008), the MEC has developed the rural training pilot program providing options to residents that include the following: (1) Rural Training Track – Family Medicine training program located in an urban area with residents receiving their first year in the urban or suburban area followed by their final two years located in a rural community; (2) Rural Rotations – Residency training program located in an urban or suburban area with elective rotations (usually 14 to 30 days in duration) into rural communities; and, (3) Rural Focus – Residency training program located in an urban or suburban area specializing in rural medicine (i.e., giving specific emphasis to a rural setting within curriculum).

Program involvement for the first two years was limited due to challenges in scaling up the program and attracting residents to rural areas. However, during FY 2008, 44 program participants were involved with 6 residency programs including: Dental, Family Medicine, Ob/Gyn, Pathology, Psychiatry, and General Surgery. These residents provided a total of 1,126 total days with an average rotation length of 26 days, including nearly 5.0 FTE. Participating hospitals and clinics included University of Utah–Ogden, Uintah Basin clinics, Price, Cedar City and dentistry in Four Corners area.

The following tables on page 2 show expenditures and projected expenditures for FY 2008 and 2009 in the Rural Residency Training Program.



<b>FY 2008 Rural Funds Expenditures</b>				
<b>Training Program</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>Dollar</b>	<b>Commitment length</b>	<b>Location(s)</b>
Family Medicine	1.25	100,000	5 Year - Ongoing	Across rural Utah
Ob/Gyn	0.75	100,000	5 Year - Ongoing	Across rural Utah
Family Medicine Fellowship	<u>1.00</u>	<u>80,000</u>	One Time	Central Utah area
	3.00	280,000		
Pediatric	0.33	35,000	One Time	Uinta Basin
Dental	0.83	-	n/a	Four Corners area
Pathology	0.17	10,000	One Time	Price
Psychiatric	<u>0.25</u>	<u>20,000</u>	One Time	Across rural Utah
	1.58	65,000		
<b>Total FY 2008 projected expense</b>	<b>4.58</b>	<b>345,000</b>		

<b>FY 2009 Rural Funds Projections</b>				
<b>Training Program</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>Dollar</b>	<b>Commitment length</b>	<b>Location(s)</b>
Family Medicine RTT	2.00	100,000	Ongoing	Cedar City, Panquitch, & Beaver
Surgery	1.00	70,000	Ongoing	McKay Dee & various rural sites
Family Medicine	2.00	100,000	Ongoing	Across rural Utah
Ob/Gyn	<u>0.50</u>	<u>50,000</u>	Ongoing	Across rural Utah
	5.50	320,000		
Family Medicine Fellowship	1.00	80,000	One Time	Central Utah area
Pediatric	0.50	30,000	One Time	Uinta Basin
Dental	0.83	-	n/a	Four Corners area
Emergency Medicine	0.50	50,000	One Time	Cedar City, Panquitch, & Beaver
Pathology	0.25	20,000	One Time	Price
Psychiatric	<u>0.25</u>	<u>20,000</u>	One Time	Across rural Utah
	3.33	200,000		
<b>Total FY 2009 projected expense</b>	<b>8.83</b>	<b>545,000</b>		

Source: Utah Medical Education Council, October 2008