



RRPD Grantee Newsletter  
August 2023

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## Welcome Cohort 5!

HRSA recently awarded 15 new grantees up to \$750,000 each for the [Rural Residency Planning and Development \(RRPD\) Program](#) across 13 states and Puerto Rico. Each grantee will focus on strengthening its health care workforce through the development of a newly accredited, sustainable rural residency program in family medicine, general surgery, internal medicine, preventive medicine, or psychiatry. The new grantees are part of the fifth cohort in the RRPD grant.

Congratulations to the new RRPD grantees:

- Cahaba Medical Care – Centreville, AL - Psychiatry
- Fairview Health Services – Minneapolis, MN – Family Medicine
- Franklin Parish Hospital Service District No. 1 – Winnsboro, LA – Family Medicine
- Geisinger Clinic – Danville, PA – Preventive Medicine
- Hannibal Regional Healthcare System, Inc. – Hannibal, MO – Internal Medicine
- Loma Linda University – Loma Linda, CA – Family Medicine-OB
- Maine General Medical Center – Augusta, ME – General Surgery
- Marshall Community Health Consortium – Huntington, WV – Internal Medicine
- New York Institute of Technology – Old Westbury, NY – Family Medicine
- Tiber Health, Public Benefit Corporation – Ponce, PR – Multi-Specialty
- University of Arizona- Tucson, AZ – Multi-Specialty
- University of Hawaii Systems – Honolulu, HI – Family Medicine

- University of Rochester – Rochester, NY – Family Medicine-OB
- University of Tennessee – Memphis, TN – Family Medicine
- University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center – Dallas, TX – Family Medicine-OB

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## Forecasted Funding Opportunity

HRSA has released a forecasted funding opportunity for the next cohort of the RRPD grant. There are expected to be 15 grantees awards. You can find more info about through the posting on [grants.gov](https://grants.gov).

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## Recent Dissemination



RRPD grantees and members of the RRPD Technical Assistance Center have been busy disseminating information about rural healthcare and the RRPD grant. Below are some of their recent works:

- Dave Evans, MD, and Randy Longenecker, MD, recently published an article entitled, "[Growing a Rural Family Physician Workforce: The Contributions of Rural Background and Rural Place of Residency Training.](#)"
- Lori Rodefled, MS, and John Waits, a former RRPD grantee, were recently interviewed in an article entitled, "[The American doctor deserts,](#)" by Vox. This article highlights the shortages of doctors around the nation, especially in rural areas, and the importance of training residents in these areas.
- Emily Hawes, PharmD, the Deputy Director of the RRPD TAC, was featured in a podcast on the Health Leadership Radio™. Episode 361: A Conversation with Emily Hawes is available [here](#).
- Cohort 1 RRPD Grantee, Marshall University Research Corporation, was featured in an article entitled "[Marshall's new rural general surgery residency program welcomes first residents.](#)"

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## Recent Webinars



Program Design and Development | Specialty: Not Specialty Specific |  0  0  
Type: Webinar Or Presentation

**Preparing Institutions for Learners**

Technical Assistance Center (recording) on Preparing Institutions for Learners presented by Shawn Andrews, MD, and Rob Epstein, MD (June 2023).



Program Design and Development | Specialty: Not Specialty Specific |  0  0  
Type: Webinar Or Presentation

**Grantee Spotlight- Quinnipiac University Rural Family Medicine Residency Program**

Technical Assistance Center (recording) on Grantee Spotlight- Quinnipiac University Rural Family Medicine Residency Program presented by Traci Marquis, MD (May 2023).

On June 13th, Dr. Shawn Andrews and Dr. Rob Epstein presented on Preparing Institutions for Learners. On May 9<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Traci Marquis-Eydman presented on a Grantee Spotlight- Quinnipiac University Rural Family Medicine Residency Program. The slides and recordings are available in the [RuralGME toolbox](#).



## Important Dates

### Upcoming Webinars

Webinar: Resident Recruitment Strategies

August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023

12-1pm EST, 9-10am PST

Please register [here](#).

## 2023 Annual Grantee Meeting

09/12-9/13/2023

Please register [here](#).

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## 2023 Annual Grantee Meeting



Our 2023 HRSA RRPD and THCPD Annual Grantee Meeting has been set for September 12 -13, 2023, in Arlington, Virginia. The Annual Meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City at Reagan National Airport located at 2799 Richmond Hwy, Arlington, Virginia. At this time, the room block at the Hyatt Regency- Crystal City at Reagan National Airport is full. We recommend the following hotels that are within walking distance of the Hyatt Regency.

- [Courtyard by Marriot Arlington Crystal City/Reagan National Airport](#)
- [Residence Inn by Marriott Arlington Capital View](#)
- [Renaissance Arlington Capital View Hotel](#)

Please register for the Annual Meeting on our website [here](#).

Although only the project director (i.e., principal investigator) from your grant program is required to attend the Annual Meeting, we are happy to accommodate more individuals from your program. In addition to project directors, we encourage attendance by residency coordinators, reimbursement and finance officers, CFOs, program faculty, support staff, and DIOs. Please email us at [info@ruralgme.org](mailto:info@ruralgme.org) if you have any questions.

A more detailed version of our draft agenda for the 2023 Grantee Annual Meeting has been released. Please click this [link](#) for more information.

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## Featured Consultant Organization



Hall Render Advisory Services (HRAS) delivers focused consulting services for the health care industry. HRAS is the wholly-owned consulting subsidiary of Hall, Render, Killian, Heath & Lyman, P.C. (Hall Render), one of the largest health law firms in the US. As a subsidiary of Hall Render, HRAS consultants draw on the full scope of resources and experiences that Hall Render has developed over its more than 50 years of serving the health care industry. In the area of graduate medical education (GME), HRAS consultants have assisted in a variety of community collaborative arrangements to assemble and deploy the full range of resources needed to create and operate GME programs. TAC-sponsored consultative services are offered through the end of the grantee's period of performance, for up to 38 hours depending on the consulting firm. We encourage you to discuss this with your advisor as a starting place!

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## Featured TAC Staff



Meet Lauren Tomola! Ms. Tomola is a Knowledge Management Librarian for the Health Sciences Library at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. She holds a certificate in Clinical Information Science, from the UNC Health Informatics Program. She has been with the team since 2019 and supports the TAC with information science, data organization and analysis, and research. Outside of the TAC, she is the embedded librarian for NC AHEC's practice support service line, where she organizes extensive internal documentation on current healthcare initiatives in NC. She loves books, flowers, and her very spoiled cat, Dahlia. Thank you, Lauren, for your dedication to this team and the work!

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## Grantee Program Profile



**Program:** University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Rural Family Medicine Program  
**Institution:** University of Pittsburgh Medical Center  
**Rural Location:** Wellsboro, PA, and Coudersport, PA

**What are some of the strengths and/or accomplishments of your program?**

UPMC Rural Family Medicine Residency is a 1+2 integrated rural training program in northcentral PA. The greatest strength of our program is the enthusiasm of the rural communities and faculty for our program. The rural communities are exceedingly generous in assisting us. For example, the hospital and foundation of our rural program have figured out how to provide free housing to the rural residents and their families for their second and third years. This is a huge gift to our residents since housing is difficult to find in the rural region where our program is located.

**What barriers have you had to overcome in developing your program and how did you overcome them?**

Clearly, our greatest barrier has been the COVID pandemic. The pandemic impacted our ability to meet with the rural faculty, have margin in our schedule for writing our ACGME application, and contributed to a high level of staff turnover. As is true in many rural communities, the COVID pandemic put even more stress into an already stressed, underserved rural environment. Fortunately, we have the backing of a very supportive administration and graduate medical education which helped us stay focused on our goal which is to develop residents who can work in our rural underserved community in the future. This focus on the ultimate outcome kept us moving forward in the development of our program.

**Describe the area you serve and what appeals to you most about the location.**

Our program is located in northcentral PA, which is known for many excellent outdoor activities like backpacking, fishing, kayaking, etc. For PGY-1, we will have residents stay in the Williamsport, PA, program which is a historically strong full-spectrum program with accreditation for 50 years. For PGY-2 and PGY-3 residents will go to either UPMC Cole or UPMC Wellsboro. UPMC Wellsboro has a Critical Access Hospital located in a supportive, economically stable rural community. UPMC Cole also has a Critical Access Hospital but is one of the most remote areas of PA which is classified as frontier and subsequently very underserved medically

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## Interested in Sharing About Your Program?

We'd love for you to share your tips and tricks that have worked for your program with other grantees. If you are interested in facilitating one of the monthly webinars, please email

[info@ruralgme.org](mailto:info@ruralgme.org). Hearing from other grantees is beneficial to all of our programs.

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Technical Assistance Center

Rural Residency Planning and Development Program



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