



State of Wisconsin  
Higher Educational Aids Board

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## **PRIMARY CARE AND PSYCHIATRY SHORTAGE GRANT**

The Primary Care and Psychiatry Shortage Grant, Act 128, was created to encourage primary care physicians and psychiatrists to practice in underserved areas in the state of Wisconsin.

**Primary care physicians and psychiatrists who completed or will complete a graduate medical education training program in the state of Wisconsin in 2014 or later and who intend to practice in an underserved area in Wisconsin may apply.** Qualifying primary care physician specialties or subspecialties include family practice, internal medicine, pediatrics, or general surgery. Psychiatry also includes child psychiatry.

The Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB) will award up to 12 primary care physicians and up to 12 psychiatrists each fiscal year. The minimum annual award is \$20,800. If HEAB receives more than 12 qualifying claims for assistances in either category, HEAB will consider the date the initial applications (Notice of Intent) were received and the health professional shortage area scores of the underserved area in which the applicants are practicing in selecting award recipients.

A primary care physician or a psychiatrist may receive awards in up to three fiscal years. Receipt of an award in one year does not guarantee receipt of awards in future years. Awards will be made directly to the physician with no stipulation on how the funds must be used. The awards are not subject to State of Wisconsin income tax; however, award recipients should consult with their tax advisor in regard to federal income tax. If an award recipient's name appears on the statewide support lien docket, the recipient must establish a payment agreement with his or her county child support agency before HEAB can disburse the award to the recipient.

***To be considered for a financial assistance award, please complete steps 1 through 3:***

### **Step One: Submit the Notice of Intent**

The Notice of Intent to Practice in an Underserved Area in the State of Wisconsin form serves as the application for the Primary Care and Psychiatry Shortage Grant. The Notice of Intent may be submitted any time during a physician's residency. At any time, a physician may request to withdraw his or her application without penalty. The Notice of Intent form is available on HEAB's website:

[http://www.heab.wi.gov/PrimaryCareandPsychiatryShortageGrant/hard\\_copy.html](http://www.heab.wi.gov/PrimaryCareandPsychiatryShortageGrant/hard_copy.html)

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## **Step Two: Practice in an Underserved Area**

After completing a graduate medical education training program in the state of Wisconsin, a physician must practice in an underserved area in Wisconsin. Qualifying underserved areas include Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA\*), Medically Underserved Areas or Medically Underserved Populations (MUA/MUP), or a Governor's Designated and DHHS Secretary Certified Shortage Areas for Rural Health Clinics. For more information about each area, please visit <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/primarycare/shortage-designation2.htm>.

\*HPSAs are designated separately for each discipline (primary care or mental health). Please note the HPSA discipline class when using the tools listed below. Each HPSA type has three categories of service areas: geographic areas, population groups, and facilities.

**To find facilities with a HPSA-Facility designation or rural health clinic with a Governor's Shortage Designation use the HPSA Find Tool at:**

<http://datawarehouse.hrsa.gov/tools/analyzers/hpsafind.aspx>

**To determine if an address is located in a HPSA-Geographic or Population Group designated area or a MUA/MUP, use the Find Shortage Areas by Address Tool at:**

<http://datawarehouse.hrsa.gov/tools/analyzers/geo/ShortageArea.aspx>

## **Step Three: Submit a Claim for Financial Assistance**

After each year of practice, a physician may submit a Claim for Financial Assistance. The form will need to be completed by both the physician and the physician's employer. On the form, physicians will be asked to provide information about their current employment. In addition, physicians will be asked about the underserved area they are serving and the average number of hours per week they are serving the area. The physician's employer will need to certify the physician's employment.

The forms will be available for download on HEAB's website in May of each year. The forms must be completed and submitted to HEAB by May 31<sup>st</sup>. Along with the completed claim form, physicians will be required to submit proof of permanent license to practice medicine and surgery in the state of Wisconsin, and proof of completion of a graduate medical training program in the state of Wisconsin in a qualifying specialty or sub-specialty.

**The Notice of Intent Form and the Claim for Assistance Form may be found at:**

[http://www.heab.wi.gov/PrimaryCareandPsychiatryShortageGrant/hard\\_copy.html](http://www.heab.wi.gov/PrimaryCareandPsychiatryShortageGrant/hard_copy.html)

**If you have questions about the program, please contact:**

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