Program Facts

126
J-1 Visa Waiver Program physicians placed over the last 5 years

$79.5M
In economic impact created from the J-1 physicians

118
Physicians placed in Mental Health and Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Areas over the last 5 years

29
Counties served over the last 5 years that were designated as Mental Health and Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Areas

94%
Of physicians were placed in either a geographic, population, or facility Health Professional Shortage Area

Overview:
The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Office of Rural Health (ORH) is committed to improving access to quality, affordable health care for persons residing in the state’s rural and underserved areas. ORH leverages the North Carolina Conrad 30 J-1 Visa Waiver Program to increase the number of physicians practicing in rural and underserved areas. ORH serves as the "interested government agency" for the program. The Conrad 30 J-1 Visa Waiver program affords international medical graduates (IMGs) on J-1 visas the opportunity to waive their two-year home-country physical presence requirement in exchange for three years of medical service to patients in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) or Medically Underserved Areas (MUAs).

Annually, the State of North Carolina receives 30 J-1 visa waiver slots per year (October 1 - September 30). To ensure North Carolina’s primary care needs are met, 20 of the 30 slots are reserved for primary care physicians (including Hospitalists) practicing in Family Practice, General Internal Medicine, General Pediatrics, Obstetrics/ Gynecology, or Psychiatry in HPSAs or MUAs. NC has 87 counties designed as primary care HPSAs and 90 counties designated as mental health HPSAs. Up to 10 slots may be used for physicians to work in areas which are not designated as a HPSA or MUA and not limited to Primary Care. These 10 slots are called FLEX slots and fill quickly. To ensure full utilization of the J-1 Visa waiver slots, recently ORH created a waiting list when specialist applications exceed the 10 FLEX slots. Beginning May 1, unallocated primary care slots are utilized for qualifying specialists on the waiting list.

The importance of the Conrad J-1 Visa Waiver Program in addressing community needs is reflected in feedback received during stakeholder meetings held across NC to gather input on this critical program. Stakeholders expressed gratitude for the program and requested an increase in the number of slots for J-1 visa waivers. ORH supports increasing the number of Conrad 30 J-1 Visa Waiver slots.

Economic Impact and Return on Investment of Providers

Estimated using Provider Specialty Type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specialty Type Multiplier</th>
<th>Total Number of Placements</th>
<th>Economic Impact Based on Specialty Multipliers</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medical</td>
<td>119 placements</td>
<td>$74,977,497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behavioral Health</td>
<td>7 placements</td>
<td>$4,564,259</td>
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</tbody>
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Over the last 5 years, ORH placed primary care and subspecialist physicians in underserved areas of North Carolina in the following specialties: Family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, psychiatry, surgery, hospitalist, cardiology, oncology and many more. Using IMPLAN models, each provider specialty is found to be associated with a different economic impact to communities, ranging from $600,190 for a Pediatrician to $820,781 for a Surgeon. ORH recognizes the need for a diverse team of providers in each community in North Carolina, a value that reaches beyond the estimated economic impact.

*Source: IMPLAN (Impact analysis for PLANning) . ORH uses IMPLAN to determine both the direct, indirect, and induced economic impact on a community for each provider specialty type.
North Carolina J-1 Visa Waiver Program
Federal Calendar Year 2014 - 2018 Profile

Program Reach

31 Counties served
19 Rural counties served
61% Of the counties served were rural

Number of Providers
0.00 30.00

If you have further questions, please contact:
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