Veterans Access, Choice, & Accountability Act
Section 301(b):
Graduate Medical Education Expansion

Informational Webinar Presentation
In Partnership with the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM)

October 26, 2015
Today’s Presentation is hosted by Veterans Health Administration, Office of Academic Affiliations:

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- Jennifer LeTourneau, DO
  - Medical & Dental Section, Office of Academic Affiliations and Academic Affiliations Officer, VISN 20
  - Critical Care Staff Physician, VA Portland Health Care System
“To Educate for VA and for the Nation”
Our Mission for 70 Years: “To educate for VA and for the Nation”

Partnerships with VA GME residency training creates opportunities for broadening and diversifying residency experiences and improves health care for Veterans and the Nation.

- VA conducts the Nation’s largest education and training program for health professions trainees
- We accomplish these critical education and training efforts through coordinated programs and activities in partnership with affiliated U.S. academic institutions like yours

Did you know?

- 70% of all U.S. physicians received training at VA
- VA is the Nation’s premier GME partner, annually training about 41,000 physician residents
- VA is affiliated with over 87% of osteopathic medical schools and over 95% of allopathic medical schools
A changing landscape

In recent years, VA has seen a huge surge in the number of Veterans seeking care at VA facilities.

- Workload in VAMCs is **9.5% higher** as of March 2015, compared to the same period last year.
- VA completed **2.7 million more appointments** between June, 2014 and April, 2015 compared to the previous year.
- VA made over **2.8 million authorizations** for Care in the Community between June, 2014 and May, 2015.

Increasing access to care for Veterans is a top priority, and VA is using every tool to make sure our Nation’s heroes have timely access to the care they’ve earned and deserve.

Q: What’s an incredibly important tool we can use to make sure our Nation’s Veterans have timely access to care?

Create new and expand existing partnerships to enhance the VA GME Physician Residency Program!

Here’s where you come in.
Why partner with VA?

Serve our Nation’s Veterans

- Resident physicians provide care directly to Veterans, which creates a dynamic learning opportunity
- More residents translates to increased access to timely and high-quality care for Veterans

Training in a High-Quality Setting

- VA is the Nation’s premier GME partner, setting the standard for health care integration
- VA receives higher satisfaction ratings from Veterans for inpatient and outpatient care than private hospitals receive from their patients

Distinctive Education Opportunity

- Expose resident physicians to the future of health care delivery in an innovative setting
- Offer resident physicians unique learning opportunities and specialties
What is the VA GME Expansion Opportunity?

Provide better access to more Veterans where it’s needed most

Thanks to the Veterans Access, Choice, & Accountability Act of 2014, VA is able to add 1,500 new GME physician residency positions over five years (by 2019) with a focus on two sets of priorities:

**Specialty priorities:**
- Primary care
- Mental health
- Other specialties the Secretary determines appropriate

**Location priorities:**
- New and expanding sites
- Rural and remote areas
- Sites with “critical needs”

What are “critical needs”?

To meet the “Critical Needs” criteria, your local VA facility must demonstrate the need to improve access. To qualify, facilities have to provide data showing:

- Long wait times
- High use of fee basis or contract care
- Shortage of physicians in the area or reliance on contracted or locums staff
- Medical Center Director’s certification of need
- High VISN and facility priority
YEAR 1 VA GME Expansion Requests
Approved for Recruitment AY 2015-16

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<tr>
<th>Focus</th>
<th>Approved Positions</th>
<th>% of Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary Care</td>
<td>73.8</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mental Health</td>
<td>57.8</td>
<td>28%</td>
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<tr>
<td>New &amp; Expanding Sites</td>
<td>37.8</td>
<td>18%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>204.2</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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YEAR 2 VA GME Expansion Requests
Approved for Recruitment AY 2016-17

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<th>Approved Positions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary Care</td>
<td>62.2</td>
<td>37%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mental Health</td>
<td>38.2</td>
<td>23%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical Needs</td>
<td>67.6</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>168.0</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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There were 184.2 Year 2 VACAA position requests
Where are we in the VA GME Expansion?

To meet the ambitious goal of 1,500 new VA GME physician resident positions by August 2019, we must work aggressively and efficiently. We have made progress, but there’s still work to be done.

Choice VA GME expansion timeline

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We are here

Year 1 & 2 Milestones

- During Year 1, OAA allocated over 200 new physician residency positions.
- Over three-quarters of the filled positions were in either primary care or mental health.
- Year 2 allocation adds 168 additional permanent positions to start in July 2016.
- Years 1 + 2 total = 372 new positions

With 372 new positions we are almost here:

Choice deadline

This is where we need to be by 2019

= 100 new allocated VA GME positions
Primary Care GME Expansion: Strategic Focus

High PC Impact Sites

- PCP Shortage
- High Veteran Density
- Low GME/# Enrolled Veterans within Shortage Sites

EXPANDING REACH

High GME NEED Sites

- GME Naïve or Very Low #
- PCP Shortage
- Greatest Veteran Density in Low GME Setting

BUILDING CAPACITY
Future Outreach Strategies Include Specific Targets

✓ Osteopathic GME Programs
✓ Community Based Family Medicine Programs
✓ Teaching Health Centers
✓ Rural Sites
✓ High Veteran Concentration Areas
Sources of Funding

- Planning Grants
- VACAA Direct Resident Payment
- Infrastructure Grants
- VERA: Veteran Equitable Resources Allocation
Available for Selected VACAA Awardees

Funding available for:
- Faculty
- Faculty development
- Education leadership and staff
- Teaching materials
- Construction (up to $100,000 over 3 year period)
Successful Year 1 Case Studies

✓ ACGME Accredited
✓ One FTE/year over 3 years for total expansion of 3 FTEs
✓ Residents participate in Academic PACT continuity clinic at the VAMC
✓ Documentation of PC need:
  ✓ Increased need: encounters, unique patients, total bed days/year
  ✓ Wait time for new PC patients > 30 d
  ✓ High percentage of patients cared for at VAMC site (not in geographic HPSA), who live in HPSAs
Successful Year 1 Case Studies

- AOA Accredited

- Geriatrics rotation at Community Living Center (CLC) with exposure to hospice and palliative outpatient and consultative care

- Supervision by VA geriatricians

- County is MUA with anticipated PC shortage
ACGME Accredited

Two positions in Round One

VA COS wants FM due to difficulty recruiting FM to PC and VAMC’s 9 CBOCs (all are in HPSAs)

Psychiatry and dermatology rotations to alleviate long wait lists

Supervision by VA providers
OAA is here to help you make the most of your partnership with VA

OAA is your one stop shop for resources, guidance, and all the help you need to create and expand partnerships with VA facilities in your community. We’re ready to work closely with you to answer your questions about Choice Act VA GME funding and make VA GME work for you.

Get the facts:

- VA has and will continue to pay, via contract mechanism, on a pro rata basis, selected program costs such as accreditation and match fees
- OAA, VA, and Congress recognize the importance of fully funding each new position
- Funding under the Choice Act requires accreditation. However, once you’ve applied for accreditation, you can submit a preliminary application for funding (in collaboration with your local VA facility), in anticipation of successful accreditation
- Annually, OAA releases a RFP for infrastructure “start-up” costs for VA facilities with resident positions approved under Choice. We’re working to ensure VA facilities new to GME have all the infrastructure support they need

Call the VA GME Helpline to get started:

202-461-9490
Next Steps: OAA can help you get started

Together, we can build partnerships to help expand Veterans’ access to the health care they’ve earned and deserve.

Call the VA GME Helpline
202-461-9490

Email us at gmehelp@va.gov and visit us online at www.va.gov/oaa

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