



**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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“To Educate for VA and for the Nation”

Office of Academic Affiliations

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QUICK LINKS



- Hospital Locator
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- Protect Your Health
- A-Z Health Topics



Mandatory Training
VHA training developed specifically for health professions trainees.
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[Resident Training](#) [Mandatory Training](#) [Take a Closer Look](#)

As one of four statutory missions, the Department of Veterans Affairs conducts an education and training program for health professions students and residents to enhance the quality of care provided to Veteran patients within the Veterans Health Administration healthcare system. In accordance with this mission, “To educate for VA and for the Nation”, education and training efforts are accomplished through coordinated programs and activities in partnership with affiliated U.S. academic institutions.





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?



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



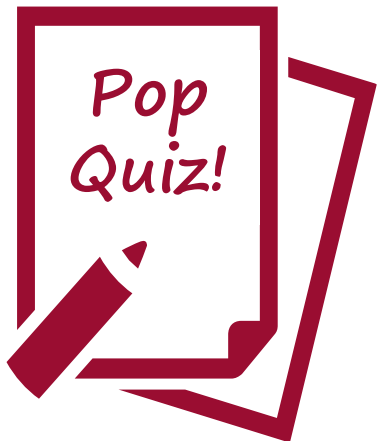
A changing landscape

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



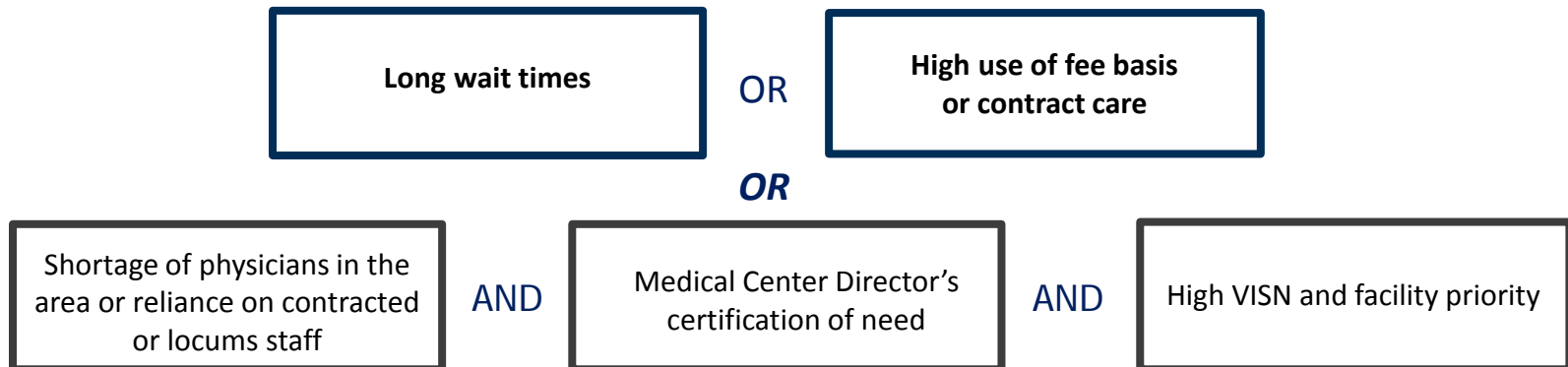
Rural and remote areas



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:





YEAR 1 VA GME Expansion Requests Approved for Recruitment AY 2015-16

Focus	Approved Positions	% of Total
Primary Care	73.8	35%
Mental Health	57.8	28%
New & Expanding Sites	37.8	18%
Rural	6.7	3%
Total	204.2	100%



YEAR 2 VA GME Expansion Requests Approved for Recruitment AY 2016-17

Focus	Approved Positions	% of Total
Primary Care	62.2	37%
Mental Health	38.2	23%
Critical Needs	67.6	40%
Total	168.0	100%

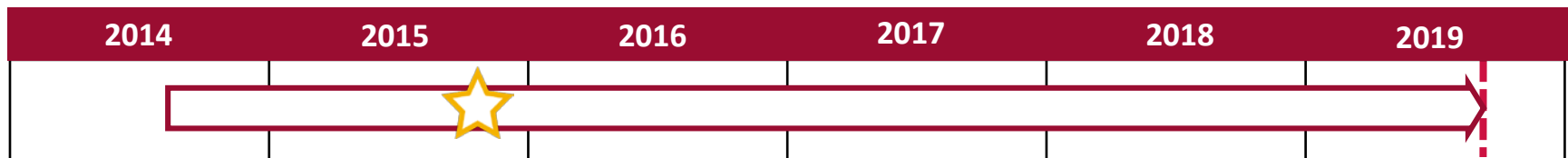
There were 184.2 Year 2 VACAA position requests



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



We are here

Choice deadline


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:



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

VA Educational Infrastructure Support Grants



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



Successful Year 1 Case Studies

- ✓ 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.

We offer support including:

- ✓ VA GME partnership starter kit
- ✓ Real-time, one-on-one consultative services as you reach out to potential new partners in your area
- ✓ Outreach and relationship management tools and guidance

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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