

i. Project Abstract

Project Title: Sutter Amador Hospital: Family Medicine Rural Training Track Program

Applicant Name: Sutter Amador Hospital

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Congressional District: CA-004 (applicant) and CA-004 (project)

Type of Funding Requested: Rural Residency Planning and Development Program

Funding Requested: \$750,000

Sutter Amador Hospital (SAH), a not-for-profit rural hospital located in Jackson, California, seeks to develop a Rural Training Track (RTT) Program in Family Medicine in partnership with Sutter Medical Center Sacramento's (SMCS) existing Family Medicine Residency Program. Both Sutter Amador Hospital and Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento are affiliates of the Sutter Health organization. The mission of the organization is "to enhance the health and well-being of people in the communities we serve through compassion and excellence".

The overarching goal of the Family Medicine RTT Program is to address the physician shortage in rural Amador County, expose residents to a full-spectrum of educational experiences, and improve the health outcomes of the population in Amador County, who often lack access to quality primary health care. SMCS will serve as the urban academic medical center where the first year of training will occur, with the final two years occurring at SAH, in the rural setting. Residents will return to SMCS during their second and third year only if it is essential to meet volume requirements in specialties not available in the rural setting, and to further ensure that they receive optimal educational experiences. Overall, the FM RTT residents will spend more than 51% of their time at SAH. The experience at SAH will provide residents with the depth and breadth of knowledge needed to meet patients' health care needs in rural underserved communities. As studies illustrate that those physicians who are trained in RTT programs are more likely to practice in the rural setting, this collaborative effort between SAH and SMCS will ensure that the growing need for primary care services in Amador County is addressed.

It is our goal to submit of a New Program Application to the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) to achieve accreditation by 2021; recruit two (2) Family Medicine residents to commence training July 1, 2021 – with rotations starting at SMCS, the urban clinical site at that time; and retain at least 50% of the residents post graduate in rural Amador County. Overall, the RTT will support 2 residents in the first year, 2 in the second year, and 2 in the third year. At full complement, the RTT program will support a total size of 6 residents a year. After the program successfully achieves an accreditation status of Continued Accreditation from Initial Accreditation by AGME, program leadership may request a compliment size increase.

With the dwindling number of primary care physicians in rural Amador County, the Rural Training Track in Family Medicine provides an avenue to retain residents in this rural environment. This program will not only attract more physicians to practice in the area, but it will also help improve poor health outcomes and the quality of patient care in this community.