

**Health Resources & Services Administration
Primary Care Training and Enhancement:
Residency Training in Primary Care (PCTE-RTPC) Program**

Project Title: MercyOne Family Medicine Rural Residency Program

Applicant Organization: Iowa Medical Education Collaborative

Address: 1111 6th Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50314

Project Director Name: Joel Wells, DO

Phone number: 515-643-8791

Website: www.mercyone.org/desmoines/careers/graduate-medical-education

HRSA Funding Request: \$1,924,939

Project Period: July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2025

The purpose of the Iowa Medical Education Collaborative's MercyOne Family Medicine Residency Program is to increase accredited residency training in family medicine in rural areas throughout the state of Iowa. Iowa has a shortage of family medicine physicians, especially in its rural communities, and this project is designed to address this need. Our proposal outlines a clear plan to increase the number of primary care physicians recruited, trained, and retained to practice in rural Iowa. This will be the *first family medicine residency rural track in the state of Iowa*.

Project goals are to: (1) Develop a comprehensive family medicine rural residency track that geographically spans a number of rural areas throughout the state. (2) Increase the number of family medicine residents who receive longitudinal clinical training in rural primary care clinics. (3) Increase the knowledge, skills and competencies that family medicine residents will need to effectively practice in a rural community. (4) The graduating family medicine residents who participate in a rural track program will choose to stay and practice in rural Iowa.

The project's goals will be accomplished through a number of activities, including: recruiting residents with ties to rural Iowa; providing development and support to rural preceptors; collaborating with community partners in ten rural communities to develop this program; develop a rural training track program within the Family Medicine residency; training residents in inter-professional team based care in rural settings; providing longitudinal clinical training in rural areas; and implementing a number of activities to retain the graduates in rural Iowa.

This project was developed based on existing academic-clinical partnerships, including participation with MercyOne's rural network, the largest primary care network in the state. The project has the capacity to increase access to care, in their home community, for hundreds of Iowans. This project will address the HHS and HRSA priorities of: mental health, combatting the opioid crisis, telehealth, and preparing residents to work and practice in rural underserved areas to improve community health outcomes. Following conclusion of the grant, the project will continue to expand based on a comprehensive sustainability plan.

Funding Preference Requested: This project qualifies for Funding Preference Qualification 1 as our program has a high rate for placing graduates in practice settings with the principal focus of serving residents of medically underserved communities (MUCs). Fifty-six (56) percent of our Family Medicine Resident graduates from AY 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 are working in practice settings serving MUCs.