

ABSTRACT – HRSA 19-088 – Rural Residency Planning and Development (RRPD) Program
Project Title: “Expanding Access to Care in Remote and Underserved Rural Alabama through FrOntier Rural RESidency Training (FORREST)”

Applicant Name: Cahaba Medical Care Foundation

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Congressional Districts: AL-007, AL-006 **Existing Funding:** CHC, THCGME, PCTE, CARE

The United States has a severe shortage of Primary Care Physicians that is well-described, and that is significantly worse in Rural areas. In Alabama, 62 of 67 counties are health professional shortage areas (HPSA). In fact, the number one healthcare issue in Alabama is “Access to Care, according the Alabama Public Health Department’s most recent statewide Community Health Assessment (2015).

Cahaba Medical Care (CMC) is a Community Health Center (FQHC) and Teaching Health Center (THCGME) Family Medicine Residency with 12 residents per year, that has had a track record of opening an FQHC-based Rural Residency in 2013 (Centreville, Bibb County, AL) and expanding to a second track, an Urban FQHC in 2018 (West End, Birmingham, Jefferson County, AL). CMC as a whole has 10 sites, and has been 3 years in a row-awarded the “access enhancer” award from HRSA. Additionally, 8 of our 12 graduates now work in HPSA areas throughout the United States.

Therefore, we have envisioned and are proposing this response to the Rural Residency Planning and Development (RRPD) Program that would place a 2-2-2 Rural Training Track (RTT) – the Cahaba-UAB FMR “Frontier Track” – in two of the most remote and underserved areas of our state; Marion (Perry County) and Camden (Wilcox County). Our measurable objectives and outcomes include developing already existing relationships in Bessemer, Marion, and Camden, as well as leveraging our own internal GME expertise at CMC, and in our consortium with the UAB School of Medicine, to achieve accreditation for this Frontier RTT, to recruit and fill this track, and to place and retain the majority of the graduates in Rural, underserved areas of the state and region. The project sustainability is sound, with key institutional partners starting the project in good financial health, and with chosen training locations eligible for long-term CMS GME funding. We will use the “1+2 RTT” format, where the first year of graduate medical education occurs in an urban area (UAB Medical West in Bessemer, Jefferson County, AL), followed by an innovative, authentic, and heavily mentored 2 years in the Frontier counties of Perry and Wilcox County.