

**Project Title:** Rural/Underserved Enhancement - MAHEC Family Medicine Residency Program

**Applicant Organization Name:** Mountain Area Health Education Center (MAHEC)

**Address:** 121 Hendersonville Road, Asheville, NC, 28803

**Project Director Name:** Bryan Hodge, DO

**Contact:** 828-696-1234 | bryan.hodge@mahec.net

**Website:** www.mahec.net

**Requested Award Amount for Each Project Year (1-5):** \$500,00

**Funding Preference:** Qualification 1: High Rate

## **PROJECT ABSTRACT**

MAHEC's mission is to *train the next generation of healthcare professionals for western North Carolina (WNC) through quality healthcare, innovative education, and best practice models that can be replicated nationally.* Since 1978, MAHEC has hosted medical residencies specifically geared to the recruitment and retention of physicians in WNC, which includes both clinical and didactic training, aligning with Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) standards, with a focus on providing well-trained physicians to our area.

North Carolina, including the WNC region, is predicted to have increased primary care physician (PCP) shortages in the next 5 years. In order to address the current shortages and increase distribution of *well-trained* PCPs in rural and underserved areas, we propose a 3-fold enhancement to our Family Medicine Residency Program that will begin in July of 2020, and self-sustain following the conclusion of grant funding in June of 2025.

### **Program Objectives:**

1. Increase recruitment of residents with rural background/interest into a unified, core rural/underserved curriculum across the Family Medicine residency program, to include didactic and rotation components focused on substance use disorder (SUD) prevention; medication-assisted treatment (MAT); telehealth; mental/behavioral health; community health outcomes; community leadership; and interprofessional practice.
2. Create WNC Education Consortium, a faculty network across the rural and underserved regions in WNC that will provide a platform for continuing education, sharing of best practices, and engaged learning alongside residents.
3. Incentivize Rural Practice Innovation with a two-fold purpose: current and future Family Medicine (FM) residents will have opportunities rotate with physicians modeling rural practice innovation, allowing them to learn best practices and experience innovative rural medicine; and the innovation rural fellowship will serve as a recruitment and retention mechanism for graduating residents.

### **Anticipated Short-Term Outcomes:**

1. Increased resident knowledge and capacity to provide rural primary care;
2. Increased number of regional rural faculty engaged in continuing education and resident precepting.

**Anticipated Long-Term Outcomes:** 1. Increased number of well-trained FM residency graduates practicing in rural/underserved areas; 2. Increased number of well-trained rural faculty are retained in rural/underserved areas; 3. Innovative rural models shape regional best practices and improve options for patient access to primary care.