

RURAL & REGIONAL PRACTICE COMMITTEE

RURAL & REGIONAL PHYSICIAN ENHANCEMENT TRAINING PROGRAM

A. PROGRAM SUMMARY

Effective October 4, 2017, the RPET Program has the following key features:

I. Annual Training Enhancement Grants

- Two annual grants of up to \$110,000, pro-rated for the length of the program, as income replacement, are available to rural and regional Saskatchewan family physicians who wish to take up to one year of enhanced skills training.
- Two annual grants of approximately \$60,000 are available to second-year family medicine residents who wish to take up to one year of enhanced skills training in obstetrics, anesthesia, general surgery, psychiatry, internal medicine, or geriatrics at the University of Saskatchewan in a supernumerary position.
- A return-in-service commitment to a rural or regional Saskatchewan community is required for both the in-service family physicians and the family medicine residents.
- **The Committee will consider special individualized training circumstances and other training locations.**

II. Eligible communities are those:

- Which are defined as a rural or regional (see section IV Eligible Communities) Saskatchewan community; rural communities must be able to support three or more family physicians; and
- which currently support or have a demonstrated need for the enhanced skill training for which the applicant is applying; and
- which have applied to the program before December 31 of each year for the following academic year.

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B. PROGRAM DETAILS

Description: The Rural and Regional Practice Committee will provide income replacement funding for two in-service rural or regional family physicians and two second year family medicine residents to complete a third year of training to enhance their skills in obstetrics, anesthesia, general surgery, psychiatry, internal medicine, or geriatrics at the University of Saskatchewan in a supernumerary position. Recipients of these grants will be required to sign a commitment to provide service in an eligible rural or regional Saskatchewan community as listed under Section IV.

I. Program Parameters:

Funding under the RPET Program will be available to:

a) In-Service Rural and Regional Family Physicians who:

- have served in a rural or regional (see section IV) Saskatchewan community for a minimum of two years at the time of application;
- are licensed under Section 28 of The Medical Profession Act;
- and meet the entrance requirements established for the enhanced training program by the Department of Family Medicine of the University of Saskatchewan;
- are accepted for training in a position by the Department of Family Medicine of the University of Saskatchewan.

b) Family Medicine Residents who:

- have or will have successfully completed their second year of training through the Family Medicine Residency Training Program, College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan **OR** have successfully completed their undergraduate medical training at the University of Saskatchewan and have or will have successfully completed their second year of training through a Family Medicine Residency Training Program at a Canadian medical school;
- are accepted for training in a supernumerary position by the Department of Family Medicine of the University of Saskatchewan, and

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- are eligible for certification with the College of Family Physicians of Canada.

II. Funding and Disbursement of Grants:

In-Service Rural & Regional Family Physicians will receive income replacement funding totaling up to \$110,000 per annum. This will be paid in equal month installments beginning with the month they start their program.

Third year Family Medicine Residents in supernumerary training positions will receive a stipend equal to that of a resident at Pay Level C (PGY3) of the University of Saskatchewan, College of Medicine grid.

III. Service Commitment (effective December 9, 2025):

a) In-Service Rural and Regional Family Physicians:

Candidates will be required to secure a practice arrangement with a health region and physician practice, acceptable to the Rural & Regional Practice Committee, prior to submitting the application.

Upon completion of training, a return-in-service commitment is required. Practising family physicians are required to provide two years of service in a rural or regional centre per year of funding.

b) Third year Family Medicine Residents:

Candidates will be required to secure a practice arrangement with a health region and physician practice, acceptable to the Rural & Regional Practice Committee, prior to submitting the application.

Upon completion of training, a return-of-service commitment of one year of service is required in a rural or regional centre per year of funding.

IV. Eligible Communities:

Eligible rural and regional communities must:

- a) support a practice of three or more physicians; and
- b) currently have the resources to support and have a demonstrated need for the enhanced skill training for which the applicant is applying.



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Rural communities are defined as having fewer than 10,000 people. Estevan and Weyburn are categorized as rural due to their populations fluctuating around 10,000.

Regional communities are defined as having populations greater than 10,000 excluding Saskatoon and Regina. These are: North Battleford, Swift Current, Moose Jaw, Lloydminster and Yorkton.

The following bedroom communities are excluded from both definitions due to their close proximity to Saskatoon and Regina: Lumsden, Balgonie, Pense, Warman, Clavet, Delisle, Pilot Butte, White City, Martensville, Langham, and Dalmeny.

V. Application Process:

Applicants for funding under this program should submit the attached application form along with a letter from the Department of Family Medicine, University of Saskatchewan, indicating that they meet the RPET Program entrance requirements to:

Rural and Regional Practice Committee
Saskatchewan Medical Association
201 – 2174 Airport Drive
Saskatoon, SK S7L 6M6
Email: rsprograms@sma.sk.ca

The closing date for applications each year is December 31. Please note that the training programs may also have application deadlines. Please contact the Program Director for further information.

Applications will be adjudicated by the Rural and Regional Practice Committee and applicants may be required to submit to a personal interview.

Preference will be given to applicants who:

- have signed a service agreement with a health region and physician group that currently has the resources and facilities to support the specialized service in which they will be seeking specialized training;
- demonstrate a strong commitment to practice in rural or regional Saskatchewan;



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- in the case of in-service rural or regional family physicians, consideration will be given to their length of service in rural or regional Saskatchewan;
- in the case of second year family medicine residents, preference will be given to those who completed their undergraduate degree in medicine at the University of Saskatchewan.

Successful applicants will be required to sign an agreement with the Saskatchewan Health Authority.

VI. Special Circumstances:

Should the enhanced training in which the applicant wishes to pursue not be available from the College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan, this training may be sought outside of Saskatchewan, provided that the enhanced training program meets the approval of the Rural and Regional Practice Committee.

The service commitment for this program cannot be served concurrently with any other service commitment made to the Saskatchewan Health Authority; it must be served consecutively.

Funding will be prorated for applicants applying to an approved enhanced training program that is less than one year in duration.

VII. Relocation Appeals Mechanism:

Physicians who have a valid reason for moving to a new community may reapply to the Rural and Regional Practice Committee. A supporting letter from the physician outlining the reasons for the transfer is also required. Approval will be made at the discretion of the Rural and Regional Practice Committee.

For more information, please contact:

Saskatchewan Medical Association
201 – 2174 Airport Drive
Saskatoon, SK S7L 6M6
Phone: (306) 244-2196
Toll free: 1-800-667-3781
Fax: (306) 653-1631
Email: rsprograms@sma.sk.ca



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