The **Idaho Rural Physician Incentive Program** was established by the 2003 Idaho Legislature to encourage primary care physicians to practice in medically underserved areas of Idaho. To accomplish this, the Rural Physician Incentive Fund was established to facilitate payment of qualified educational debts of rural physicians who practice in areas of the state that are medically underserved and that demonstrate the need for assistance in physician recruitment. The Incentive Fund is funded by fees assessed to all Idaho students participating in the WWAMI and University of Utah state supported medical education programs.

State Board of Education
650 W. State Street
P O Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0037
Phone: 208-334-2270
Fax: 208-334-2632
Web: www.boardofed.idaho.gov

IDAHO RURAL PHYSICIAN INCENTIVE PROGRAM

STATE of IDAHO
BOARD of EDUCATION

Qualifying Locations

The purpose of this program is to provide assistance for rural and medically underserved communities in Idaho which can demonstrate difficulty in attracting and maintaining a sufficient physician workforce to serve their population. The applying physician and community sponsoring organization must provide services in a federally designated Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA), as determined by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services http://hpsafind.hrsa.gov/. The community sponsoring organization must demonstrate a challenge to recruit and retain physicians.

Eligibility Criteria

* During the period covered by the award, the physician must be a rural physician providing primary care medicine in an eligible area;
* The physician must be a Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) or Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.) and have completed an Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education or American Osteopathic Association residency;
* The physician must be Idaho Medical Board certified/Board eligible, hold an unrestricted Idaho medical license, and be able to meet the medical staffing requirements of the sponsoring organization when applicable; and
* The physician must be eligible to care for Medicare and Medicaid patients within the scope of the physician's primary care medicine practice.

Benefits and Obligations

Program benefits allow payment of up to $50,000 in total toward qualified educational loans of participating health professionals over a one to five year period of service in a location of physician need. Payments are disbursed directly to a physician's lending institution(s) in six-month increments over their designated service period. Disbursements are for $10,000 for each year of service. These benefits are in addition to any salary or other compensation received by the physician until the obligation is satisfied. If an individual is receiving funds from a federal loan repayment program, payments from the Idaho Rural Physician Incentive Program will not begin until the federal funds have been exhausted. State and federal loan repayment benefits may not run concurrently.

To obtain more information including application materials, visit our website at **http://www.boardofed.idaho.gov** and click on Public Colleges & Universities | Special Programs