



**Maple
Mountain**
CONSORTIUM

**VERMONT'S FQHC
TEACHING HEALTH CENTER GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION
FAMILY MEDICINE RESIDENCY**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

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CURRENT VERMONT PRIMARY CARE LANDSCAPE

- 566 physicians provide mainly primary care = 426.3 FTEs [approximately 50% are Family Medicine physicians]
- 33% are over the age of 60 – down 3% from 2018
- Primary care physicians FTEs dropped 9.6 FTEs [2%] since 2018 correlated to retirement or reduction of hours
- Over a 10-year period 2010-2020 FTEs decreased by 65.8 [13%]
- Family Medicine 20-year increase is 7% - 20 new physicians [2020 total family medicine physicians 278]
- Specialist Physicians continue to grow
 - 20-year increase is 130% - 1,172 physicians
 - 10-year period FTEs increase 130.5 [16%]

NEED TO INVEST IN FAMILY MEDICINE

Source: Vermont Department of Health 2020 Physician Census Statistical Report

TEACHING HEALTH CENTER GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION RESIDENCY MODEL - FQHC FOCUSED

- Congress and Health Resources and Services Administration [HRSA] saw the need to invest in primary care.
- In 2010 created Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education [THCGME] program to support retaining family medicine residents in FQHCs. Administered under the direction of HRSA.
- Since inception the program has trained 2,027 new primary care physicians and dentists across the country.
- Academic Year[AY] 2022-2023 THCGME funds are supporting 960 residents in 72 primary care residency programs in 23 states.
- THCGME graduates are more likely to offer behavioral health care and substance use disorder treatment services to patients due to being trained in FQHC environment.

KEEPING FAMILY MEDICINE PHYSICIANS IN VERMONT

	<u>THC Graduates</u>	<u>Non-THC Graduates</u>
• Rural area	17.9%	11.8%
• Within 5 miles of residency	18.9%	12.9%
• Medically underserved communities	35.3%	18.6%
• In FQHCs or Look-Alikes	26.7%	11.7%

Source: HRSA BHW presentation September 13, 2023.

VERMONT'S FAMILY MEDICINE INVESTMENT MAPLE MOUNTAIN CONSORTIUM

- Led by Lamoille Health Partners created Maple Mountain Consortium. Entity responsible for development & accreditation of a rural family medicine residency program with participating FQHCs and community hospitals.
- Maple Mountain Consortium received initial accreditation and now developing curriculum for family medicine residency program.
- Three-year residency program designed to accommodate 6-12 residents per class.
- Training sites across Vermont.

CONSORTIUM PRELIMINARY SITE PARTNERS

- Primary Site Partners:
 - Teaching Health Centers: Community Health, Gifford Health Care, Lamoille Health Partners, Northern Counties Health Care, Northern Tier Center for Health, North Star Health.
 - Hospitals: Copley Hospital, Gifford Health Care, Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital, Northwestern Medical Center, Rutland Regional Medical Center, Springfield Hospital, University of Vermont Health Network.
- Elective/Selective Site Partners:
 - Battenkill Valley Health Care, Community Health Centers of Burlington, Little Rivers Health Care, Mountain Health Center, The Health Center.

ADDITIONAL STAKEHOLDERS

- Academic health care partners:
 - UVM Larner School of Medicine, Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth, Vermont AHEC.
- Bi-State Primary Care Association
 - Technical assistance & convener role.
- Supportive stakeholders:
 - Vermont Medical Society, Vermont Academy of Family Physicians, Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems.

PROGRAM PRINCIPLES

- Resident training focused on key role of primary care.
- Community & population health-focused.
- Robust behavioral health curriculum.
- Cultural competency & culture relevance footings.
- Recruit highly qualified residents passionate about providing care to rural Vermont.

PROGRAM TIMELINE

- April 2023 Lamoille Health Partners receives HRSA Planning & Development Grant.
[covers April 2023 – March 2025]
- July 2023 Maple Mountain Consortium established.
- January 2024 Maple Mountain Consortium receives Sponsoring Institution accreditation.
[first step required before submitting program application]
- Summer 2024 submit Family Medicine Residency Application.
- Fall 2024 site visit review.
- January 2025 application reviewed.
- Spring 2025 receive accreditation for Family Residency Program and begin recruiting medical students.
- September 2025 medical students apply to residency programs.
- March 2026 selection process for PGY1 residents.
- **July 2026 PGY1 residents begin training.**

PROGRAM MAJOR CHALLENGE

RESIDENCY TRAINING COSTS

- Current Residency Training Costs
 - Median Per Resident Amount [PRA] AY 2022-2023 \$209,623
 - THC GME funding per resident AY 2022-2023 \$160,000
 - Covers 76% of true median cost of training
- Vermont could experience higher Per Resident Amount
 - Housing inventory shortages
 - Site travel/rotation could be higher than national averages
- Federal Funding
 - Bipartisan Primary Care and Health Workforce Act to increase THC GME funding
 - Funding could adjust per resident AY to \$180,000

Source: Current resident training costs – Milken Institute School of Public Health, The George Washington University.