

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 42 C.F.R. § 447.205, the Georgia Department of Community Health is required to give public notice of any significant proposed change in its methods and standards for setting payment rates for services.

Expansion of the Graduate Medical Education (GME) Residency Program STATE PLAN AMENDMENT (SPA)

Pursuant to House Bill 68, passed in the 2025 legislative session, and pending approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Department of Community Health (DCH) seeks to expand the Graduate Medical Education (GME) residency program to include additional residency slots for primary care physicians in a designated primary care professional shortage area, other professional shortage area, or other medically underserved area.

Upon receiving approval from CMS, this change will be effective January 1, 2026. The additional GME residency slots are designed to train physicians in rural settings to address physician shortages within those communities.

Eligible hospitals and qualifying institutions may receive a payment of \$100,000 for each newly created resident position that is filled on or before March 20, 2026. If the number of eligible Full-Time Equivalents (FTE) multiplied by \$100,000 in a given year exceeds the amount of the state annual appropriations, the amount per FTE will be reduced proportionally so that the program stays within the budget authority for that fiscal year. If additional funding becomes available through state appropriations, the amount per FTE will be increased proportionally to account for the additional funds. Eligible hospitals and qualifying institutions must have a GME program that is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) or the Osteopathic Postdoctoral Training Institution (OPTI). The new GME slots may be filled by physicians with a primary specialty of family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, or psychiatry.

SFY 2026	State Funds	Federal Funds	Total
	\$4,000,000	\$7,872,959	\$11,872,959

This public notice is available for review at each county Division of Family and Children Services office. An opportunity for public comment will be held on **December 18, 2025 at 11:30 a.m., via Zoom audio**. There will be **no in-person** attendance at the Department of Community Health (DCH).

Individuals who are disabled and need assistance to participate during this meeting should call (404) 656-4479 at least three (3) business days before the scheduled public hearing to ensure any necessary accommodations can be provided.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88107160939?pwd=r7QfZbpF65C3w2nOZWozVLHmtz3HdP.1>

Meeting ID: 881 0716 0939

Passcode: 816505

One tap mobile

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Individuals wishing to comment in writing on any of the proposed changes should do so on or before December 29, 2025 to D'Lawren Hicks c/o the Board of Community Health, Post Office Box 1966, Atlanta, Georgia 30301-1966. You may also email comments to D'Lawren Hicks dlawren.hicks@dch.ga.gov or fax to 404-651-6880.

Comments submitted will be available for review by submitting a request via email to openrecordsrequest@dch.ga.gov. *Please note that any comments submitted are subject to open records.*

If the proposed changes are presented to the Board for final action, relevant comments from written and public testimony will be provided to the Board. The Board expects to vote on the proposed changes at the Board meeting to be held on **January 8, 2026**, at 10:30 a.m. at the Department of Community Health unless withdrawn or withheld by the Department for further review.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THIS 11th DAY OF DECEMBER 2025
Dean Burke, MD, Commissioner