

Evaluation of Funding Strategy used for Bureau of Health Profession's Expansion of Physician Assistant Training Program

Who is doing this evaluation?

The Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA), Office of Planning, Analysis and Evaluation (OPAE) is conducting this evaluation for internal use only.

What is the purpose of the evaluation?

The expected increase in demand for primary care providers over the next 5 years led the Administration to invest \$30 million from the Public Health and Prevention Fund (P.L. 111-148, Section 4002) of the Affordable Care Act in the Expansion of Physician Assistant Training Program. The purpose of these programs is to increase the number of primary care providers by expanding enrollment (as opposed to funding current trainees) and assure that additional clinicians will be trained and work as primary care providers.

HRSA is conducting an evaluation of this funding strategy. We are interested in learning the strengths and weaknesses of this funding strategy and its likelihood of meeting the goal of expanding the primary care workforce. We are interested in determining the level of satisfaction of eligible organizations with various aspects of this funding opportunity, including the availability of the funding opportunity announcement and the application process. We are also interested in the perceptions of the impact of adding new trainees on organizations. The evaluation includes telephone surveys focusing on both applicants and non-applicants.

What will happen to the information I provide?

We will group your answers with those from other respondents and look for trends and common themes. Responses will not be shared publicly and no individual comments will be included in our report, unless we have specific permission to do so.

What does participation mean for me and for my organization?

Participation in this evaluation by a broad variety of organizations will enable us to gain an understanding of this funding opportunity which focused on building capacity to expand the primary care workforce. Your comments will assist HRSA in general service improvement in the future. Findings will only be used for internal service improvement and will not be shared with the public. No one outside of the evaluation team will know whether you participate or not.

What do I do to participate in the survey?

Participation involves a telephone survey. We welcome the participation of appropriate individuals in your organization on the call. We will call or email you to schedule the telephone survey.

Thank you for taking the time to help us to better understand this important component of primary care workforce development.