

**ANNEX F**

**HEALTH CARE PROVIDER QUESTIONNAIRE**

**ERS: Rural Community Wealth and Health Care Provision  
 PROVIDERS MAIL/WEB SURVEY  
 9/20/2013**

| <b>Verification.</b>   |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1. Are you currently working as a health care provider in [TOWN], [STATE]?</p> <p>1 = Yes</p> <p>2 = No →      If no, please return this survey in the envelope provided, so we can correct our records and do not continue to try to reach you. Thank you!</p> |   |
| <b>Your Background.</b>  |   |
| <p>2. Your current role as a health care provider:</p> <p>1 = Physician (MD or DO)</p> <p>2 = Dentist</p> <p>3 = Physician's Assistant</p> <p>4 = Nurse Practitioner</p> <p>5 = Midwife</p> <p>6 = Other: _____</p>  | <p>3. Your specialty:</p> <p>1 = Family Practice, General Practice</p> <p>2 = Internal Medicine</p> <p>3 = OB/GYN</p> <p>4 = Pediatrics</p> <p>5 = Other: _____</p>   |
| <p>4. Where do you live in relationship to [TOWN]?</p> <p>1 = Within city limits</p> <p>2 = Within 2 miles of town</p> <p>3 = 2 to 10 miles from town</p> <p>4 = 10 to 20 miles from town</p> <p>5 = 20 or more miles from town</p>                                | <p>5. Did you ever live in [TOWN] before you began working there as a health care provider?</p> <p>1 = Yes</p> <p>2 = No</p>  |
| <p>6. Year you completed your highest level of medical/dental training:    _ _ _ _ _</p>   | <p>7. Year you began working as a health care professional in this community:    _ _ _ _ _</p>  |
| <p>8. Location of your medical/dental training:</p> <p>1 = USA →    State: _____</p> <p>2 = Other country: _____</p>   | <p>9. Did you spend any part of your residency, an internship, or externship in a rural area or a small town? (&lt;20,000 pop.)</p> <p>1 = Yes                      2 = No</p>  |
| <p>10. Location where you graduated from high school:</p> <p>1 = USA →    State: _____</p> <p>2 = Other country: _____</p>   | <p>11. Where did you primarily grow up?</p> <p>1 = Farm/ranch, not in a town or city</p> <p>2 = Town of less than 20,000 population</p> <p>3 = City of 20,000 to 100,000 population</p> <p>4 = City/Metropolitan area over 100,000 pop.</p> |

| Your Current Practice.   |   |
|--|---|
| <p>12. Where is your current practice based?</p> <p>1 = In a hospital<br/>           2 = In a clinic<br/>           3 = In an office setting<br/>           4 = In a retail business setting<br/>           5 = Other: _____</p>       | <p>13. Are you the sole owner, a part-owner, or an employee of your practice?</p> <p>1 = Sole owner<br/>           2 = Part-owner<br/>           3 = Employee</p> |
| <p>14. Number of hours you work per week in [TOWN] (on average):</p> <p>_____ hours/week</p>   | <p>15. Number of hours you work per week in other communities (if any, on average):</p> <p>_____ hrs/wk      0 = None</p>   |
| <p>16. Which best describes your current on-call responsibilities?</p> <p>1 = Do not have on-call responsibilities<br/>           2 = Acceptable on-call responsibilities<br/>           3 = Unacceptable on-call responsibilities</p> | <p>17. Do you have adequate professional coverage for your practice while you are on vacation?</p> <p>1 = Yes<br/>           2 = No</p>                           |

| Your Recruitment Experience.   |
|--|
| <p>18. How did you learn about the opportunity to work in this community? <i>(Circle all that apply.)</i></p> <p>1 = Family or friends<br/>           2 = Professional colleague<br/>           3 = School faculty or placement office<br/>           4 = Position announcement<br/>           5 = Town representative or organization<br/>           6 = Professional recruiter<br/>           7 = Someplace else: _____</p>  |
| <p>19. Was there a specific recruitment effort on the part of [TOWN] leaders to encourage you to work in this community?</p> <p>1 = Yes<br/>           2 = No      <b><i>[If No or Unsure, please go to Q.21, next page.]</i></b><br/>           3 = Unsure, don't remember</p>  |
| <p>20. <b>If yes</b>, what did the recruitment entail? <i>(Circle all that apply)</i></p> <p>1 = Information provided by community (e.g., brochures, lists of services, etc.)<br/>           2 = Site visit for myself arranged by community<br/>           3 = Site visit for my spouse/children arranged by community<br/>           4 = Site visit for myself arranged by employer<br/>           5 = Site visit for my spouse/children arranged by employer<br/>           6 = Other <i>(Describe below)</i></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> |

**Your Decision to Work in This Community.**

21. How important to you were each of the following factors in your decision to practice in this community?

|   | Not Important |   | Neutral |   | Very Important |
|---|---------------|---|---------|---|----------------|
| a. Your own familiarity with this area                                      | 1             | 2 | 3       | 4 | 5              |
| b. Opportunities for your spouse or partner                                 | 1             | 2 | 3       | 4 | 5              |
| c. Relatives or friends are nearby  | 1             | 2 | 3       | 4 | 5              |
| d. Good place to raise a family   | 1             | 2 | 3       | 4 | 5              |
| e. Quality of schools   | 1             | 2 | 3       | 4 | 5              |
| f. Size of the town   | 1             | 2 | 3       | 4 | 5              |
| g. Recreational opportunities   | 1             | 2 | 3       | 4 | 5              |
| h. Natural amenities (climate, scenery, lakes/rivers/ocean, etc.)           | 1             | 2 | 3       | 4 | 5              |
| i. Cultural amenities (local arts, historical sites, cultural events, etc.) | 1             | 2 | 3       | 4 | 5              |
| j. Social opportunities (churches, social organizations, etc.)              | 1             | 2 | 3       | 4 | 5              |
| k. Friendliness of the people   | 1             | 2 | 3       | 4 | 5              |
| l. Availability of goods and services                                       | 1             | 2 | 3       | 4 | 5              |
| m. Low taxes  | 1             | 2 | 3       | 4 | 5              |
| n. Low cost of living   | 1             | 2 | 3       | 4 | 5              |
| o. The need for health care providers in the community                      | 1             | 2 | 3       | 4 | 5              |
| p. Recruitment efforts by the community                                     | 1             | 2 | 3       | 4 | 5              |
| q. Placement through a program (NHSC, visa waiver, etc.)                    | 1             | 2 | 3       | 4 | 5              |
| r. Quality of medical facilities  | 1             | 2 | 3       | 4 | 5              |
| s. Quality of the medical community   | 1             | 2 | 3       | 4 | 5              |
| t. Opportunities for your professional growth/advancement                   | 1             | 2 | 3       | 4 | 5              |
| u. Opportunity to own a practice  | 1             | 2 | 3       | 4 | 5              |
| v. Good financial package (salary, benefits, loan forgiveness, etc.)        | 1             | 2 | 3       | 4 | 5              |
| w. Reasonable workload  | 1             | 2 | 3       | 4 | 5              |

22. What is the **most important reason** why you chose to practice in this community?

23. What was the **biggest drawback** to choosing to practice in this community?

| <b>Your Decision to Stay in This Community.</b>   |                      |   |                |   |                       |
|---|----------------------|---|----------------|---|-----------------------|
| 24. How important to you are each of the following reasons for <b>continuing to work</b> in this community? |                      |   |                |   |                       |
|   | <b>Not Important</b> |   | <b>Neutral</b> |   | <b>Very Important</b> |
| a. Your family is settled there; don't want to uproot them  | 1                    | 2 | 3              | 4 | 5                     |
| b. Your spouse or partner has a good job/career   | 1                    | 2 | 3              | 4 | 5                     |
| c. Relatives or friends are nearby  | 1                    | 2 | 3              | 4 | 5                     |
| d. Good place to raise a family   | 1                    | 2 | 3              | 4 | 5                     |
| e. Quality of schools   | 1                    | 2 | 3              | 4 | 5                     |
| f. Size of the town   | 1                    | 2 | 3              | 4 | 5                     |
| g. Recreational opportunities   | 1                    | 2 | 3              | 4 | 5                     |
| h. Natural amenities (climate, scenery, lakes/rivers/ocean, etc.)   | 1                    | 2 | 3              | 4 | 5                     |
| i. Cultural amenities (local arts, historical sites, cultural events, etc.)                                 | 1                    | 2 | 3              | 4 | 5                     |
| j. Your involvement in community activities   | 1                    | 2 | 3              | 4 | 5                     |
| k. Friendliness of the people, good friendships   | 1                    | 2 | 3              | 4 | 5                     |
| l. Availability of goods and services   | 1                    | 2 | 3              | 4 | 5                     |
| m. Low taxes  | 1                    | 2 | 3              | 4 | 5                     |
| n. Low cost of living   | 1                    | 2 | 3              | 4 | 5                     |
| o. The need for health care providers in the community, having a positive impact through your practice      | 1                    | 2 | 3              | 4 | 5                     |
| p. Efforts by the community to encourage you to stay  | 1                    | 2 | 3              | 4 | 5                     |
| q. Quality of the medical facilities  | 1                    | 2 | 3              | 4 | 5                     |
| r. Quality of the medical community   | 1                    | 2 | 3              | 4 | 5                     |
| s. Good professional contacts and collegiality in the medical community                                     | 1                    | 2 | 3              | 4 | 5                     |
| t. Opportunities for your professional growth/advancement   | 1                    | 2 | 3              | 4 | 5                     |
| u. Your investment in your practice (patient base, office, equipment, etc.)                                 | 1                    | 2 | 3              | 4 | 5                     |
| v. Good financial package   | 1                    | 2 | 3              | 4 | 5                     |
| w. Reasonable workload  | 1                    | 2 | 3              | 4 | 5                     |

25. Have you ever seriously considered moving and practicing in a different location?  
 1 = Yes  
 2 = No [IF NO, GO TO Q28, BELOW]

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26. IF YES: What was the main reason that you considered leaving?

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27. IF YES: What was the main reason that you decided to stay?

| Availability and Quality of Health Care in [TOWN]   |   |           |                   |                |  |                   |   |                   |                |    |            |  |  |  |
|---|---|-----------|-------------------|----------------|--|-------------------|---|-------------------|----------------|----|------------|--|--|--|
| 28. How would you rate the overall <b>availability</b> of health care in this community?  |   |           |                   |                | 31. How would you rate the overall <b>quality</b> of health care in this community?  |                   |   |                   |                |    |            |  |  |  |
| Poor  | Fair  | Good      | Very Good         | Excellent      | Poor   | Fair              | Good  | Very Good         | Excellent      |    |            |  |  |  |
| 1   | 2   | 3         | 4                 | 5              | 1  | 2                 | 3   | 4                 | 5              |    |            |  |  |  |
| 29. In your opinion, how has the <b>availability</b> of health care services in this community changed over the past 5 years?         |   |           |                   |                | 32. In your opinion, how has the <b>quality</b> of health care services in this community changed over the past 5 years?         |                   |   |                   |                |    |            |  |  |  |
| Declined a Lot  | Declined a Little                                   | No Change | Improved a Little | Improved a Lot | Declined a Lot   | Declined a Little | No Change   | Improved a Little | Improved a Lot |    |            |  |  |  |
| 1   | 2   | 3         | 4                 | 5              | 1  | 2                 | 3   | 4                 | 5              |    |            |  |  |  |
| 30. In your opinion, are the changes in the <b>availability</b> of health care in this community due to any of the following reasons? |   |           |                   |                | 33. In your opinion, are the changes in the <b>quality</b> of health care in this community due to any of the following reasons? |                   |   |                   |                |    |            |  |  |  |
|   |   |           | Yes               | No             | Don't Know   |                   |   |                   | Yes            | No | Don't Know |  |  |  |
| a.  | Changes in health care facilities or equipment      |           | 1                 | 2              | 3  | a.                | Changes in health care facilities or equipment      |                   | 1              | 2  | 3          |  |  |  |
| b.  | Changes in health care professionals                |           | 1                 | 2              | 3  | b.                | Changes in health care professionals                |                   | 1              | 2  | 3          |  |  |  |
| c.  | Changes in health facility administration/ownership |           | 1                 | 2              | 3  | c.                | Changes in health facility administration/ownership |                   | 1              | 2  | 3          |  |  |  |
| d.  | Changes in government policies/programs             |           | 1                 | 2              | 3  | d.                | Changes in government policies/programs             |                   | 1              | 2  | 3          |  |  |  |
| e.  | Changes in the health insurance industry            |           | 1                 | 2              | 3  | e.                | Changes in the health insurance industry            |                   | 1              | 2  | 3          |  |  |  |
| f.  | Changes in the local economy or business            |           | 1                 | 2              | 3  | f.                | Changes in the local economy or business            |                   | 1              | 2  | 3          |  |  |  |

| community  | community  |
|--|--|
| <b>Recruitment and Retention of Other Providers</b>  |  |
| <p>34. In the past 5 years, have you ever been involved in the recruitment of other health care professionals to your town?</p> <p>1 =Yes<br/>2 = No</p> | <p>35. In the past 5 years, have you ever been involved in an organized effort to encourage other local health care professionals to stay in your town?</p> <p>1 =Yes<br/>2 = No</p> |
| <p>36. In general, what would you say is the most important factor in <b>successfully recruiting or retaining</b> health care providers in [TOWN]?</p>   | <p>37. In general, what would you say is the greatest <b>difficulty in recruiting or retaining</b> health care providers in [TOWN]?</p>  |

| <b>Community Involvement</b>  |  |
|---|--|
| <p>38. How much have you been involved in volunteer activities in this community that are related to health care or promoting healthy lifestyles?<br/><i>(E.g., speaking to local groups on health issues, helping address a local health problem, participating in a community health fair, etc.)</i></p> <p>1 = Not at all<br/>2 = Some<br/>3 = A Lot</p> | <p>39. How much have you been involved in other volunteer activities in this community that are <b>not related to health</b>?<br/><i>(E.g., school, charity, sports activities, etc.)</i></p> <p>1 = Not at all<br/>2 = Some<br/>3 = A Lot</p> |
| <p>40. Do you currently hold a local <b>government</b> leadership position in this community?</p> <p>1 = Yes<br/>2 = No</p>   | <p>41. Do you currently hold a leadership position in a <b>civic organization</b> in this community?</p> <p>1 = Yes<br/>2 = No</p>   |
| <p>42. How many local organizations or associations do you belong to in this community?<br/><i>(E.g., churches, service or sports clubs, school or business organizations, etc.)</i></p> <p>0 = None<br/>1 = One or two<br/>2 = Three to five<br/>3 = Six to ten</p>  | <p>43. How easy is it for someone to get involved in community activities in this town?</p> <p>1 = Very easy<br/>2 = Somewhat easy<br/>3 = Unsure<br/>4 = Somewhat difficult<br/>5 = Very difficult</p>  |

4 = More than ten

### Future Outlook

44. What are your professional plans for the next 5 years?

1 = Continue to practice in this community

2 = Move practice to another location

3 = Change career path in this community

4 = Change career path in another location

5 = Retire

6 = Other: \_\_\_\_\_

45. If Q44 is 2, 3, or 4, please explain why.

### Demographic Information

46. Your Gender:

1 = Male

2 = Female

48. Your current age:

\_\_\_\_\_

49. Your Ethnicity:

1 = Hispanic

2 = Not Hispanic

47. Your current marital status:

1 = Married or living as married

2 = Divorced or separated

3 = Widowed

4 = Single never married

51. Your race: *(Circle all that apply)*

1 = White

2 = Black or African American

3 = American Indian or Alaska Native

4 = Asian

5 = Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

6 = Other: \_\_\_\_\_

52. Your household income in 2013:

1 = Less than \$25,000

2 = From \$25,000 up to \$50,000

3 = From \$50,000 up to \$75,000

4 = From \$75,000 up to \$100,000

5 = From \$100,000 up to \$150,000

6 = \$150,000 or more

53. Please record any other comments you would like to make regarding your experience as a health care provider in this community.

*Thank you very much. Iowa State University and the USDA Economic Research Service greatly appreciate your cooperation and assistance. Please return your completed survey in the envelope provided.*