

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
PILOT PROGRAM FOR GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION and RESIDENCY  
UNDER MISSION ACT SECTION 403  
ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-2026**

**INTRODUCTION**

For more than 78 years, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has educated health professions trainees (HPTs) for VA and the Nation, and today is the largest health care training platform in the Nation. Overseen by the [Office of Academic Affiliations \(OAA\)](#), VA annually invests over \$1 billion to provide clinical education and training programs to 120,000 HPTs from 60 health care disciplines. In partnership with over 1,500 academic affiliates, VA conducts health professions education training across 1,000 VA sites of care to advance HPTs' knowledge and skills to care for our nation's Veterans.

This Request for Proposals (RFP) announcement provides information to covered facilities as defined below and Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) Sponsoring Institutions (SI) for Graduate Medical Education (GME) about program requirements and procedures to apply for VA's Pilot Program for Graduate Medical Education and Residency (PPGMER) under the VA Maintaining Systems and Strengthening Outside Networks (MISSION) Act of 2018. MISSION Section 403 permits VA to fund the stipends and benefits of at least 100 physician residents in existing GME programs for rotations at covered facilities.

<b>Funding Opportunity</b>	OAA-GME-FY25-1 PPGMER- Existing Residency Programs
<b>Fiscal Years</b>	2025 - 2026
<b>Resident Rotations</b>	Academic Year (AY) 2025 (July 2025 – June 2026)
<b>RFP Application Window</b>	July 1 – September 30, 2024
<b>Application Deadline</b>	September 30, 2024
<b>Estimated Award Notification</b>	November 2024

**PURPOSE STATEMENT**

The PPGMER aims to increase the number of physicians choosing to practice in underserved regions, thus improving access to care for patients in these areas. This RFP provides the opportunity for ACGME-accredited programs to apply for reimbursement of the proportionate costs of stipends and benefits for individual resident physician's clinical rotations at priority covered facilities through the PPGMER.

**ABOUT THE PILOT PROGRAM**

Covered facilities and GME SIs selected for this program will provide opportunities for their residents to care for patients in underserved areas as a critical component of a comprehensive GME experience.

The pilot program is not a public funding or grant opportunity, but rather a reimbursement from VA to SIs who are responsible for resident physician stipends and benefits. VA will **reimburse** the

GME SIs for the proportionate cost of stipends and benefits for individual residents (*NOT* resident full time equivalent positions (FTE) slots) participating in the PPGMER. The program does not provide continuous funding for resident FTE positions. This RFP provides a one-year funding opportunity for no fewer than 100 individual physician residents.

The pilot program expires August 7, 2031, or when a minimum of 100 residents are funded through the PPGMER.

## FUNDING

SIs will be reimbursed for the proportionate share of resident physician salary and benefits during the time individual residents spent in clinical and educational activities at covered facilities participating in the PPGMER.

Reimbursement will occur through a contract mechanism between OAA and GME SIs. Traditional VA disbursement agreements will not be used for this pilot program. Duplicate federal funding is not permitted.

If 100 residents are not funded in the initial one-year funding period, additional RFPs may be issued. Programs previously awarded can re-apply for additional RFPs through an expedited process to allow additional residents to participate in the covered facility rotations. To receive expedited approval, the program will need to demonstrate evidence of educational quality, provide timely Congressionally mandated reporting data, and maintain compliance with VA financial transactions, agreements, and requirements.

## WHO CAN APPLY

Covered facilities, as defined in the next section, partnering with [ACGME](#)-accredited SIs and programs that have, or plan to have, resident rotations at the covered facilities are eligible to apply. Participants must be willing and able to engage in contracts, agreements, or other arrangements, and to provide data for Congressional reporting as outlined below.

## COVERED FACILITIES

Covered facilities include those operated by an Indian tribe or tribal organization, Indian Health Service (IHS), Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), Department of Defense (DOD) or those located in the local community of a VA facility that has been designated by VA as underserved.

**Note:** Per the MISSION Act Section 403 [Final Rule](#), VA will not use this program to increase resident positions at VA facilities, therefore, VA is not considered a covered facility.

## PRIORITY PLACEMENT

Per the MISSION Act Section 403 and PPGMER regulations, this RFP will prioritize covered facilities operated by either the IHS, an Indian tribe, a tribal organization or covered facilities located in areas designated by VA as underserved.

## CONSIDERATION FACTORS

VA will consider the following factors in the evaluation process. For this RFP, the relative importance for each factor is the same (i.e., weighted scoring will not be used).

1. Covered facility meets criteria for priority placement
2. The covered facility is in an area that demonstrates a clinical need for health care providers, defined as:
  - a. A county has a relative shortage of VA Providers (general practitioners and specialists)
  - b. A county has a low range of clinical specialties
  - c. A health professional shortage area (HPSA) as defined by Health and Human Services (HHS)
  - d. A community that is designated as Rural by the U.S. Census Bureau
  - e. An area with a zip-code designated as a frontier and remote area (FAR) code by the Economic Research Service within the United States Department of Agriculture
  - f. Located in the local community of an underserved VA health care facility
3. Residency program factors:
  - a. ACGME program accreditation status (initial or continued)
  - b. Proposed residency program clinical specialty
  - c. Existing educational infrastructure at the covered facility
    - i. Qualified teaching faculty
    - ii. Learning and working environment at the covered facility
      1. Physical space
      2. Clinical training settings including the patient population

## CONGRESSIONALLY MANDATED REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The PPGMER program is required to report data to Congress on an annual basis. The Office of Management and Budget has approved the information collection provisions in this section under control number 2900-0936.

PPGMER participants will collect and submit the following required data as part of the reimbursement agreement.

1. The number of individual Veterans who received care at the covered facility from residents participating in the pilot program:
  - a. from each resident under the pilot program
  - b. in total under the pilot program
  - c. percentage of all individuals who received care from the residents
2. The number of clinical appointments for Veterans at the covered facility
  - a. in total under the pilot program
  - b. conducted by each resident under the pilot program
  - c. percentage of all clinical appointments conducted by residents under the pilot program

3. If the Residency program is affiliated with VA for resident clinical rotations:
  - a. the percent of time each resident under the pilot program spent training at VA
  - b. percent total training at VA for all residents in the program

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Detailed RFP application requirements and instructions are listed in appendix A.

1. Create an account in the online portal.
2. Complete and submit the full application by COB on **09/30/2024**.

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

1. Information Sessions  
*VA will host two Information Sessions on the following dates:*

<b>July 25 @ 2 p.m. EST</b>	<a href="#">Microsoft Teams Webinar Link</a>
<b>Aug 21 @ 2 p.m. EST</b>	<a href="#">Microsoft Teams Webinar Link</a>

2. Additional resources may be found on the [OAA VA MISSION Act Section 403 web page](#).

## CONTACT

For information concerning this program announcement, please contact [VAMission403Help@va.gov](mailto:VAMission403Help@va.gov)

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## Appendix A: APPLICATION GUIDE

Applicants must create an online account and submit the full application by September 30, 2024.

### Step 1: Online Account Creation

Applicants must register for an account on the [OAA VA MISSION Act Section 403 web page](#)

### Step 2: Submit RFP Application

The following information is required for submission in the online RFP application portal.

#### A. DEMOGRAPHIC AND ACCREDITATION INFORMATION

*Narrative responses in each section must be limited to 1000 characters.*

Demographic information must be consistent with the information found in the [ACGME Accreditation Data System Institution and Program Finder](#).

##### 1. Main Point of Contact Information

- First and Last Name, Credentials
- Position Title
- Organization Name
- Email Address

##### 2. Proposed Program Abstract

- Provide a brief description of the proposed program including the needs to be addressed, the proposed services, and the patient population to be served.

##### 3. Covered Facility Information

- Organization Name
- Physical Address
- Web Address
- Type of organization (Indian tribe or tribal organization, Indian Health Service (IHS), Federally Qualified Health Center / Teaching Health Center, or other)

##### 4. ACGME Sponsoring Institution Information

- Organization Name
- Designated Institution Officer Name
- ACGME Sponsor Number (6-digit)
- Physical Address
- Web Address
- ACGME accreditation status (Initial, Initial with Warning, Continued, Continued with Outcomes, Continued with Warning, or other)

##### 5. Residency Program Information

- Program Name
- Clinical Specialty

- Program Director Name
- ACGME program accreditation # (10-digit)
- ACGME accreditation status (Initial, Initial with Warning, Continued, Continued with Outcomes, Continued with Warning, or other)
- Short description of planned rotations (include rotation length and objectives)
- Proposed total number of residents to rotate at covered facility in AY25 (number of individual residents, not FTE)
- Proposed Program Graduate Year (PGY) Level(s) of residents rotating at covered facilities
- Estimated monthly reimbursement (averaged daily rate x total # of days planned for residents to rotate at the covered facility in the month)
- Estimated annual reimbursement (estimated monthly reimbursement x 12)

## B. RFP CORE NARRATIVE

The narrative provides a comprehensive description of all aspects of the proposed program. Responses should be succinct, self-explanatory, consistent, and well organized so that reviewers can understand the proposed program. Each response must be limited to 1000 characters.

### 1. Proposed Residency Program Goals

*Programs must have clearly defined scope, purpose, learning goals and objectives to provide optimal patient care and resident physician training experiences in compliance with ACGME accreditation standards.*

- a. Outline curricular objectives for covered facility rotation(s) and the benefit of the rotation to the overall training program.

### 2. Existing Infrastructure

*Applicants must demonstrate the availability of the required infrastructure to support the requested PPGMER program including qualified faculty at the covered facility to provide required didactic/clinical education and adequate resident supervision. Faculty members must have appropriate clinical specialty qualifications and credentials.*

- a. Covered Facility Qualified Teaching Faculty List (include name, degree(s), board certification, number of years as faculty, previous experience in supervising resident physicians.)
- b. Learning and Working Environment at the Covered Facility Physical Space (describe the clinical, educational, housing, and administrative space to support the rotation(s) at the covered facility.)
- c. Resident Clinical Settings/Rotations/Experiences (describe the following elements of planned rotation(s) in detail.)
  - Clinical setting (inpatient/outpatient, travel distance etc.)
  - Duration of rotation for each resident
  - Types of clinical and educational experiences provided
  - Describe the relevant patient population (including % of Veterans) as it relates to educational opportunities for resident physicians).

- Provide the planned weekly rotation schedule(s) in the following format.

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
AM							
PM							

3. Proposed Plan for Collecting Congressionally Mandated Data

*Applicants must demonstrate ability to collect and report congressionally mandated data as required in the PPGMER program.*

- Describe the covered facility and sponsoring institution’s plan to collect the required data elements.

4. Estimated Budget for Proportionate Reimbursement of Stipends and Benefits

- Provide the proposed annual budget in the following format.

<b>Estimated Annual Budget</b>				
<i>SIs are reimbursed for proportionate resident time spent in rotations at covered facilities in this pilot program.</i>				
# of Residents in Pilot Program	PGY level of residents rotating at covered facility	Percent time each resident will rotate at covered facility in the AY	Annual Salary & Benefit Costs per Resident (averaged across PGY levels)	Total Estimated Annual Cost
		%	\$	\$

**Approval decisions are based on the quality and completeness of the submitted proposal.**