

## Giving You a Heads-Up on **FRAME** *Florida Reimbursement Assistance for Medical Education*

Physicians were very excited at the end of the last legislative session when we learned that over \$6.3 million had been appropriated to fund a previously standing educational loan forgiveness program for primary care medical professionals who work in underserved areas of Florida.

The Florida Board of Medicine has been working with various primary care associations in the state to hammer out the details. Even though every detail has not been made available here is what we do know:

The FRAME program encourages qualified medical professionals who practice in underserved locations of the state by providing annual payments to offset the loans and educational expenses students incurred in obtaining a medical degree, medical or nursing licensure, advance practice registered nurse licensure, or physician assistant licensure.

There are many areas in Hillsborough County that are considered underserved. One can refer to [www.floridahealth.gov](http://www.floridahealth.gov) and find out what areas are determined to be Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA). The following health care provider types are eligible to participate in the FRAME program:

- Medical doctors with primary care specialties.
- Doctors of osteopathic medicine with primary care specialties.
- Physician assistants.
- APRN's.
- APRN's registered to engage in autonomous practice under section 464.0123, Florida Statutes
- Licensed practical nurses and registered nurses.

Primary care medical specialties for physicians include obstetrics, gynecology, general and family practice, internal medicine, pediatrics, and other specialties which may be identified by the Florida Board of Medicine.

Reimbursement limits for participating health care professionals are established by law and include:

- Up to \$20,000 per year for physicians.
- Up to \$15,000 per year for APRN's to engage in autonomous practice.
- Up to \$10,000 per year for APRN's and physician assistants.
- Up to \$4,000 per year for licensed practical nurses and registered nurses.

We are strongly encouraging any primary care physician in the county who works in an HPSA to apply for this loan. The best way to continue to receive the funding is to show that the need and interest is there every year. **Applications will be available** through the Florida Board of Medicine beginning **February 1, 2023**, and will stay open for only 60 days. They hope to start giving disbursements by July 1, 2023, and the payments will be made directly to the Financial Institution/Loan Originator who holds the educational loan.

Michael Cromer, MD  
Chair, HCMA Government Affairs Committee  
[drmcromer@gmail.com](mailto:drmcromer@gmail.com)  
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