

Why GME Matters for Florida's Health Care Future

Graduate Medical Education (GME) refers to the residency and fellowship training that physicians undergo after medical school to develop the clinical skills required to practice medicine. Where a physician trains is **highly predictive** of where they will practice, ***63.1% of doctors who train in Florida stay in Florida**. Expanding GME funding will **create more opportunities to train and retain** physicians across the state.



By 2035, Florida will face a shortage of 18,000 physicians.

While multiple factors contribute, the core issue is **not training enough physicians** to meet demand. Despite Florida's population growth, **Graduate Medical Education (GME) funding has not kept pace**.

Understanding GME Funding

Florida receives both state Medicaid and federal Medicare funding for GME. However, Medicare is the largest source (71%) and **does not fully cover hospitals' residency costs**. A **1997 federal law capped** the number of **Medicare-funded residency slots, freezing GME funding for 25+ years** despite Florida's population growing from **14.7 million to 23 million**.

The Medicare cap limits physician recruitment and training, worsening the shortage. Lifting the cap would expand access to care and allow Florida's hospitals to train more doctors to meet growing health care needs.

State	Total Residents in Training	Total Medicare DGME Funded Residents	% of Residents not Supported by DGME	Medicare Residents Per 100,000 Population	2024 Population
Florida	5,402	4,171	23%	17.85	23,372,215
Georgia	2,014	1,890	6%	16.9	11,180,878
Massachusetts	4,522	3,902	14%	54.68	7,136,171
New York	17,142	15,230	11%	76.66	19,867,248
Texas	6,016	4,110	32%	13.13	31,209,831

Lifting the cap on Medicare-funded training slots is essential to expanding Florida's physician workforce to care for our growing population.

SOURCE: [Graduate Medical Education in Florida](#) | OPPAGA, Dec. 2023