



Restore funding to the Family Practice Residency Program (FPRP) and invest in Texas' primary care workforce

Invest an additional \$20 million for training family doctors

Texas' 36 family medicine residency programs are the lifeblood of our primary care workforce, preparing more than 300 new family physicians each year to care for patients.

70% of family doctors who complete residency in Texas stay in Texas.

Residency program clinics deliver well-coordinated, cost-effective care, much of it for Medicaid and CHIP patients, Medicare patients, and the uninsured.

Family medicine is the linchpin for providing access to primary care, preventive care, mental health, and maternity care in rural and underserved communities.

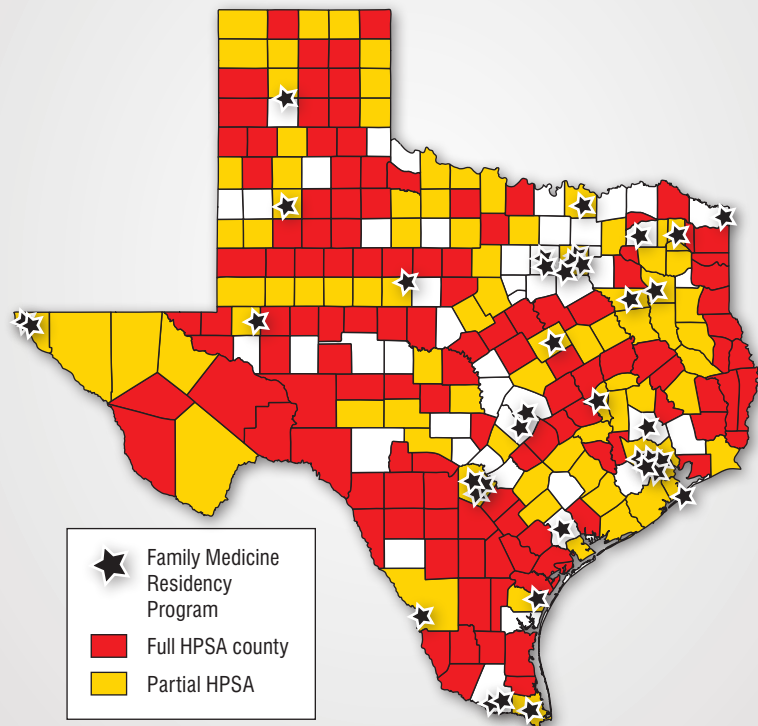
Rural health care — Family physicians provide comprehensive and continuous care, including prenatal and maternal care in rural areas. Experience in rural practice during residency training leads to a 5- to 6-fold increase in new family doctors practicing in rural communities. A portion of FPRP funds goes to support the rural residency tracks that provide that much needed experience for these communities.

Mental health care — As the entry point to the health care system, family physicians manage a significant amount of the mental and behavioral health problems like depression and anxiety among their patients. They are well prepared to provide this care because residency programs have invested in integrating behavioral and mental health into their training and their clinics. With additional funding, they can expand that capacity.

By investing in the FPRP, we can put more doctors in rural areas, close gaps in prenatal and maternal care, and expand access to mental health services.

123 counties in Texas are designated as full Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Areas, and 84 are partial HPSAs (as of 2019)

Texas' 36 family medicine residency programs play a critical role in alleviating that shortage



The Family Practice Residency Program: A targeted investment in Texas' primary care infrastructure

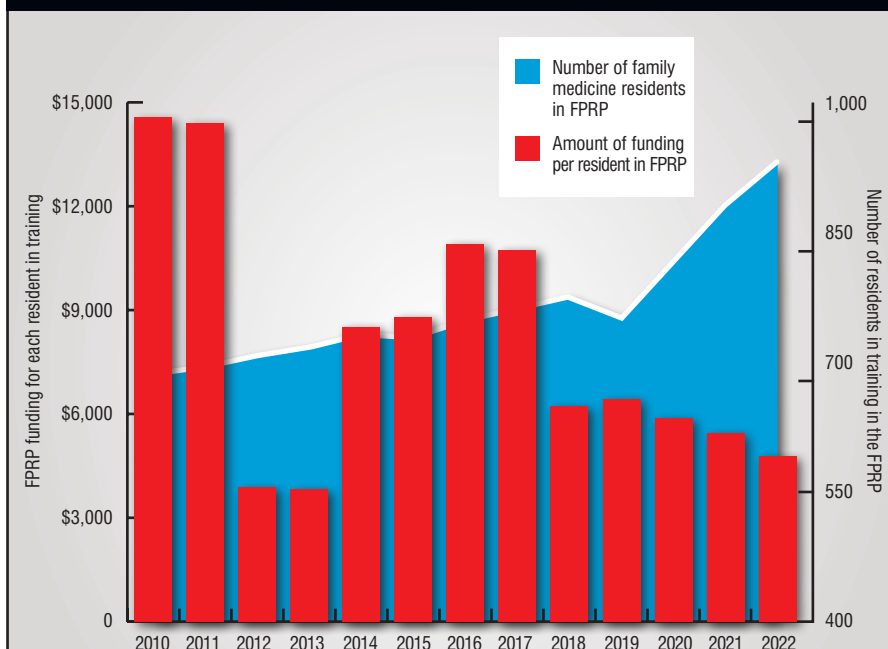
Funding through the Family Practice Residency Program, a strategy of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to increase access to care, is the only direct state support these training programs receive.

In recent years, this funding has been inconsistent and has varied dramatically, putting existing residency programs in jeopardy.

Even as the state has increased the number of residents in training, the amount of THECB funding for family medicine residents has withered, dropping from \$14,300 per resident each year in 2011 to less than \$4,800 in 2022.

The Legislature should renew its investment and support for training new family physicians by allocating an additional \$20 million to the Family Practice Residency Program.

Even as the number of family medicine residents in training climbs, the amount of funding per resident has dropped over time.



\$13,707 Average per-resident FPRP funding 1991 - 2011

\$4,736 Per-resident FPRP funding in 2022

Restoring funding for the Family Practice Residency Program will protect the family medicine residencies that produce the physicians who make up our primary care infrastructure.

As our population grows and ages, we must ensure that all Texans have access to high-quality primary care, and that is most urgently needed in rural and underserved communities. Family physicians are the most likely doctors to practice in those areas. The most efficient way to get more of them is to recruit and train them here at home.