

West Virginia University Institute for Community & Rural Health
Medical Student Service Program: 2025-26
Application Packet

Submission Guidelines:

Your application, two recommendation forms, and the Certification of Education Status must be postmarked or emailed by **February 6, 2026**. Awards will be made in March, 2026.

Please mail or email the entire completed application by the deadline to:

April L. Vestal, MPH
Director
WVU Institute for Community and Rural Health
PO Box 9009
Morgantown WV 26506-9009
Email: avestal@hsc.wvu.edu

Medical Service Program funds are awarded through a competitive process, so please provide complete information. You may attach additional pages if needed. **Please type or your responses in the fillable form below.** You can obtain an application form by visiting <https://www.hsc.wvu.edu/icrh/students/medical-student-service-program> by clicking on Medical Service Program.

The following materials are part of the application:

- * Medical Service Program Student Application
- * Recommendation form (Need 2 recommendations)
- * Certification of Education Status Form
- * Eligible Sites for Service Obligation

Eligibility:

West Virginia University School of Medicine students, who intend to practice in West Virginia in primary care. Selected students will receive **\$25,000** in exchange for their commitment to practice 12 months of full-time practice in an area of need in WV. Students may re-apply for additional years of funding through their 4th year of medical school. Each year of funding will require an additional one year service commitment.

Obligation to Practice in West Virginia:

Students who are awarded service program funding must sign a contract and practice full-time (40 hours per week) for a minimum of one year at an eligible site. (See the 2025-26 Eligible Sites for the WVU Institute for Community and Rural Health Service Program on page 6 of the application).

Students are responsible for locating a practice site and must agree to provide medical services to West Virginia Medicaid and CHIP recipients in a needy area of the state. The penalty for not fulfilling the service obligation is repayment of the scholarship with interest.

Eligibility for Other Financial Incentives:

Students who are awarded the WVU ICRH Service Program Funding also may qualify for other financial incentives for rural practice in West Virginia. In some cases, the service obligations can be met concurrently.

If you have any questions, you may discuss the program with Dr. Larry Rhodes at larhodes@hsc.wvu.edu or April Vestal at avestal@hsc.wvu.edu.

West Virginia University Institute for Community and Rural Health
Medical Student Service Program
Student Application 2025-2026

1. Name: _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)

2. Date of Birth: _____

3. Current Mailing
Street Address: _____

(City) (State/Zip) (County)

Evening/Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

4. Permanent Mailing
Street Address: _____

(City) (State/Zip) (County)

5. Current year in school: _____ Anticipated Graduation Date: _____

6. Have you been a recipient of this service program funding before? ☐ Yes ☐ No

7. Career Goal

8. Are you a resident of West Virginia? ☐ Yes ☐ No
If yes, how many years? _____ What is your home county? _____

9. Name of High School you attended? _____ State:
County _____

10. Did you grow up in a rural area not in West Virginia? ☐ Yes ☐ No

11. Have you ever worked in rural WV? If yes, briefly describe. ☐ Yes ☐ No

If "Yes", how many years? _____ What is your home county? _____

Please provide complete information in your responses. Attach additional pages if necessary.

12. Background:
(Where were you born and raised? What family ties, if any, do you have in rural West Virginia? Have you ever lived or worked in rural West Virginia or another rural area?)

13. What personal and professional attributes make you a good match for rural practice?

14. What do you believe to be the positives and negatives of practicing and living in West Virginia?

15. If you received this funding, what impact would the service obligation have on your personal life?

16. Describe any related community research, service projects, or volunteer work you have done in rural West Virginia.

17. Have you explored practice opportunities in West Virginia? ☐ Yes ☐ No

18. Do you have a geographic preference? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Comments:

19. Do you have any professional or personal barriers to relocating to any part of the state?

20. Do you have any other service obligations, including military obligations? ☐ Yes ☐ No
If "Yes", please describe.

21. Students who receive financial assistance funded by State revenue must be in compliance with the Selective Service Act which requires that males between the ages of 18 and 25 register with the Selective Service. Are you in compliance?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Does not apply

Comments:

22. a. List up to three practice opportunities that you have explored, including the site location.

b. Did you grow up in or near any of the above communities?

☐ Yes

No ☒

Additional Application Materials Required for All Applicants:

In addition to submitting a completed copy of this application, all applicants must also submit the following forms to the WVU Institute for Community and Rural Health. All materials must be postmarked by February 6, 2026.

At least two letters of recommendation (use the enclosed Recommendation form) from (1) an official in the Dean's Office who can address your academic work, clinical skills and professionalism, and (2) An individual (not a relative) who is knowledgeable about your clinical experiences as a health professions student. *Letters of recommendation may be mailed separately, but must be submitted by the deadline.*

A completed version of the enclosed Certification of Educational Status Form executed by yourself and the appropriate school official.

Please notify Dr. Norman Ferrari in the School of Medicine that you are applying for the ICRH Medical Student Service Program.

I hereby certify that all the above statements are true and correct. I understand that, if I am awarded a Medical Service Funding, I am obligated to practice a minimum of one to four years (depending on the amount of the award) in a rural, underserved area of West Virginia or other eligible sites upon graduation.

I understand it is my responsibility to locate a practice site and be prepared to meet with the service program committee to explain why I selected the site.

I also understand that false statements on this application may be grounds for breach of contract.

(Signature of Applicant)

(Date)

Eligible Sites for the WVU Institute for Community and Rural Health Service Program Obligations

2025-26

Dental

- An out-patient primary care or dental site located within a geographically eligible area of the Service Areas List.
- An out-patient primary care or dental site with a facility-based Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) designation located anywhere in the state such as Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) and/or School-Based Health Centers.
- A Free Clinic located anywhere in the state.
- A residential care facility for older adults such as a nursing home located within a geographically eligible area of the *Service Areas List*.

Primary Care Physician

- An out-patient primary care site located within a geographically eligible area of the *Service Areas List*.
- An out-patient primary care site located with a facility-based Health Professional Shortage (HPSA) designation located anywhere in the state such as Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) and/or School-Based Health Center.
- A Free Clinic located anywhere in the state
- A residential care facility for older adults such as a nursing home located within a geographically eligible area of the *Service Areas List*.

Emergency Medicine Physician

- A hospital-based emergency room located anywhere in West Virginia within a geographically eligible area of the *Service Areas List*.

Service Areas List: 2025-26 Counties

Barbour	Boone	Braxton
Brooke	Calhoun	Clay
Doddridge	Fayette (all areas except Beckley)	Gilmer
Grant	Greenbrier	Hampshire
Hancock (Newell only)	Hardy	Harrison
Jackson	Jefferson (Berkeley Springs only)	Lewis
Lincoln	Logan	Marion
Mason	McDowell	Mercer
Mineral	Mingo	Monroe

Morgan
Pleasants
Randolph
Summers
Tyler
Wetzel

Nicholas
Pocahontas
Ritchie
Taylor
Upshur
Wirt

Pendleton
Preston
Roane
Tucker
Webster
Wyoming