



Emily Kiel
Handout
SB 44
RECRUITMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
SPECIAL APPROPRIATION
11/19/24

- SB 44 is an act to make an appropriation to reimburse health care professionals who have complied with the requirements for health care recruitment assistance programs and to declare an emergency.

Recruitment Assistance Program (RAP)

- The recruitment assistance program is designed to assist rural communities recruit physicians, dentists, physician assistants (PAs), nurse practitioners (NPs), nurse midwives (NMs), and certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs). Participants in the program agree to practice in the community for three years at the end of which they will receive an incentive payment.
- Physicians and dentists receive an amount equal to twice the USD School of Medicine resident tuition during the four most recently completed academic years. PAs, NPs, NMs, and CRNAs receive an amount equal to twice the USD resident tuition for PA studies for the three most recently completed academic years.
- The percent of the incentive payment the state must pay is based on community size. For communities having a population of 2,500 or less, the state's portion is 75% of the total amount; for communities of more than 2,500 but less than 5,000, the state's share is 50%; and for communities of 5,000 to 10,000, the state's share is 25%. Communities above a population of 10,000 are not eligible to participate in the recruitment assistance program.

- RAP retention rates are high. To date, a total of 67 physicians have either completed the program or are currently participating in the program; 47 (70.1%) are currently participating, still in the rural community that recruited them, or remained in the community for at least 10 years after completing the program. With respect to dentists, 78.9% (15 of 19) are currently participating, still in the rural community that recruited them, or remained in the community for at least 10 years after completing the program. For the 49 PAs, NPs or NMs that have either completed the program or are currently participating in the program 36 (73.4%) are currently participating, still in the rural community that recruited them, or remained in the community for at least 10 years after completing the program. CRNAs became eligible for the program in July 2021; to date, no CRNAs have participated in the program.

- SB 44 appropriates \$403,363 to the Department of Health to reimburse one physician, two dentists, two PAs, and one NP who will be fulfilling the requirements of their RAP agreements with the State during FY 2025. The practitioners and their practice sites are:

Name	Practice Site	Payment Due	Amount
Thomas Barrett, MD	Deadwood	09/01/2024	\$182,726
Deyn Prodoehl, DDS	DeSmet	08/22/2024	\$182,726
Sierra Powers, DDS	Deadwood	03/01/2025	\$186,074
Brady Hicks, PA	Martin	09/15/2024	\$51,831
April Veurink, PA	Platte	10/01/2024	\$51,831
Alena Pinkelman, NP	Chamberlain/Kennebec	10/04/2024	\$51,831

- The total general funds needed to reimburse eligible professionals who have complied with the requirements of RAP is \$707,019. However, this amount is offset by funds appropriated for this purpose in previous fiscal years but not spent for a total general fund request for RAP of \$403,363.

Rural Health Care Facility Recruitment Assistance Program (RHFRAP)

- The Rural Healthcare Facility Recruitment Assistance Program is designed to assist hospitals, nursing homes, and other health care facilities in rural areas recruit and retain health care professionals.
- Eligible professions receive an incentive payment of \$10,000 upon completion of a three-year practice commitment at the facility. Participating facilities are required to pay a portion of the incentive payment based on community size. Up to 60 healthcare professionals can participate in the program each year.
- Occupations eligible for participation in the program include dietitian/nutritionist, medical technologist, laboratory technologist, nurse (RN or LPN), occupational therapist, paramedic, pharmacist, physical therapist, radiologic technologist, respiratory therapist, speech therapist, healthcare social worker, and dental hygienist. Eligible facilities include licensed hospitals, nursing facilities, federally certified home health agencies, chemical dependency treatment facilities, intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities, ambulance services, community support providers, community mental health centers, ESRD (end stage renal disease) facilities, federally-qualified health centers, and dental practices.
- Since the inception of the program in 2012, a total of 840 healthcare professionals have participated in the program (including current program participants); of those, 527 (62.7%) have either completed their program or are currently practicing in the rural community that recruited them.
- SB 44 appropriates \$297,500 to the Department of Health to 41 eligible healthcare professionals who have complied with the requirements of the RHFRAP. The breakdown by profession and facility type is provided below.

Profession	Number	Facility Type	Number
RN	23	Licensed Hospital	24
LPN	6	Nursing Facility	14
Medical Lab Technician	3	FQHC	2
Occupational Therapist	2	Ambulance Service	1
Paramedic	2	Total	41
Physical Therapist	2		
Radiologic Technologist	3		
Total	41		

- Communities represented include Bowdle, Canton, Clear Lake, Deadwood, Dell Rapids, DeSmet, Flandreau, Fort Pierre, Freeman, Gettysburg, Gregory, Highmore, Hot Springs, Irene, Kadoka, Madison, Miller, Parkston, Phillip, Platte, Presho, Redfield, Scotland, Selby, Sisseton, Tyn dall, Wagner, Wessington Springs, White Lake, and Winner.

Of note: The Office of Rural Health is currently working through a strategic analysis of healthcare workforce needs and related programming. The data collected during this analysis will be used to inform programs in the office, including recruitment assistance programs.

The Department of Health respectfully requests your support of SB 44.