

PRIMO

**Primary Care Resource
Initiative for Missouri
Annual Report 2016**



About This Report

Missouri Revised Statutes Section 191.411 charges the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (hereinafter referred to as the Department) with developing and implementing a plan to define a system of coordinated health care services available and accessible to all Missourians. The Primary Care Resource Initiative for Missouri (PRIMO) was established as a major component of this legislation.

What is PRIMO?

PRIMO is a multifaceted approach to the health care delivery of services for all Missourians. The Department contracts with public and private health care providers for delivery of such services by using allocated resources to increase the number primary care providers and assist communities in developing their own systems of health care.



4 Components of PRIMO

- Student Loans
- Healthcare Delivery System Development
- Recruitment/Placement of Health Professionals
- Health Professional Loan Repayment Program

PRIMO SFY16 Budget

Student Loans*	\$500,000.00
Healthcare Delivery	\$540,000.00
Recruitment/Placement	\$110,000.00
Loan Repayment*	\$250,000.00

* PRIMO student loans and the loan repayment were made available through funds donated by the Missouri Hospital Association and money repaid to the program.



PRIMO Student Loans

The PRIMO Student Loan Program is a **competitive State program that awards forgivable loans to students pursuing health care training leading to Missouri licensure**. Debts are forgiven in exchange for practicing in an area of need also known as a federally designated Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA).

Who can apply?

Applicants must be a Missouri resident attending a Missouri institution as a full-time student. Applicants must also have been accepted by, or currently attend a school offering a course of study leading to a degree as specified in eligible health disciplines.

The eligible health disciplines

- Primary care physicians (internal medicine, pediatrics, OB/GYN, family medicine)
- Primary care dentists (general dentistry, pediatrics)
- Dental hygiene

Funding available

- The amount of funding provided depends upon the student’s chosen discipline and educational status. Amounts range from \$5,000 to \$20,000 per year.

Repayment terms

Repayment of loans can be completed either through cash repayment or through obtaining qualifying employment to earn forgiveness.

- **Forgiveness:** Recipients repay their PRIMO loans by working as a primary care provider in an area of defined need/HPSA upon completion of training and licensure. The number of years a PRIMO participant works to repay a debt through forgiveness is determined by the number of PRIMO loans received, with a minimum one-year and maximum five-year service obligation.
- **Qualifying Employment:** Qualifying employment is considered as full-time, direct patient care at a facility located in an area of need/HPSA. The licensed PRIMO participant must accept Medicaid/Medicare and work at an employment site that operates with a sliding fee schedule. Professional primary care services must be provided to the general population. Qualifying employment is capped at five years even if a PRIMO participant receives more than five loans.
- **Cash Repayment:** Loans accrue interest at the rate of 9.5 percent from the date the first payment is issued.

Utilizing an annual \$500,000 contribution by the Missouri Hospital Association, PRIMO supported the continued education of five medical residents, one medical student, six dental students and two dental hygienists.

PRIMO Student Loans Fiscal Year 2016

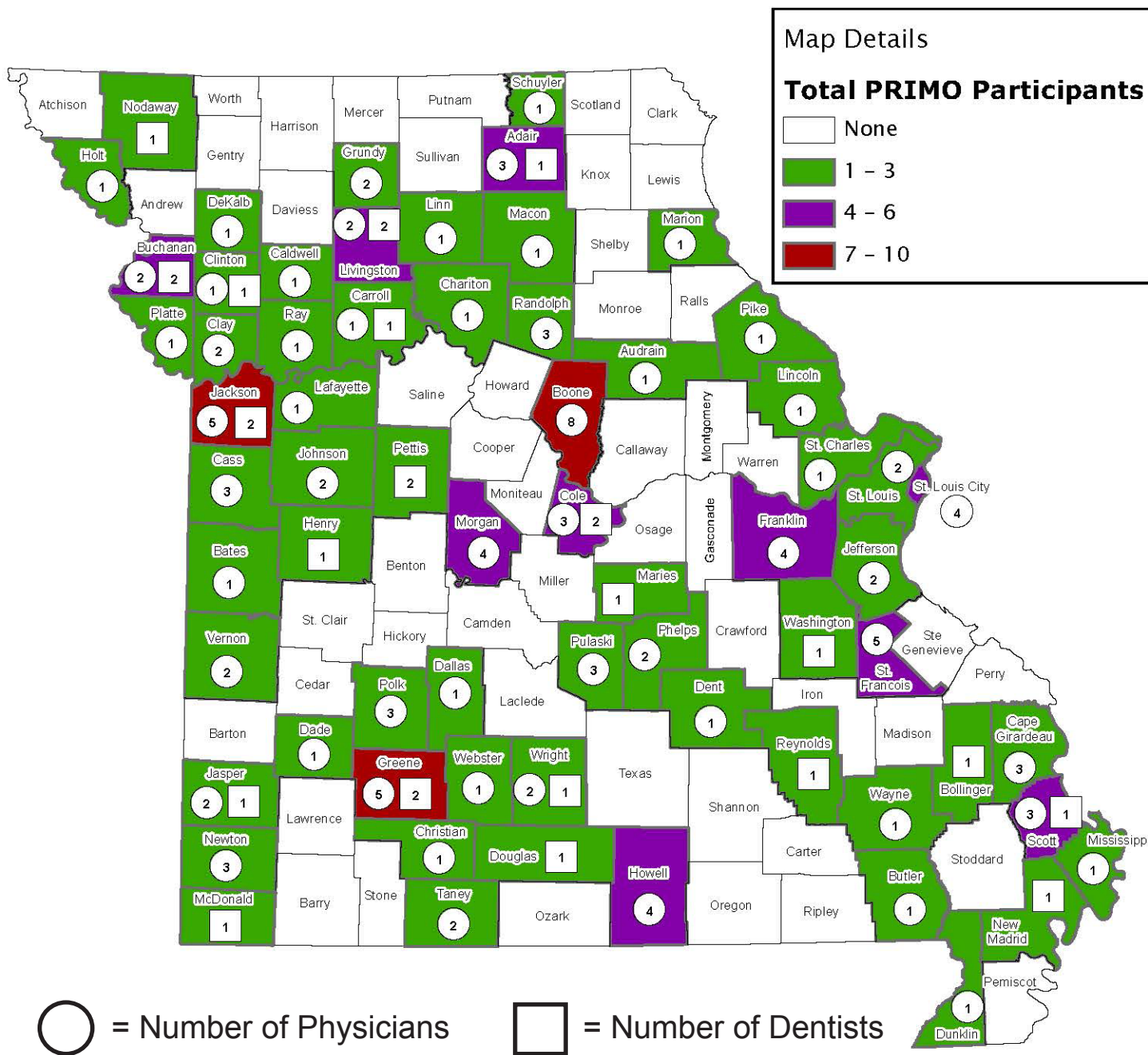
	Undergraduate	Medical/Dental School	Residency	TOTAL
Medical	1	1	5	7
Dental	2	6		8
Dental Hygiene		2		2
TOTAL	3	9	5	17

Map 1 details the locations of PRIMO physician and dental scholars who are either currently earning forgiveness or have fulfilled forgiveness of their loans. These health professionals originally received their loans beginning in 2002. There are 119 primary care physicians and 28 dentists and dental hygienists who obtained degrees through financial assistance from PRIMO. Considering it can take a physician a minimum of 11 years and a dentist a minimum of 8 years to complete their education and up to 5 years to earn forgiveness, PRIMO has been successful in getting medical and dental students through the pipeline and into rural and underserved areas of Missouri. It is estimated each physician averages as many as 4,200 patient encounters and each dentist averages 2,700 patient encounters a year.

Primary Care Resource Initiative for Missouri

Physicians & Dental Professionals Who Completed or are Completing Obligation

Total = 144



Healthcare Delivery System Development

For Missourians to enjoy optimal health, they must have the benefit of high-quality health care services that are effectively coordinated within a strong health system. PRIMO provides funding opportunities to Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) to increase access to health care services. Missouri's FQHCs are local, nonprofit, community-based health care centers serving low-income and medically-underserved rural and urban communities. RHCs are required to provide outpatient primary care, basic laboratory services and must be located in a non-urbanized area as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau. A clinic must also have a federal designation as a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA).

HPSAs and their designation criteria are developed by the Federal Health Resources and Services Administration. HPSAs are geographic areas and/or populations, that have unmet needs for primary care, dental, and/or behavioral health services. HPSA designations have an impact on eligibility determinations for primary care grants, special payments to providers for Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries, securing assistance from the National Health Service Corps (NHSC), as well as many other federal and state programs. These designations target millions of dollars of federal and state resources to improve health care in underserved areas of the state.

PRIMO provided funding for needed resources in various communities through health care delivery sites during State Fiscal Year 2016.

Community Health Center of Central Missouri

PRIMO funding expanded the Community Health Center of Central Missouri's ability to deliver preventive and restorative dental health services to over 1,000 uninsured and underserved residents in Osage and Callaway facilities through the addition of dental operatories. This expansion allowed dentists and hygienist to serve more patients in these communities.

Missouri Ozarks Community Health

This PRIMO request supported digital radiography in four Missouri Ozarks health centers site: Ava, Mansfield, Gainesville and Cabool. The digital radiography increase providers' ability to serve urgent care patients timely, increase image quality and controls for patient radiation exposure. Services through this effort addressed time delays for quality imaging, which can have a significant bearing on a provider's ability to treat in an appropriate and timely manner. By the end of the project period, over 7,000 patients had increased access to imaging services through digital radiology.

Health Care Collaborative of Rural Missouri – Live Well

This PRIMO funded project provided the start-up funds necessary for the Health Care Collaborative (HCC) – Live Well to implement telemedicine into the Orrick School District and establish medical homes for 50 percent of the children. Moving more pediatric patients into the primary care setting will eliminate the need to receive services in the hospital emergency department. In addition to establishing telemedicine in the Orrick School District, HCC continued direct outreach through other school districts in HCC's service area to educate families on the availability of comprehensive health care services, including primary care, dental and behavioral health services through the Live Well clinics.

Jordan Valley Community Health Center

This project provided access to primary health care services in Jordan Valley's rural service area through installation of telehealth equipment within three schools and one clinic. Children often miss entire days of school in order to obtain primary care services outside of the community, often traveling to Springfield or other locations for pediatric care. School nurses in rural counties have multiple challenges in treating sick children within a school setting. Some challenges include lack of access to primary care providers and transportation issues in traveling to health clinics. Through the portal telehealth equipment, Jordan Valley provided school nurses the support of a physician in order to diagnosis, prescribe and treat students remotely, which removed the challenges described above. The telehealth equipment was placed in one clinic in rural Taney County for the same purpose.

Missouri Highlands Health Care

A digital X-ray was purchased in Ripley County to ensure the accessibility of primary, preventative and diagnostic health services at the Naylor Medical Clinic for patients regardless of their ability to pay. This federally qualified health center serves as the medical home for low-income and vulnerable populations within the rural and underserved areas of Ripley County. This project will also result in lower operating costs for the health center to convert to digital from utilizing film type X-ray type films to digital films.

Recruitment and Placement

The Department works with federal, state and local entities to identify shortage areas of primary care, dental or mental care providers. These areas are designated as health professional shortage areas (HPSA) according to federal guidelines, making them eligible to qualify for federal funding and services.

Primary health care is the main access point for health services. The Department is committed to increasing the state's primary care workforce in rural and underserved communities through recruitment and placement. Recruitment focuses on attracting current health professionals and students to current or future positions. Placement Services is dedicated to the recruitment of medical, dental and behavioral health providers to the rural and underserved areas of Missouri.

The Office of Primary Care and Rural Health (OPCRH) partners with the Missouri Primary Care Association (MPCA) and the Missouri Hospital Association (MHA) to address the critical elements of the workforce shortage.

OPCRH and MPCA work together on many initiatives, one of which is the Missouri Health Professional Placement Services (MHPPS). MHPPS is a nonprofit recruiting service dedicated to rural and underserved areas of the state. MPCA actively recruits medical, dental and behavioral health providers who can offer care in rural and underserved areas. It partners with safety-net providers and health care systems throughout Missouri to help health care professionals find a community that best fits their personal and professional needs.



The tables below illustrate the number of opportunities available to health care professionals, and the number placed during the State Fiscal Year 2016.

Practice Sites Opportunity Data
State Fiscal Year 2015-2016

Opportunity Specialty	State Fiscal Year 2015	State Fiscal Year 2016	TOTAL
Family Medicine	93	68	161
Internal Medicine	14	19	33
OB/GYN	5	4	9
Pediatrician	5	7	12
Advanced Practice	14	17	31
Physician Assistant	2	4	6
Dental Hygiene	0	1	1
Dentist	28	30	58
Psychiatry	5	2	7
Other Mental Health Professional	20	25	45
Hospitalist	1	0	1
Other Physician	12	26	38
Pharmacist	0	0	8
TOTALS	199	203	402

Practice Sites Placement Data
State Fiscal Year 2015-2016

Opportunity Specialty	State Fiscal Year 2015	State Fiscal Year 2016	TOTAL
Family Medicine	2	1	3
Internal Medicine	0	0	0
Internal Medicine & Pediatrics	0	1	1
OB/GYN	0	0	0
Pediatrician	0	0	0
Advanced Practice Nurse	0	1	1
Physician Assistant	0	0	0
Dental Hygiene	0	0	0
Dentist	9	8	17
Psychiatry	0	0	0
Other Mental Health Professional	0	0	0
Pharmacist	0	0	0
TOTALS	11	11	22

Health Professional State Loan Repayment Program

The purpose of the State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) is to improve access to primary care by assisting rural and underserved communities with recruitment and retention of primary care providers. SLRP offers primary care physicians and general dentists an opportunity to receive assistance with the repayment of their qualifying educational loans in exchange for a minimum two-year commitment to provide health care services at an ambulatory public, nonprofit or private nonprofit primary care practice site located in a federally designated Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA).

The program is funded 50 percent by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), under grant HRSA-14-033, Affordable Care Act - State Loan Repayment Program, CFDA 93.165, and 50 percent by the annual donation of the Missouri Hospital Association. In State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2016, 10 primary health care professionals were awarded loan repayment assistance to repay qualified educational debt.



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Hearing- and speech-impaired citizens can dial 711.

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