

PRIMO



Primary Care Resource Initiative for Missouri Annual Report 2014



Missouri Department of
Health and Senior Services
Office of Primary Care and Rural Health

In 1993, Missouri enacted legislation to address several health care issues in Missouri. A major component of the legislation, section 191.411, requires the development of a plan to make health care more available and accessible to all Missouri residents. In response, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services established the Primary Care Resource Initiative for Missouri. Known as PRIMO, the program is designed to provide incentives to increase the number of primary care medical, dental, and behavioral health professionals and to improve health care delivery systems in areas of need within the state.



PRIMO

4 Components

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

PRIMO SFY14 Budget

Health Care Delivery	\$372,112.88
Recruitment/Replacement	\$75,000.00
Student Loans	\$500,000.00
Loan Repayment	\$120,000.00

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





Health Care Delivery System Development

The program seeks to improve the delivery of health care by creating economically sustainable systems that provide high quality primary care involving medical, dental and behavioral health services. The services strive to prevent, treat and manage disease, injury and disability to benefit both the individual and the community. To reach this goal, PRIMO funds the expansion or creation of new community-based health care delivery systems.

PRIMO contracts with Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), FQHC Look-a-Likes and Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) to provide health services. Missouri's FQHCs are local, non-profit, community-owned health care centers serving low- income and medically underserved communities. RHCs are required to provide outpatient primary care services and basic laboratory services and must be located in a non-urban area as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau. A clinic must also be located in a federally designated Health Professional Shortage Area.

The following is a list of health care delivery sites that were funded by PRIMO during the most recent fiscal year, along with their funded activities:

Ferguson Medical Group Rural Health Center, Inc. – Establishment of a primary care clinic that emphasizes pediatric care within New Madrid County. One

pediatrician to provide care five ½ days per week and one licensed social worker one ½ day per week. Patients were traveling more than 30 miles one-way for care which was prohibitive for routine visits.

Fordland Clinic, Inc. – PRIMO funding was used to employ an additional dentist in Webster and Stone Counties. Services were available to all ages but the majority served was ages 0-21. Priority was placed on preventive services which include oral health education and fluoride treatment. Restorative and Rehabilitative services were provided as necessary.

Eastern Missouri Health Services – PRIMO funding provided telemedicine services to Pike County via the University of Missouri School of Medicine's Missouri Telehealth Network. Area residents lack the funds to travel outside of the immediate area to access needed care. Need for this service has been identified by the Local Public Health Agency and the Pike County Memorial Hospital.

Jordan Valley Community Health Center – PRIMO funding increased dental services three days per week in Taney and Stone Counties. Previously there was only one dentist who accepted Medicaid; serving these counties in a mobile dental clinic.

Recruitment & Placement

Key barriers to recruiting and retaining primary care professionals include Missouri's aging health care workforce, fewer physicians choosing to practice in primary care and the state's population shifts. State, private, and academic partners continue to work together to address and identify specific needs across Missouri. Some of these organizations include: Missouri Area Health Education Centers (MAHEC), Missouri Primary Care Association (MPCA), and Missouri Hospital Association (MHA). All have been critical in addressing specific elements of the primary care workforce shortage.

PRIMO works directly with organizations to assist in the recruitment and placement of health professionals in underserved Missouri communities through a variety of methods. One method is the use of the Practice Sites recruitment software to implement the Missouri Health Professional Placement Services, through collaboration with the Missouri Primary Care Association (MPCA). Providers are recruited in the fields of primary medical, dental, and behavioral health for underserved areas of Missouri, and healthcare facilities are identified with open job opportunities. The health care professionals then work directly with a professional recruitment and placement manager to find the practice site best suited for the professional and the community.



The tables below illustrate the number of opportunities available to health professionals, and the number of health professionals placed during the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2014.

Practice Sites Opportunity Data State Fiscal Year 2013-2014

Opportunity Specialty	State Fiscal Year 2013	State Fiscal Year 2014	Total
Family Medicine	50	70	120
Internal Medicine	24	18	42
OB/GYN	8	2	10
Pediatrician	7	4	11
Advanced Practice Nurse	8	9	17
Physician Assistant	0	0	0
Dental Hygiene	0	1	1
Dentist	10	18	28
Psychiatry	3	6	9
Other Mental Health Professional	6	10	16
Hospitalist	5	0	5
Other Physician	13	11	24
Pharmacist	2	1	3
Totals	131	150	281

Practice Sites Placement Data State Fiscal Year 2013-2014

Opportunity Specialty	State Fiscal Year 2013	State Fiscal Year 2014	Total
Family Medicine	4	1	5
Internal Medicine	0	1	1
OB/GYN	0	0	0
Pediatrician	0	0	0
Advanced Practice Nurse	1	3	4
Physician Assistant	0	0	0
Dental Hygiene	0	0	0
Dentist	4	4	8
Psychiatry	0	0	0
Other Mental Health Professional	0	0	0
Pharmacist	0	1	1
Totals	9	10	19

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 or registration in the following fields:

- Primary Care Medicine
- Dentistry
- Dental Hygiene
- Psychiatry
- Psychology
- Licensed Clinical Social Work
- Licensed Professional Counseling



Loan amounts are based on discipline, type of degree and range from \$5,000 to \$20,000 per year. Loans are repaid in two ways: earning forgiveness or repaying with cash. To earn forgiveness, students are required to provide primary health care services in a DHSS approved area of defined need upon completion of their training. The forgiveness obligation is one year of qualified employment for each school year in which a student received a loan, with a minimum one-year obligation and a maximum five year commitment.

A DHSS-approved area of defined need is a geographic area, facility or a population group that DHSS has determined is experiencing a shortage of primary health care providers or has inadequate access to health care providers. This includes those areas designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs). HPSA designations are determined in conjunction with data obtained from the Office of Primary Care and Rural Health (OPCRH) and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Primary health care services are defined as the hands-on provision of direct outpatient-based primary and preventive health care services.

Utilizing an annual \$500,000 contribution by the Missouri Hospital Association (MHA) PRIMO supported the continued education for 17 medical residents, 28 medical students, 1 dental student, 2 dental hygienists and 2 behavioral health students, during SFY14.

PRIMO Student Loans Fiscal Year 14

	Undergraduate	6 Yr Medical	Medical/ Dental School	Residency	Total
Medical	1	1	12	17	31
Dental			1		1
LCSW	1			1	2
Dental Hygiene			2		2
Total	2	1	15	18	36

Health Professional State Loan

The Health Professional State Loan Repayment Program provides financial incentives, via the repayment of outstanding educational loans, in exchange for providing primary health care services in areas of need in Missouri. A minimum two-year contract is required. The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services provides loan repayment to registered and advanced practice nurses, primary care physicians, primary care dentists, psychiatrists, psychologists, licensed clinical social workers and licensed professional counselors. In SFY 15, RSMo sections 191.600-.615 limits this program to only primary care physicians and general dentists.

In order to provide funds to practicing health professionals, the Office of Primary Care and Rural Health utilizes the State Loan Repayment Grant through the Federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), which requires a dollar-for-dollar match through PRIMO. In SFY 2014, eight professionals were awarded educational debt assistance.



Maximum loan repayment amounts are:

- \$25,000 per year for primary care physicians, dentists, psychiatrists and psychologists
- \$10,000 per year for primary care advanced practice nurses, licensed professional counselors and licensed clinical social workers



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