



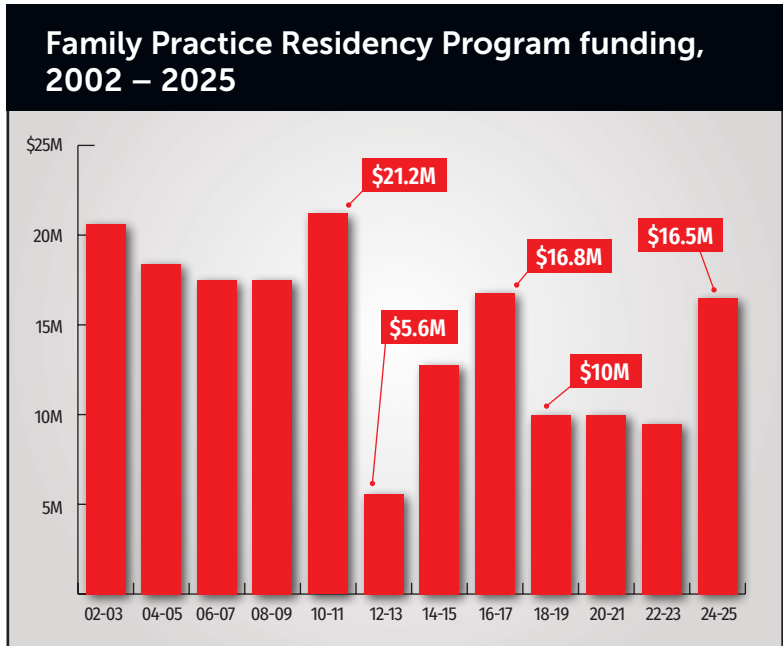
Family physicians applaud Legislature’s investment in primary care recruitment and training programs

Amid threats to rural hospitals, access to maternity care and primary care, the Legislature’s efforts to invigorate family physician workforce means a healthier future for Texans

For many years, rural communities have struggled to recruit and retain doctors, nurses, dentists, mental health providers, and other important health care workers. This lack of access results in higher rates of preventable poor health conditions, leading to increased rates of heart disease, cancer, unintentional injuries, maternal morbidity and mortality, chronic lower respiratory disease, and stroke.

Thanks to the dedicated commitment to solving these problems by investing in Texas’ primary care workforce exhibited by members of the 88th Texas Legislature, we have an opportunity to:

- Increase access to comprehensive, coordinated primary care by recruiting and training primary care physicians in rural and community settings;
- Increase access to crucial mental and behavioral health services in rural and underserved areas; and
- Create new training programs designed to introduce medical students and medical school graduates to the joy and excitement of practicing primary care in a rural setting.



Increased funding for the Family Practice Residency Program

73.7% increase to \$16.5 million for the biennium

Increased funding for the Physician Education Loan Repayment Program

20.3% increase to \$35.5 million for the biennium

Increased funding for the Texas Primary Care Preceptorship Program

70% increase to \$4.85 million for the biennium

Created the Rural Resident Physician Grant Program

Funded at \$3 million for its initial biennium

As our population grows and ages, we must ensure that all Texans have access to high-quality primary care, and that is most critically important in rural and underserved communities. With these significant investments in supporting our primary care physician workforce, the Texas Legislature has taken great strides in achieving that goal.