



Restore funding to the Family Practice Residency Program and invest in Texas' primary care workforce

Allocate \$20 million for the Family Practice Residency Program

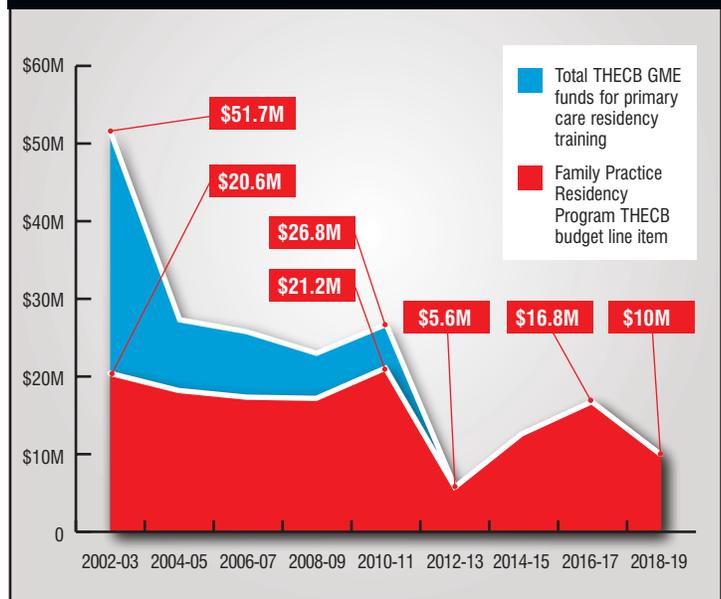
Our state's 33 family medicine residency programs are the lifeblood of our primary care physician workforce, preparing more than 300 new family physicians for practice each year.

More than 70 percent of family doctors completing residency in Texas remain in the state to practice. The clinics in these residency programs deliver well-coordinated, cost-effective care to communities that need it. A significant portion of the care they provide is for Medicaid and CHIP patients, Medicare patients, and the uninsured.

Even so, these training programs operate at dangerously narrow margins, often teetering on the brink of closure.

- In 2008, the Texas Tech University Rural Program in Abilene closed its doors for financial reasons.
- The Kelsey-Seybold Family Medicine Residency Program in Houston closed in 2009 due to financial instability.
- In 2018, the family medicine residency program in Wichita Falls closed due to a lack of funding. Because of that closure, the community lost:
 - a medical home that had provided care for more than 40 years;
 - a program that has graduated well over 200 family doctors, 44 of whom still practice in the Wichita Falls area; and
 - a critical source of primary care to area hospitals, nursing homes, the Texas Women's Health Program, the county indigent program, and the Wichita Falls Health Department.
- Yet another family medicine residency program in the Rio Grande Valley faces a similar threat and given the desperate shortage of primary care physicians along the border, the closure of that program could have devastating effects.

Funding for primary care residency training administered by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, 2002 to present



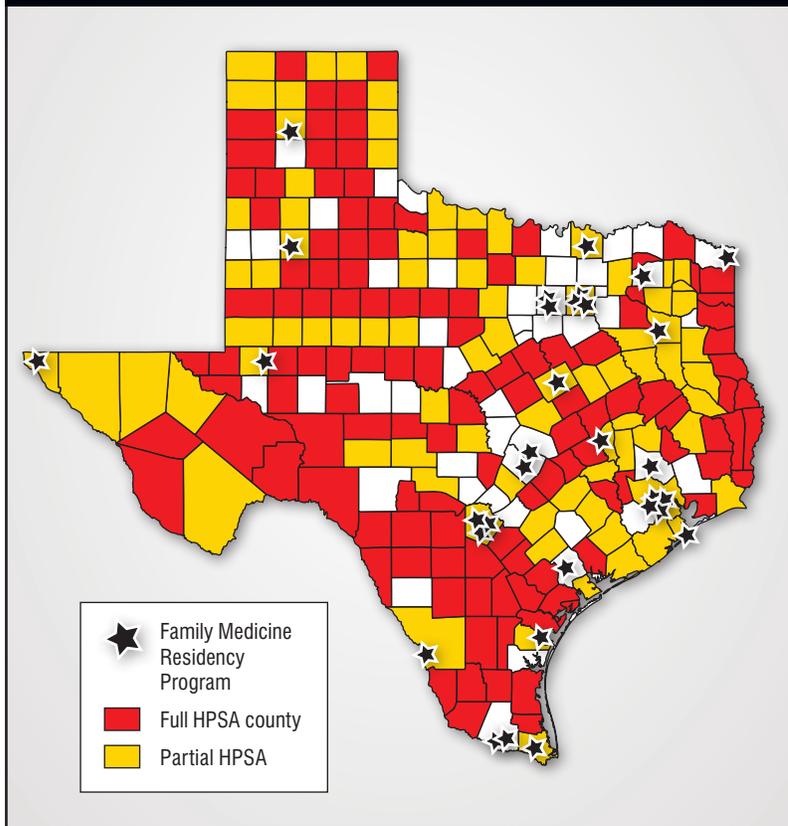
THECB Family Practice Residency Program: A targeted investment in Texas' primary care infrastructure

For decades, the Legislature consistently funded our state's family medicine residency programs through the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Although many of these residency programs receive some benefit from GME formula appropriations for Texas' health-related institutions, *dedicated coordinating board funds are the only direct state support these programs receive.*

- In recent years, this funding has been inconsistent and has varied dramatically, putting existing residency programs in jeopardy.
- In 2017, the Legislature cut the Family Practice Residency Program by 40 percent, leaving just \$10 million in the program for the current biennium.

123 counties in Texas are designated as full Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Areas, and 84 are partial HPSAs

Texas' 33 family medicine residency programs play a critical role in alleviating that shortage



TAFP respectfully requests that the Legislature renew its commitment to support the training of new family physicians by allocating \$20 million to the Family Practice Residency Program.

Restoring funding for the Family Practice Residency Program would cost the state only \$10 million more, but the investment would protect those existing residency training programs that produce the doctors who make up our primary care infrastructure. As our population grows and ages, we must ensure that all Texans have access to high-quality primary care and the most efficient way to meet that goal is to recruit and train family physicians here at home.