

International Medical Graduates Assistance Program

Minnesota is home to several hundred unlicensed immigrant physicians, according to the 2014 Task Force on Foreign Trained Physicians. If able to practice, these physicians could serve Minnesota's immigrant and refugee communities and the general population statewide.

- 250 – 400 immigrant physicians live in Minnesota, from at least 37 countries and speaking over 30 languages. Two thirds are general practitioners.
- 87 percent of respondents to a Task Force survey are interested in entering medical practice or other health careers in Minnesota.
- Over half of survey respondents were eligible to apply for medical residency, but only 17 percent have been accepted into a residency program.

The program will address the obstacles to practice these physicians face by:

1. Providing career guidance and support, such as license test preparation, skill building to use electronic health records, etc., for up to 50 immigrant physicians per year and guidance to consider physician assistant or similar occupations for those unlikely to become licensed physicians.
2. Supporting a six month clinical preparation course at medical schools or teaching hospitals for up to 15 immigrant physicians.
3. Creation of an assessment process and certificate to document immigrant physicians' qualifications to enter residency.
4. Establishing a revolving fund that will support 3 -5 residency positions with state funds each year and accept private grants and contributions for additional slots.



Career
Guidance &
Licensing Test
Assistance



Clinical
Preparation for
Residency



Assessment



Revolving Fund
for Dedicated
Residency Slots

The program will also:

- Maintain a roster of immigrant physicians in Minnesota.
- Work with training programs to address barriers to securing residency and explore pathways to non-physician careers.
- Study possible licensing and regulatory changes needed for full utilization of immigrant physicians in Minnesota.