

Interlocal Agreement for the MIDOCs Consortium

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Board of Governors authorize Wayne State University's participation in the Interlocal Agreement of the MIDOCs Consortium. The partnership will begin once the contract is signed by all four institutions of the Consortium. In the event that funding appropriations from the State are no longer allocated to the MIDOCs Consortium, the partnership will conclude. Wayne State University has the ability to withdraw from the agreement at any time.

Background and Agreement Description

The MIDOCS Program is an initiative of the MIDOCS Consortium, a partnership of medical schools at Central Michigan University, Michigan State University, Wayne State University, and Western Michigan University, to increase access to care in high-need, rural and urban underserved communities in Michigan. Of Michigan's 83 counties, 75 counties have at least partial designation as a primary care health professional shortage area. However, as medical schools graduate more doctors, there has not been an increase in Graduate Medical Education residency slots. To recruit and retain physicians to address the physician shortage in both rural and urban underserved areas, MIDOCS was created to increase the number of residency slots in the state and to retain residents to practice in underserved communities after their training.

The residency rotations take place in underserved communities throughout Michigan from Escanaba to Detroit, and from Benton Harbor to Alpena. Current residency programs are located in primary care and mental health shortage areas that include federally qualified health centers, community-based clinics, inpatient and community mental health centers, and ambulatory care clinics. In the first year, the universities offered four residency slots in psychiatry, three residency slots in family medicine, and one residency slot in internal medicine. When the MIDOCS Program is fully implemented, ACGME-accredited residency programs may also be offered in pediatrics, OB/GYN, and general surgery. For academic year 2020, the program plans to expand the program by creating eight additional slots in family medicine and psychiatry.

The MIDOCS Program also includes an incentive for residents to practice in underserved areas post-residency. Reports indicate that resident physicians who train in community settings are nearly three times more likely to practice in underserved settings after graduation. Not only will the MIDOCS residency programs support and train physicians to practice in community-based settings, MIDOCS will offer a loan repayment program for residents who practice in an eligible underserved area after graduation to alleviate medical debt that may limit their choice of medical specialty. The MIDOCS Consortium believes that Michigan medical schools are a valuable resource and well-positioned to create innovative models for residency training that can strengthen the ability of the health care workforce to improve the health of underserved

and vulnerable populations. Through this program, the MIDOCS Consortium is committed to recruiting and retaining needed providers to improve health outcomes in underserved communities.

The Interlocal Agreement is a key component to the success of the program as it will establish a formal partnership and an agreed upon governance structure between the four partners of the Consortium. By creating an authority made up of the parties, the agreement will act as an additional layer of separation between the MIDOCs partnership and the institutions. The Agreement addresses program compliance and the terms in the event of a partner's withdrawal. The Agreement has been approved by each institution's Office of General Counsel and requires final Board approval. Governor Whitmer will be the final signatory to fully execute the Agreement. The execution of this agreement does not create any additional costs to the University.