

STATE OF IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
**Health** AND **Human**  
SERVICES

Family Medicine Obstetrics Fellowship  
Program

Bureau of Rural and Community Health  
Division of Public Health

January 2024

## Executive Summary

This report is prepared annually in response to 2023 Iowa Acts, Senate File 561 and newly created Iowa Code section 135.182.

A state-funded family medicine obstetrics fellowship program fund was created. Senate file 561 appropriated \$560,000 in SFY24 to reimburse teaching hospitals for expenses incurred for up to four fellows. The fellows must have completed an accreditation council for graduate medical education residency program in family medicine and have entered into a program agreement with a participating teaching hospital to complete a one year fellowship and engage in full-time family medicine obstetrics practice in a rural or underserved area of the state for five years.

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Bureau of Rural and Community Health are adopting administrative rules per the direction in 2023 Iowa Acts, Senate File 561. Rules are anticipated to be effective in the spring of 2024 and reimbursements will then be available to reimburse teaching hospitals for eligible fellows who meet all the requirements and have started their fellowship no earlier than July 1, 2023. The administrative rules will address how any reimbursement requests in excess of the appropriated funds will be managed if that situation occurs.

The Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Rural and Community Health will post a Request for Proposal (RFP) allowing teaching hospitals, who wish to participate in the family medicine obstetrics fellowship program, to formally enroll in the program so they may be reimbursed for expenses in accordance with Iowa Code section 135.182. The RFP will be posted on a timeline that will allow teaching hospitals into the program once the administrative rules are effective. Reimbursements to teaching hospitals, who have enrolled in the program through the RFP process, for fellows who started their fellowship prior to administrative rule adoption can be reimbursed as long as they started their fellowship no earlier than July 1, 2023.

Per 2023 Iowa Acts, Senate File 561 and newly created Iowa Code section 135.182, this report shall include the number of fellowships funded to date and any other information identified as indicators of outcomes and the effectiveness of the program. No information on these topics is available for this first report.

The Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Rural and Community Health is working diligently to implement the program and should have more information on the level of interest and participation from teaching hospitals for the report due in January of 2025.