



## Family Medicine Obstetrics Fellowship Program

Bureau of Rural and Community Health

Division of Public Health

January 2025



Health and  
Human Services

This annual report is submitted pursuant to 2023 Iowa Acts, Senate File 561 and Iowa Code section 135.193. This report includes the number of fellowships funded to date and any other information identified as indicators of outcomes and the effectiveness of the program.

A state-funded family medicine obstetrics fellowship program fund was created in 2023. Senate File 561 appropriated \$560,000 in SFY24 to reimburse teaching hospitals for expenses incurred for up to four fellows. A second appropriation of \$560,000 occurred in SFY25 in 2024 Iowa Acts, HF2698. 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 adopted administrative rules to administer the program. The department posted a Request for Proposal (RFP) on September 24, 2024. Three teaching hospitals applied to enter the program through the RFP process. A Notice of Intent to Award was issued on December 3, 2024, to the following three hospitals, and contracts are expected to be executed by January 1, 2025:

- Broadlawns Medical Center, Des Moines;
- MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center, Mason City; and
- MercyOne Genesis, Davenport.

Reimbursements to the three enrolled teaching hospitals will then be available for eligible fellows who start their fellowship after the enrolled teaching hospital has executed a contract with the department.

The department will post an additional RFP in calendar year 2025 to add additional teaching hospitals to the program of interest, beyond the three enrolled teaching hospitals, if expressed to the department.

The Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Rural and Community Health is working diligently to implement the program and will have more information on the level of interest from teaching hospitals and fellow participation rates from each of the three enrolled teaching hospitals for the report due in January of 2026.