



## Family Medicine Obstetrics Fellowship Program

Bureau of Rural and Community Health

Division of Public Health

January 2026

This report is prepared annually in response to 2023 Iowa Acts, Senate File 561 and Iowa Code section 135.193.

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. 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 per the direction in 2023 Iowa Acts, Senate File 561. The department posted a Request for Proposal (RFP) once the administrative rules became effective on September 11, 2024. Three teaching hospitals applied to enter the program through the RFP process. Contracts were executed on January 1, 2025, with the three teaching hospitals; Broadlawns Medical Center, Des Moines; MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center, Mason City; and MercyOne Genesis, Davenport. Reimbursements to the three enrolled teaching hospitals were available for eligible fellows who started their fellowship after the enrolled teaching hospital executed a contract with the department.

2025 Iowa Acts, House File 972 eliminates Iowa Code 135.193 and does not allow HHS to accept new fellows into the program, after June 30, 2025. A new Graduate Medical Education program will replace the OB Fellowship and other residency programs, per House File 972.

Per Iowa Code section 135.193, 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. To date, Broadlawns is the only contractor that has a participating OB Fellow who entered the program prior to July 1, 2025.

The Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Rural and Community Health is committed to managing this one OB fellow through their one year of learning and the five years of service in a rural or underserved area in Iowa.