



RURAL IOWA PRIMARY CARE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM

Report of a Survey of Recipients

Program Summary:

The Rural Iowa Primary Care Loan Repayment Program (RPC) provides student loan repayment to physicians who graduated from Des Moines University or the University of Iowa and who practice in rural Iowa. Iowa College Aid administers the RPC, which was established in 2012. Des Moines University and the University of Iowa select students in the final year of their doctor of osteopathic medicine or doctor of medicine degree, and those students agree to practice in rural Iowa for five years following completion of an Iowa-based residency program.

Summary of Survey:

In May, 2020, Iowa College Aid surveyed current and past program award recipients in order to assess whether and in what ways the RPC influences physicians' decisions about working in rural Iowa. The survey was sent to 53 individuals, and a total of 27 (51%) responded.

Summary of Findings:

The following percentages indicate the percent of respondents who either agreed or strongly agreed to the following statements

- RPC incited me to pursue training in the medical field: 11.1%
- RPC incited me to pursue the medical specialty in which I practice: 25.9%
- RPC incited me to pursue an Iowa-based residency program: 66.7%
- RPC incited me to work or consider working in Iowa: 70.4%
- RPC incited me to work or consider working in a rural community: 74.1%

Conclusion:

While the program plays little role in physicians' initial decision to enter the profession or select their medical specialty, the program clearly encourages physicians to pursue an Iowa-based residency program, and heavily factors into their decision to work in rural Iowa.