



# Increasing Workforce Capacity for Advanced Primary Care

## ***Ohio Faces a Shortage of Primary Care Providers***

Various trends are projected to impact demand for the primary care workforce statewide. An aging population and expansion of health insurance coverage will impact a system that is already experiencing provider shortages and maldistribution. New models of advanced primary care will also bring about changes in the way care is delivered, calling for increased use of interdisciplinary care teams and the patient-centered medical home (PCMH) model of care across the state.

National research indicates that health care providers originating from population groups and communities that are historically underserved for health care are more likely to choose primary care practice and to work in underserved areas. Underrepresented minority health professionals, particularly physicians, disproportionately serve minority and other medically underserved populations. Data support the notion that minority patients receive better interpersonal care from practitioners of their own race or ethnicity, particularly in primary care and mental health settings. Patient-practitioner language concordance similarly is associated with better interpersonal care, greater medical comprehension, and greater likelihood of keeping follow-up appointments, particularly in mental health care. These findings indicate that greater health professions diversity will likely lead to improved public health by increasing access to care for underserved populations.

*1.1 million Ohioans reside in an area that is underserved for primary care*

*1.4 million live in an area that is underserved for dental care*

*2.7 million reside in an area that is underserved for mental health care*

## ***Addressing the Needs of Ohioans***

The Department of Health seeks to align its existing workforce programs to better support broader statewide efforts to transform the healthcare system. ODH will gather state-level workforce data and develop an advanced primary care workforce forecasting model to assist in planning for health professions education programs and recruitment and retention strategies. Additionally, ODH is seeking authority to expand the PCMH model of care statewide and allow greater flexibility in implementation to further increase primary care provider participation.



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ODH proposes to do the following in support of targeting scholarship, training and loan repayment programs to support workforce priorities:

- Coordinate an effort to seek matching funds for the State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) grant from licensure boards that represent a broad array of eligible primary care disciplines
- Revise loan repayment program application scoring criteria to increase opportunities for underrepresented minorities and to support advanced primary care practices
- Revise Ohio Physician and Dentist Loan Repayment programs to address large educational debt and the need for community-based training.

## ***The Future of Ohio's Health Care Needs***



Current provider incentive programs such as loan repayment will be unable to meet the demand for an additional 282 physicians, 283 dentists, and 194 psychiatrists needed in federally designated shortage areas if Ohio goes with the status quo. The individuals who live in these underserved areas are disproportionately from minority and low-income populations within rural and urban areas throughout the state.

Increasing workforce capacity for advanced primary care will allow ODH to meet the growing demand for an adequate and appropriately trained primary care workforce, and a workforce responsive to the new models of advanced primary care. This, in turn, will lead to greater access and improved health outcomes for all Ohioans.