

**Project Title:** Development of a Rural Track Program in Family Medicine in Upstate New York  
**Name:** Harinder Grewal MD, MBBS, DGO (Project Director/ PI - HRSA RRPD Grant)  
**Institutions:** SUNY Upstate Family Medicine Rural Residency Planning and Development (RRPD) Consortium led by SUNY Upstate Medical University Department of Family Medicine and including SUNY Upstate Department of Public Health, Auburn Community Hospital, East Hill Medical Center (Federally Qualified Health Care Center), Syracuse VA Medical Center, Family Care Medical Group and Cayuga County Department of Health  
**Collaborators:** HRSA RRPD Consortium members, HRSA RRPD Steering Committee  
**Topic Category:** Education / Faculty Development

**Background:** Cayuga County is a rural underserved county in Upstate New York and is facing a looming shortage of Primary Care Physicians. The mission of SUNY Upstate Medical University is to improve the health of the communities we serve through education, biomedical research, and patient care. The goal of this project is to increase the distribution of primary care physicians in rural and underserved areas in Upstate New York.

**Purpose / Objectives:**

**Goal A:** To build a Rural Track Program (RTP) 2/2/2 in 1+2 format as an expansion of the current SUNY Upstate Family Medicine Program (6/6/6)

**Goal B:** Training in interprofessional and team-based care

**Goal C:** Develop Upstate ECHO program for faculty education.

**Goal D:** A detailed work plan and a strong sustainability plan

**Goal E:** Participation in 3 Year Program (3YP) at SUNY Upstate Medical University College of Medicine

**Methods:** We developed a LOGIC model/work plan with SMART goals and well-defined outcomes. We defined all funding sources: HRSA RRPD Grant Funding, DGME, IGME, VACAA funds, FQHC Support, NYS Grants, Philanthropic funds, and Budget at SUNY Upstate Medical University/ Auburn Community Hospital. We had multisite Steering Committee meetings and engaged with RRPD-TA Center/ Residency Solutions. We developed a high level proforma, a Block Diagram, Memorandum of Understanding between SUNY Upstate and ACH and Program Letters of Agreements. We obtained Rural Interprofessional Faculty Development Initiative (RIFDI) grant funding. We developed an Upstate ECHO program for Educators. We submitted ACGME Accreditation Application and entered ERAS on 11/07/2022. Applicant interviews started on 11/28/2022 and we submitted the MATCH list in February 2023.

**Outcomes:** Successful ACGME application, RTP Designation and approval for 2/2/2 Expansion of SUNY Upstate Family Medicine Residency Program with Rural Training Program (Program 1203500740) on 10/19/2022 and 11/03/2022 respectively. We were in the match for 2 PGY1 positions and had 100% successful match with the first matriculating Class starting in July 2023. We completed an Upstate ECHO program for Educators in March 2023 and continued our participation in RIFDI Program.

**Discussion and future:** We were successful in developing collaborative relationships between multiple and diverse large organizations to develop a rural residency track one year ahead of schedule to reduce healthcare inequities despite change in leadership and challenges because of Medicare and ACGME rule changes for RTPs. In the future we look forward to development of a 3YP Program, rural curriculum development, faculty education, faculty/student recruitment and continued assessment of the program.