

The mission of the Virginia Health Workforce Development Authority (the Authority) is to ***facilitate the development of a statewide health professions pipeline that identifies, educates, recruits, and retains a diverse, appropriately geographically distributed and culturally competent quality workforce for all Virginians.***

Virginia Health Workforce Development Authority Strategic Objectives:

1. providing the statewide infrastructure required for health workforce needs assessment and planning that maintains engagement by health professions training programs in decision making and program implementation;
2. serving as the advisory board and setting priorities for the Virginia Area Health Education Centers Program;
3. coordinating with and serving as a resource to relevant state, regional, and local entities including the Department of Health Professions Workforce Data Center, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission, the Joint Commission on Health Care, the Southwest Virginia Health Authority, or any similar regional health authority that may be developed;
4. informing state and local policy development as it pertains to health care delivery, training, and education;
5. identifying and promoting evidence-based strategies for health workforce pipeline development and interdisciplinary health care service models, particularly those affecting rural and other underserved areas;
6. supporting communities in their health workforce recruitment and retention efforts and developing partnerships and promoting models of participatory engagement with business and community-based and social organizations to foster integration of health care training and education;
7. advocating for programs that will result in reducing the debt load of newly trained health professionals;
8. identifying high priority target areas within each region of the Commonwealth and working toward health workforce development initiatives that improve health measurably in those areas; and
9. fostering or creating innovative health workforce development models that provide both health and economic benefits to the regions they serve.

The Authority continued to carry out its mission with significant success. Of the many accomplishments achieved, one critical initiative was the body of work focused on graduate medical education (GME). During 2015-2016, the Authority led the research and development efforts around graduate medical education (GME) that resulted in the increase in residency slots for Virginia. The Authority convened a GME Task Force to study residency programs and State-funded models of support, and developed recommendations to address the needs. The GME Task Force was comprised of representatives from stakeholder groups including Virginia's medical schools, hospital systems, the Joint Commission on Health Care, Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association, Medical Society of Virginia, Virginia Community Healthcare Association, Virginia Department of Health and the Virginia Department of Health Professions. As a result of the stakeholders' efforts, in collaboration with the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS), a new Medicaid GME program was established and further developments are underway.

The Authority continues to identify evidence based policies and programs required to meet the health workforce needs of Virginia's growing population.

VIRGINIA HEALTH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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