

**FACT SHEET**  
**STATE MEDICAL EDUCATION BOARD OF GEORGIA**  
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[www.smeb.georgia.gov](http://www.smeb.georgia.gov)

***Country Doctor Scholarship Program***

- ❖ Provides up to \$20,000 per year in tuition support for Georgia students attending medical school in the U.S.
- ❖ Students are required to practice in a Georgia county of 35,000 or fewer people after completion of their medical education.
- ❖ One year of service is required for each year of tuition support, which typically equates to a four-year commitment.
- ❖ During FY 2008, 30 scholarships were funded. During FY 2009, 37 scholarships are being funded.
- ❖ Over 1600 medical students have participated in the Program since 1952.
- ❖ More than 600 “alumni” are still practicing medicine in rural communities in Georgia; many others remain in other areas of Georgia.

***Georgia Medical Fair***

- ❖ Established in 1979 to provide a low cost, effective way for rural communities to recruit physicians.
- ❖ Model program that has been replicated by many other states.
- ❖ Typical participation is 30-35 rural communities and 80-100 physicians.
- ❖ Well over 400 physicians have been recruited to rural Georgia with the help of the Medical Fair. This function is key to physician retention, allowing a well-informed choice of practice location by establishing direct and continuing first-hand contact with a variety of potential practice opportunities.
- ❖ Rural Georgia communities and hospitals realize significant economy through person-to-person access to an average of 90 physicians in training throughout their post graduate medical training.
- ❖ Communities are able to realistically place themselves in the current healthcare market in Georgia through interaction with other rural communities and physicians in training.

### ***Physicians for Rural Areas Assistance Program***

- ❖ Offers up to \$25,000 per year in repayment of student loan debt for physicians who agree to practice in a rural, medically underserved community in Georgia. This program is comprised of state dollars only.
- ❖ To be eligible, the physician must agree to practice in a county with a population of 35,000 or less, according to the U.S. Census Count of 2000.
- ❖ Service may be performed in for-profit situations. Recipients of the State Medical Education Board Scholarship are eligible to participate with extended service commitment.
- ❖ Minimum commitment is one year and the maximum is four years (permitting a loan amount of up to \$100,000 maximum).
- ❖ Applications are prioritized based on physician specialty and the severity of need, with first priority given to physicians who practice in greatest areas of need.

### ***Dentists for Rural Areas Assistance Program***

- ❖ Offers up to \$25,000 per year in repayment of student loan debt for dentists who agree to practice in a rural, medically underserved community in Georgia. This program is comprised of state dollars only.
- ❖ To be eligible, the dentist must agree to practice in a county with a population of 35,000 or less, according to the U.S. Census Count of 2000.
- ❖ Service may be performed in for-profit situations.
- ❖ Minimum commitment is one year and the maximum is four years (permitting a loan amount of up to \$100,000 maximum).
- ❖ Applications are prioritized based on the severity of need, with first priority given to physicians who practice in greatest areas of need.