

# STUDENT CLINICAL ROTATIONS

## STATE STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT THE DENTAL CARE WORKFORCE IN HEALTH CENTERS



### TRAIN

State Funding to Support Dental and other Student Clinical Rotations at Health Centers



#### ORGANIZATION

**OHIO ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS**

#### LOCATION

**COLUMBUS, OHIO**

#### HEALTH CENTERS IN STATE

**80**

### STATE POLICY LEVER

State funding to support dental and other health professional students in clinical rotations at community health centers.

### SUCCESS FACTORS

- Strong partnerships with key stakeholders
- Primary Care Association (PCA) serves as the liaison between health centers and state government for funding administration, evaluation, and reporting.
- Flexible funding supports unique health center needs.

### POSITIVE OUTCOMES:

- 8,000 student rotations at health centers over the last decade.
- \$20 million to support health centers engaged in health

### THE CHALLENGE

Dental and other health professional students in Ohio needed community partners to host clinical training. Health centers have been interested in hosting students but acknowledge that clinical training requires time and resources, leading to incurred costs and loss of productivity.

### STATE POLICY/STRATEGY

The Ohio Association of Community Health Centers (OACHC), the state's PCA, negotiated funding with the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) for the Ohio Primary Care Workforce Initiative. This initiative provides funding to health centers to oversee the training and education of dental and other students of health professionals during their clinical rotations. Funding for the initiative has been appropriated biennially in ODH's budget since 2015. This biennial appropriation is approximately \$5.4 million and administered by OACHC under a contract from ODH every two years to support clinical rotations.

### STATE POLICY/STRATEGY IN ACTION

OACHC serves to coordinate and pass funds to health centers in support of clinical rotations. It also provides program administration, support, education and training, as well as reporting.

OACHC developed an algorithm to pay health centers per clinical hour of rotation support. The exact amount received per clinical hour depends on the student/profession type. To support equity in distribution across participating health centers, a maximum “soft cap” is set at \$50,000 per quarter. Health centers may be able to access additional funds from a “soft cap earning pool” if remaining funds exist. Participating health centers are required to submit evaluations for at least 50% of the students involved in clinical rotations. Lack of compliance with this requirement can result in loss of access to funds for that quarter. Funding that is provided to health centers can be creatively used to support health center needs such as incentivizing staff to serve as preceptors or replacing lost productivity associated with clinical training.



OHIO PRIMARY CARE WORKFORCE INITIATIVE LOGO | SOURCE: OHIO ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS WEBSITE

## THE IMPACT

Since 2015, over 8,000 students have participated in clinical rotations at 48 Ohio health centers which have been supported by approximately \$20 million in state funds. Students of health professions are being exposed to PCMHs in practice and they are experiencing a standardized, high-quality educational experience.

*“The Ohio Primary Care Workforce Initiative (OPCWI) remains instrumental in attracting and retaining Ohio’s primary care professionals. Ohio’s Community Health Centers teach, inspire and put to work our next generation of primary care providers by exposing students to rich clinical experiences working with diverse populations with varied and sometimes complex healthcare needs in our network of advanced primary care settings.”*

JULIE DIROSSI-KING, PRESIDENT AND CEO



MEDICAL STUDENT FROM CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY AT NEIGHBORHOOD FAMILY PRACTICE WITH A FAMILY FROM SYRIA.