



Ministry of
Health Services



Appendix A: Overview of REAP and REAP Sponsored Programs

Rural Education Action Plan (REAP)

The *Rural Education Action Plan* (REAP) supports the training needs of physicians in rural practice, provides undergrad medical students with rural practice experience, and increases rural physician participation into the medical school selection process. The program was established as a result of the *Subsidiary Agreement for Physicians in Rural Practice* (RSA), and is managed by the *Joint Standing Committee on Rural Issues* (JSC).

Rural Physician Participation in Medical School Selection Program

The purpose of this program is to ensure the ongoing presence of a practicing rural physician on the *Admissions, Admissions Policy and Northern Medical Program Admissions Committees*.

Third Year and Fourth Year Undergraduate Rural Participation Programs

The University of British Columbia manages this program for medical students, which provides \$250 per week for 4 weeks and up to \$800 travel stipend for undergraduate medical students wishing to gain rural practice experience. Students may also apply to extend their rural studies at \$250 per week for up to an additional 4 weeks pending available funding.

Undergraduate Teacher's Stipend Program (Year 3 & Year 4)

This program is designed to recognize and compensate rural physicians for their time spent teaching undergraduate medical students. This program provides a stipend of \$450 per week (to a maximum of 8 weeks) to Rural Preceptors providing training to medical students during their *Third Year and Fourth Year Undergraduate Rural Participation Programs* in a Rural Community beyond the initial month (4 weeks) which is compensated by UBC through its Faculty of Medicine.

High School Strategy

This is a student lead program to attract high school students to consider a career in rural medicine.

Closer to Home CME

The purpose of this program is to deliver rural CME closer to home. This consists of administering hands-on workshops to Rural Physicians.

Advanced Skills and Training Program

The purpose of this program is to improve rural physician retention and skills by increasing opportunities to receive advanced training and skill enhancement. Training opportunities available under this Program must be flexible in timing and may be from one day to three months in length. With supporting documentation, the Rural Physician shall be reimbursed \$3,400 per week to cover income loss, in addition travel and accommodation costs, upon submission of an expense claim by the rural physician. A rural physician is eligible to apply for up to three months of funding per fiscal year.

First Year in Practice Enhancement Program (FYPEP) / Rural Locum Service Upgrade Program

The FYPEP program allows physicians in their first year of rural practice to access REAP funding for skill upgrade without having to wait to achieve the nine month RSA billing requirement eligibility. Applicants to the FYPEP are eligible to receive 5 days of training for every one month of service in an approved Rural Community within the first year. The RLSUP Program provides an opportunity for locums actively servicing rural communities to pursue skill upgrades in areas allied with rural practice. Applicants to this program are eligible for 10 days of CME for every 3 months of rural locum service performed within the past year. They must complete one month of rural locum service within four months of completion of their training. Rural Physicians who undertake these programs shall be reimbursed \$3,400 per week (five days) to cover income loss, in addition travel and accommodation costs, upon submission of an expense claim by the Rural Physician.

Urban Skills Enhancement for Rural Practice Program (USEP)

The purpose of the USEP is to provide training opportunities for urban physicians in order to enhance their skills and recruit them to enter family practice in rural communities in BC. Applicants must complete one month of rural service within four months of completion of training. This program provides compensation for the cost of successful completion of the ATLS course and compensation for the successful completion of one month of training in a postgraduate rural training site in BC in the form of a stipend of up to \$3,400 per week which may be applied to cover income loss, overhead and tuition, as well as travel and accommodation expenses.

Specialty Training Bursary

The purpose of this Program is to provide incentive funding (\$25,000/year for a maximum of \$50,000) to Residents or Rural Physicians completing focused postgraduate training in a FOM Specialty Training Program. Residents or Rural Physicians are eligible to apply if they: are enrolled in a Canadian Specialty Residency program and are entering their final two years of residency; and have been accepted to a specialty position by a hospital included in the RSA once they have completed their residency program. A one-year return of service requirement is attached to each year of funding that the successful applicant receives.

Family Practice Residency Rural Rotation Support

REAP funds Family Practice resident in urban based training programs who wish to do additional rotations in rural subsidiary agreement communities beyond their required two months of rural experience.

Psychiatry Outreach Program

REAP assists Psychiatry Residents financially to accompany their preceptors who are involved in the Specialist Outreach program.

Rural Club

This club integrates rural residents and undergraduate students with rural faculty in collaboration with the UBC Undergraduate Family Medicine Interest Group.

Financial Sponsorship to Attend Conferences

Housed under the *Undergraduate and Postgraduate Promotional Strategies Program*, REAP sponsors medical students and rural residents to attend national and provincial rural and focused medical conferences each year. Students are selected from the *Family Medicine Interest Group* meeting.