

The RTT Collaborative: Participation or Sponsorship Requirements and Benefits

A rural health professions education network and a cooperative extension service

The RTT Collaborative (RTTC, or the “Collaborative”) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and board directed entity with program participants, individual and institutional financial sponsors, affiliated organizations, and income-generating service lines. The purpose of this organization is to sustain health professions education in rural places through mutual encouragement, peer learning, practice improvement, and the delivery of technical expertise, all in support of a quality rural workforce.

Participating Programs

The role of participating programs is to support core organizational functions such as communications, meeting support, and administration. Participating programs may include, but are not limited to the following examples:

Residency Programs in Medicine*

1. Rurally Located** Program, with minimal urban experience (3 months or less)
2. Rural Track Program (including legacy RTTs), with at least 3 months of urban experience and greater than 50% training in a rural location, considered by CMS as a ‘rural track program’ if it meets the OMB definition of micropolitan or non-CBSA)
3. Urban Program with a Rural Track (a defined track for selected residents who spend greater than 50% of their residency training in a rural location, also considered by CMS as a ‘rural track program’ if it meets the OMB definition of micropolitan or non-CBSA)
4. Urban Program with a Rural Pathway, a structured sequence of rural training experiences for select residents, but less than 50% of total training
5. Urban Program with a Rural Focus (as indicated by a mission statement and at least 2 months of required rural experience; also termed in the literature as ‘rural centric’)
6. Urban Program with Rural Outcomes (as measured by greater than 35% of graduates, or more than 3 residents a year on a three-year rolling average, locating in an initial rural place of practice)
7. Rurally Invested Program (any other program who chooses to join The RTT Collaborative and pay an annual participation fee, e.g., a health equity track or fellowship)

*Separate ACGME #

**For rural location, The RTT Collaborative accepts as ‘rural’ any place that is designated as rural by at least 2 federal definitions (See [‘Am I Rural?’](#))

Medical School or other Health Professions Programs meeting either of the following criteria:

1. Rural Track

The following criteria for a rural program in medical school was established empirically in the process of cataloging rural programs across the US:

Inclusion Criteria
<p>An organized and deliberate medical school strategy to produce physicians to rural practice as indicated by <u>all</u> the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A name 2. A program-specific goal or objective(s) to recruit, nurture, educate, train, or encourage students toward rural practice 3. A description that explicitly articulates a rural focus 4. A structured sequence or group of activities, courses, electives, selectives, or clerkships [e.g., “track,” “pathway,” “certificate,” “area of concentration” or “longitudinal integrated clerkship in a rural community (rural LIC),” even a rurally located “campus”]
Exclusions
<p>A scholarship program without a structured sequence or group of activities</p> <p>Rural clerkships, even required clerkships, if they are not organized into a program</p> <p>A rurally located medical school with or without a rural mission or program by our definition is a rural school, not a rural program. However, a rurally located medical school campus, i.e., a campus that does not separately report graduates to the AAMC or AOA, is a rural program if it otherwise meets the definition.</p>

2. Rural Focus (as indicated by a mission statement and at least 2 months of required rural experience for all students)

Other Rurally Invested Programs

Programs in other disciplines do not have a generally accepted typology at this time, but The RTT Collaborative in the future will adapt the above criteria to graduate and post-graduate programs in other disciplines.

In each case, it is the program that participates. Responsibilities include:

1. An initial and subsequent annual participation (“co-op”) fee paid to “The RTT Collaborative” due and payable July 1 of each academic year.
2. An annual program-relevant update for up-to-date network development and website maintenance, for research, and for organizational improvement

Although all rural medical education programs will benefit from the presence of an organization singularly devoted to the wellbeing of rural programs in general, formal participation in this collaborative as a participant or sponsor through an annual or multi-year participation fee supports important network infrastructure and provides benefits as outlined on our [website](#).

[Graded levels of sponsorship](#) include recognition for the cumulative contributions of a participating program as well as one-time and cumulative contributions from other supportive individuals and organizations.

Annual Participation Fee: \$2,750*

The participation fee is intended to apply to a single program, e.g., a rural program in medical school or a single accredited residency program. Residency participants, however, may be part of a formal or informal network of accredited programs (e.g., multiple programs under a single consortium sponsor, or a state association of programs). In an effort to encourage consortia formation or residency programs within a single State, an aggregating entity can be invoiced directly for all residency program participants within the same State, and the fee for each additional accredited program after the first will decrease to \$1,250 per program.

Click [here](#) to download an application, go to the “[Join the Movement](#)” page of our website for additional information. Questions can also be directed to Dawn Mollica, Administrative Director, at rttc-admin@rttcollaborative.net or Hana Hinkle, Executive Director, at RTTC1@rttcollaborative.net.