



Health Workforce

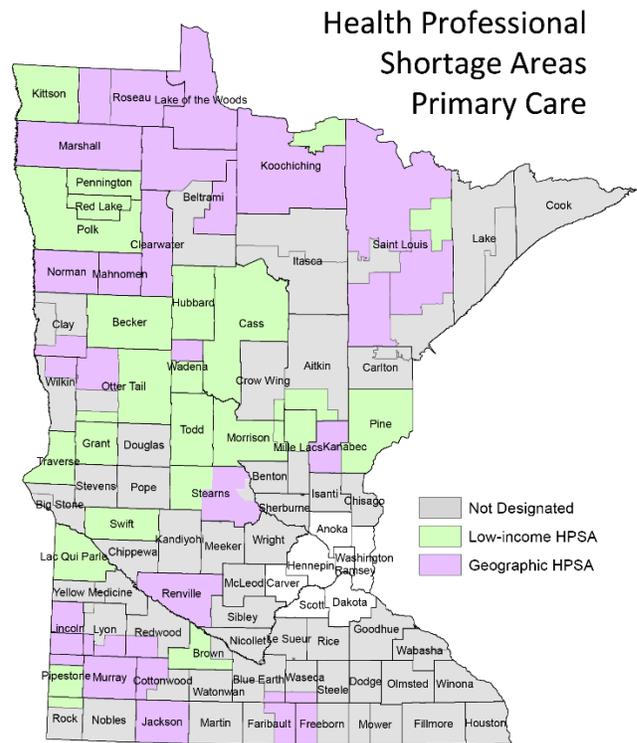
What happened?

Governor Dayton and the Legislature provided the Minnesota Department of Health \$7.1 million a year in the Health and Human Services budget for new investments to help meet Minnesota’s health workforce needs. New or expanded programs include loan forgiveness for health professionals who agree to work in rural and inner-city areas, funds to expand primary-care physician training and help qualified immigrant physicians practice in Minnesota, and scholarships to assist staff providing home and community-based services to advance their education. The Governor and Legislature also increased funding to other state agencies and the University of Minnesota to address health workforce needs.

Why is this helpful for Minnesotans?

Shortages of physicians, nurses, long-term care staff and other health professionals can cause delays in getting care and increase patient and family travel time. Shortages can also lead to unnecessary emergency room visits and avoidable hospitalizations.

The additional investments will provide more incentives for health professionals to practice in rural and other areas where they’re needed most. New funds will also support long-term care staff to continue to serve elderly and disabled Minnesotans, and will increase the number of foreign-trained physicians available to serve Minnesota’s growing immigrant and refugee population.



Source: Minnesota Department of Health Office of Rural Health and Primary Care 2015

Background

Minnesota faces current and projected shortages of health professionals in many fields, including medicine, nursing, dentistry and mental health.

Strategies like those funded in 2015 help attract qualified people to health care fields and settings where they’re needed most.

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