



FY27 International Medical Graduate (IMG) Career Guidance and Support Program

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Program Description

- Authorized by [Minnesota Statutes Sec. 144.1911, subd. 4](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/144.1911) (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/144.1911>) and updated in the 2024 legislative session
- Awards grants to eligible nonprofit organizations and postsecondary educational institutions to provide career guidance and support services to immigrant IMGs seeking to enter the Minnesota health workforce

Funds Available

Funding	Estimate
Estimated Amount to Grant	\$400,000-\$500,000
Estimated Number of Awards	1-2
Estimated Maximum Award	\$400,000
Estimated Minimum Award	\$100,000

- Funding is allocated through a competitive process
- No expenditures may be incurred before the grant agreement is fully executed and the start date arrives

General Information

- There is no match requirement for this grant
- Project Dates
 - RFP published: August 12, 2026
 - Applications due: September 21, 2026
 - Grant agreements begin (estimated): December 1, 2026
 - Grant agreements end: November 30, 2028
- Applicants are encouraged to submit collaborative proposals

Applicant Eligibility

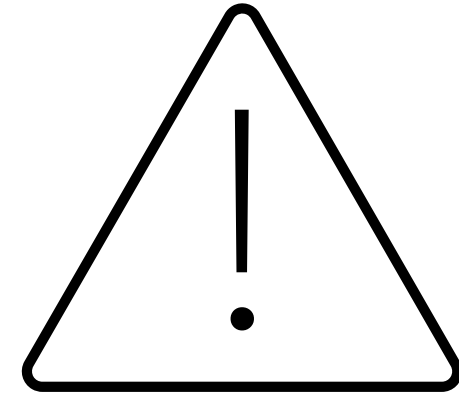
Eligible applicants are nonprofit organizations and postsecondary educational institutions that:

- Are located in Minnesota.
- Are in good financial standing.
- Demonstrate strong experience and success in:
 - Working with immigrants and refugees
 - Working with IMGs
 - Providing health care (physician and non-physician) career guidance and support



Funding Eligibility

- Grant funds are not transferrable to any other entity.
- Applicants that are aware of any upcoming mergers, acquisitions, or any other changes in their organization or legal standing, must disclose this information to MDH in their application, or as soon as they are aware of it.



Grant Program Goals

The goals of this grant program are:

- To provide career guidance and support services to immigrant IMGs seeking to enter the Minnesota health care workforce.
- To strengthen and diversify the Minnesota health care workforce, and ultimately to improve care for Minnesota communities, by facilitating pathways for IMGs to practice medicine and other health care professions.



Grant funding will be used to provide career guidance and support services to eligible immigrant IMGs. Eligible immigrant IMGs:

- Were born outside the U.S.
- Are physicians who received a basic medical degree or qualification from a medical school located outside the U.S. and Canada.
- Now reside permanently in the U.S. or entered the U.S. on a temporary status based on urgent humanitarian or significant public benefit reasons.
- Did not enter the U.S. on a J1 or similar nonimmigrant visa following acceptance into a U.S. medical residency or fellowship program.
- Seek to enter the Minnesota health care workforce.



Required Activities

Grantees will be expected to provide:

- Educational and career navigation for physician and non-physician health care professions, and guidance in determining which pathway is best suited for an individual IMG.
- Support for IMGs in becoming certified by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG), including help with preparation for required licensing examinations and financial assistance for fees.
- Connections to partners and resources, and financial assistance, for IMGs to support:
 - Increasing knowledge of and familiarity with the U.S. health care system. This may include clinical experience programs and observerships, for example.
 - Becoming proficient in the use of information technology, including electronic health record technology.
 - Becoming proficient in medical English.
 - Support for other foundational skills to improve IMGs' health care career prospects.

Required Activities, continued

Grantees will be expected to provide:

- Guidance and coaching related to preparing applications, preparing for interviews, and navigating the application process for medical residency, other health care training opportunities, and health care jobs.
- Referrals to partners and resources to address a range of needs, such as mental health and other health care services, housing support, and childcare.
- Connections between program participants and practicing or retired physicians for collaborative agreements
- Networking and peer support opportunities for current and past program participants and other Minnesota IMGs.
- Clearly defined program processes and policies, developed in consultation with MDH.

Eligible Expenses

Eligible expenses include but are not limited to:

- Program staff salary and fringe.
- Contracted services from partner entities providing training and other educational and career resources to IMG program participants.
- Professional development and travel costs for program staff will be considered on a case-by-case basis; these expenses require prior written approval from MDH.

Eligible Expenses (continued)

Eligible expenses include but are not limited to:

- Financial assistance to IMG program participants, on a reimbursement basis, for expenses such as:
 - United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) fees.
 - Other fees related to obtaining ECFMG certification.
 - Costs associated with clinical experience programs in Minnesota (programs outside Minnesota will be considered if no in-state option is available; MDH must give prior written approval).
 - Applications to medical residency programs.
 - Costs associated with training to become a physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse, or other non-physician licensed health care provider. Grantees will set parameters for supporting these costs in consultation with MDH.

Grant Contractual Obligations

- Work may not start prior to the full execution of the grant agreement and the project start date (expected start date December 1, 2026)
- Grant activities approved for payment are outlined in Exhibits A & B of the contract
 - Any activities outside of this must be approved by MDH before expenses are incurred
- Grantees must report on financial and programmatic activities quarterly
 - January 20, April 20, July 20, October 20
- Grantees receiving \$50,000 or more will have one grant monitoring visit and financial reconciliation per grant period
- Grantees receiving \$250,000 or more will have one grant monitoring visit and financial reconciliation per year through the grant period

Grantees will report to MDH on the following outcomes:

- Number and demographics (including countries of origin and languages spoken) of IMGs served.
- Partner entities and the services they provided to IMGs in the program.
- Number of IMGs who received individualized navigation and support services to support their entry into the Minnesota physician workforce.
- Number of IMGs who completed the requirements for Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) certification.
- Number of IMGs who applied to residency and number of times each IMG had applied to residency.
- Number of IMGs who were interviewed for residency.
- Number of IMGs who secured residency positions, along with information about their residency programs.
- Number of IMGs who participated in residency preparation / clinical experience programs (such as the University of Minnesota BRIIDGE program), along with information about those programs.
- Number of IMGs who pursued training for non-physician health care careers, broken down by specific career type.
- Number of IMGs who obtained non-physician health care positions, along with information about those positions.
- Number of IMGs who have practiced as a physician in another country for at least 60 months in the previous 10 years, have ECFMG certification, have passed USMLE Steps 1 and 2
- Number of IMGs who have received an offer of employment to work as a physician under a collaborative agreement

Review Process

- MDH determines initial eligibility
- Review committee scores applications on the criteria in RFP Attachment A:
 - Organization Background and Capacity (30 points)
 - Project Narrative and Work Plan (60 points)
 - Budget Narrative (10 points)
- Review committee and MDH determine grant awards
- MDH conducts due diligence and past performance review prior to entering into grant agreements

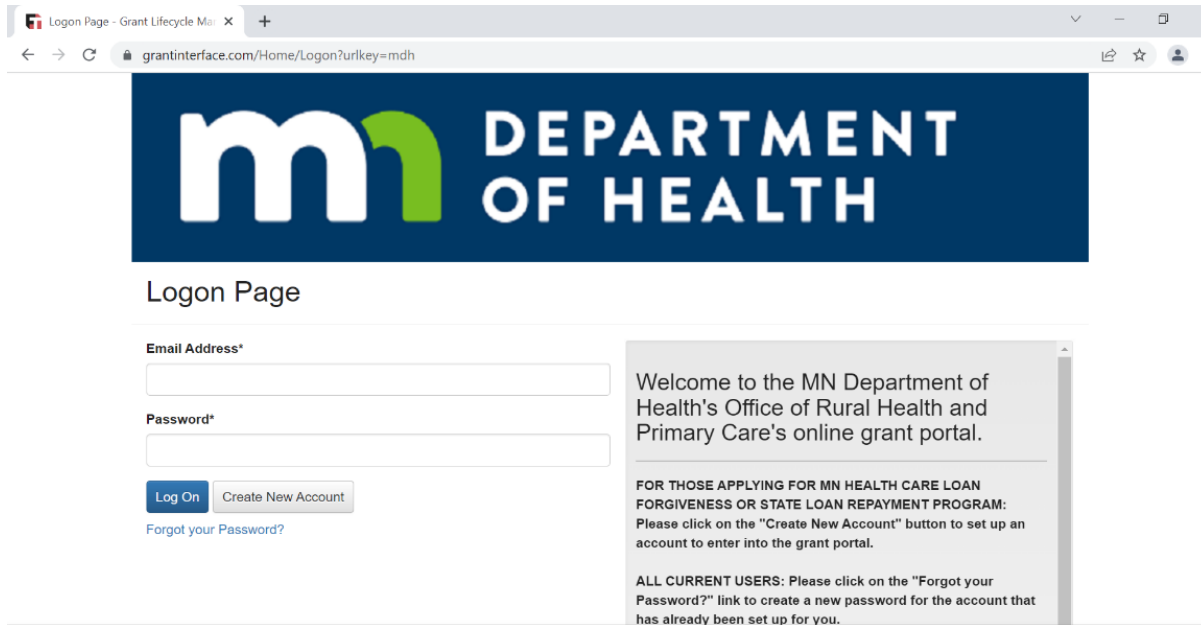
Submitting Questions

- All questions regarding this RFP must be submitted via email to MN_health.IMG@state.mn.us
- Answers will be posted within 5 days on [ORHPC Grants and Funding \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/facilities/ruralhealth/funding/grants/index.html#imgcg\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/facilities/ruralhealth/funding/grants/index.html#imgcg).
- Please submit questions no later than 4:30 p.m. Central Time on September 11, 2026

Application Submission

- Applications are due September 21, 2026, at 4:30 pm Central Time
- All applications will be completed and submitted via the online [ORHPC Grants Management System](https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=mdh) (<https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=mdh>).
- The next slides show how to create a profile and begin an application in the online system

Creating/Managing Users



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=mdh`. The page features the MN Department of Health logo at the top. Below the logo, the text "Logon Page" is displayed. The login form includes fields for "Email Address*" and "Password*", a "Log On" button, and a "Create New Account" button. A link for "Forgot your Password?" is also present. A sidebar on the right contains a welcome message and instructions for new and current users.

Logon Page

Email Address*

Password*

Log On Create New Account

[Forgot your Password?](#)

Welcome to the MN Department of Health's Office of Rural Health and Primary Care's online grant portal.

FOR THOSE APPLYING FOR MN HEALTH CARE LOAN FORGIVENESS OR STATE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM: Please click on the "Create New Account" button to set up an account to enter into the grant portal.

ALL CURRENT USERS: Please click on the "Forgot your Password?" link to create a new password for the account that has already been set up for you.

- Existing Users: log in or use the forgot password button
- New Users: verify your organization has or doesn't have a profile and create profile(s)
- If you are unsure of organization's status, reach out to MDH

Starting an Application

- On the portal homepage, find the FY27 International Medical Graduate (IMG) Career Guidance and Support Program
- Click Apply

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL grantinterface.com/Process/Apply. The page header includes the MN Department of Health logo and a user profile for Robin Test. The main content area is titled 'Apply' and features an 'Enter Access Code' field. Below this is a 'Quick Search' bar. The page lists several grant programs, each with an 'Apply' button:

- Community Clinics Grant - FY 2022: Accepting Submissions from 03/04/2022 to 04/06/2022
- IMG Career Guidance and Support Grant Program - FY 2022 Round 2: Accepting Submissions from 02/28/2022 to 04/08/2022
- Mental Health Cultural Community Continuing Education- Trainers: Accepting Submissions from 02/11/2022 to 04/04/2022

This section displays the details for the 'Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) - FY 2023' grant program. It includes the submission period 'Accepting Submissions from 11/15/2022 to 01/06/2023' and an 'Apply' button. The text states: 'Please refer to the [RFP](#) for further information about this grant program which includes information about the application process and requirements, the program statute, and award criteria.' At the bottom, there are buttons for 'Preview', 'Send to GrantHub', and an information icon.

Application Sections

> Eligibility for Internal Use

> Application Instructions

> Section 1: Organization and Applicant Information

> Section 2: Project Information

> Section 3: Organization Background and Capacity

> Section 4: Project Narrative

> Section 5: Work Plan

> Section 6: Budget and Narrative

> Section 7: Required Attachments

> Section 8: Applicant Conflict of Interest Disclosure

> Certification

- 9 sections to complete
- Refer to RFP for instructions on narrative questions
- Complete at your own pace
 - Save button vs. Submit button

Application Sections 1 & 2

- Section 1: Organization and Applicant Information

- Project Name
- Organization Name and Address
- Remit Address

- Section 2: Project Information

- Authorized organization representative
 - The person authorized to sign the grant agreement
- Fiscal Management officer
 - The person who will prepare financial statements for this grant
- Project Administration Contact
 - The person responsible for future activity reports

Section 3: Organization Background & Capacity

- Organization Type
- Organization Overview
- Experience and Success Working with Immigrants and Refugees
- Experience and Success Working with IMGs
- Experience and Success Providing Health Care Career Guidance

Section 4: Project Narrative

- Challenges Facing IMGs
- Alternative Career Guidance
- Program Partnerships
- Mentorship and Networking
- Advocacy for IMGs
- Recruitment
- Program Evaluation
- Pathways to MN Practice

Section 5: Work Plan

List key project activities. For each activity, indicate the title/position of each person who will be involved, a brief description of the activity, the expected outcomes, and the expected timeline.



Section 6: Budget & Budget Narrative

- Provide details on expected project expenses
- Budget categories:
 - Salary
 - Fringe
 - Travel
 - Supplies
 - Contracted Services
 - Equipment
 - Other
 - Indirect

Section 7: Required Attachments

- Audited financial statements
- Due diligence form
- Federally Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate
 - Provide documentation, if applicable
 - Applicants without a federally negotiated indirect cost rate may budget for indirect at up to 15% of direct costs

Section 8: Certification and Conflict of Interest

- Complete both sections prior to submission
- Should you be aware of any conflict of interest, this may not disqualify you for funding, but requires a mitigation plan to collaborate with MDH
- Reach out with any questions regarding conflict of interest

Questions?

Thank You!

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