

The Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education Program (CHGME)



The future of children's health in our nation is directly tied to the strength of our pediatric workforce. Congress created the Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) program in 1999 to recognize that a dedicated source of support for training pediatricians and pediatric specialists in children's hospitals was critical to ensuring a robust pediatric workforce. Prior to the establishment of the CHGME program, freestanding children's hospitals received almost no Medicare Graduate Medical Education (GME) funding—the primary source of federal support for training physicians. CHGME has enabled children's hospitals to dramatically increase pediatric physician training and significantly increase the number of pediatricians and pediatric specialists who care for the nation's children—the area of greatest shortage in children's health care. **The CHGME program needs to be reauthorized this year before it expires on Sept. 30, 2023.**

Which hospitals receive CHGME funding?

Though CHGME-funded hospitals make up just 1% of all hospitals nationwide, these children's hospitals provide close to one-third of the inpatient hospital care received by children covered by Medicaid. An adult-based teaching hospital may offer pediatric training but since the system receives GME funds through Medicare for its overall training program, it is not eligible for CHGME.

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children's hospitals, which primarily serve children under the age of 18 and have an accredited pediatric training program, receive CHGME funds.

Who does CHGME train?



~14,000

residents were trained in CHGME hospitals in 2021.¹

50%

of all pediatricians are trained by CHGME hospitals.²

60%

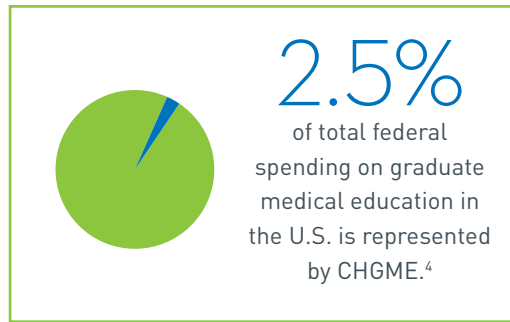
of all pediatric specialists are trained by CHGME hospitals.²



Two-thirds of CHGME-funded physicians who complete their training programs choose to practice in the state where they completed their residency.³

How is CHGME funded?

Unlike Medicare GME, CHGME is a discretionary grant program administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). It receives an annual appropriation and must be reauthorized every five years.



How is CHGME different from other federally supported physician training programs?

There are several noteworthy differences between CHGME and Medicare GME:

- CHGME is the primary training program for pediatric specialists, helping to alleviate the current shortage in pediatric specialists across the country.
 - Medicare and other HRSA-based training programs, such as the Teaching Health Centers program, focus on training primary care providers with a greater focus on adult providers.
- CHGME is a discretionary program. Congress must appropriate funds annually.
 - In contrast, Medicare GME payments are mandatory, do not need to be appropriated annually and do not need to be reauthorized.
- The amount of CHGME funding for an individual children's hospital is limited by the size of the annual appropriation. Changes in funding to one hospital affects the funding of other hospitals.
 - In contrast, Medicare GME is open ended and based on the size of its approved residency training programs, the number of Medicare-recognized residents and its Medicare inpatient volume. Therefore, increasing Medicare GME funds to one hospital does not affect the funds paid to another.
- Per resident funding for CHGME is just 51% of the amount that Medicare pays for resident training in general acute care teaching hospitals, leaving a longstanding and growing gap between physicians training in adult versus children's care.⁵
 - Per resident funding for CHGME is generally static and does not grow annually like Medicare GME.

1. "[Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education \(CHGME\) Payment Program](#)," Health Resources and Services Administration, May 2021.

2. CHA analysis of 2020 American Medical Association Graduate Medical Education Database.

3. "[Report on Residents](#)," Association of American Medical Colleges, December 2021.

4. "[Physician Workforce: HHS Needs Better Information to Comprehensively Evaluate Graduate Medical Education Funding](#)," U.S. Government Accountability Office, March 2018.

5. "[Comparative Analysis of GME Funding Programs for Children's Hospitals and General Acute Care Teaching Hospitals](#)," Dobson DaVanzo, March 2022.

Who does CHGME train?

CHGME hospitals train civilian and military:



pediatricians and pediatric specialists.



adolescent and pediatric psychiatrists.



pediatric dentists and podiatrists.



family medicine and other adult specialists for their pediatric rotations.¹

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physicians in some fields like pediatric rehabilitation receive their training at CHGME hospitals.²

The residents whose training is supported by CHGME funds learn from experienced pediatric-focused practitioners, participate in pediatric research and provide critical access to care for underserved communities.

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Front right photo: Sarah Lassen, Scottish Rite for Children; Dallas