Improve Children’s Access to Care
Increase funding for CHGME to $465 million for FY 2021

The future of children’s health is directly tied to the strength of our pediatric workforce. A growing gap between the federal investment in physician training for adults compared to children is contributing to worsening pediatric workforce shortages. Without action towards parity, an access-to-care crisis looms for children.

Children’s hospitals ask Congress to provide $465 million for CHGME in FY 2021

The Children’s Hospitals Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) program, created 20 years ago, is our most vital national investment in strengthening the pediatric workforce and expanding timely access to care for children.

- It supports the training of half the nation’s pediatricians and most pediatric specialists
- It represents just 2% of total federal spending on graduate medical education (GME)

Funding for training children’s doctors through CHGME is only half that provided per trainee in the Medicare GME program: $73,000 per resident versus $142,000 per resident.1 Every CHGME training slot is a financial loss for children’s hospitals. With COVID-19 operating losses mounting, and Medicaid payor mix on the rise due to the economy, this financial loss becomes far more unsustainable for children’s hospitals. While Medicare GME funds for similar training are expected to grow 4% this year, without additional investments CHGME funding will decline to 45% of Medicare GME by 2023.

Increase Financial Support for CHGME

By increasing CHGME funding by approximately $125 million annually for three years, parity between CHGME and Medicare GME can be achieved—ensuring a strong pediatric workforce pipeline for future generations. A funding level of $465 million for FY 2021 is the first step to ensuring the investment in training physicians for adults is comparable to the investment in training pediatricians and pediatric specialists.

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1 Dobson| DaVanzo, Comparative Analysis of GME Funding Programs for Children’s Hospitals and General Acute Care Teaching Hospitals, updated March 2019. 2010-2017 data based on Medicare cost reports and projections through 2023 using CBO assumptions. Medicare data based on CBO assumptions on Medicare; 2020-2023 data on CHGME assumes CHGME appropriations remain at FY 2020 level of $340 million.