

# 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 because it recognized that a dedicated source of funding for training pediatricians and specialists in children's hospitals was critical to ensuring a robust pediatric workforce. CHGME has enabled children's hospitals to dramatically increase pediatric physician training and significantly increase the number of pediatricians and specialists who care for the nation's children. However, there continues to be a significant shortage in pediatric specialists due to inequities between funding for physician training at adult hospitals compared to training at children's hospitals.

## 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. Adult-based teaching hospitals may offer pediatric training but are not eligible for CHGME since the majority of their patients are not children under the age of 18.

# 59

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



Children's hospitals ask Congress to provide

# \$778 MILLION

for CHGME in FY 2026.

## Who does CHGME train?

# 15,860

residents and fellows were trained with support from CHGME funds in academic year 2022-2023.<sup>1</sup>



More than half of both pediatricians and pediatric specialists are trained at CHGME hospitals.<sup>2</sup>

# 60%

of CHGME-funded physicians who complete their training programs choose to practice in the state where they completed their residency.<sup>3</sup>

## 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.



1.7%  
of total federal  
spending on graduate  
medical education in  
the U.S. is represented  
by CHGME.<sup>4</sup>

## 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 50% 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.<sup>5</sup>
  - Per resident funding for CHGME is generally static and does not grow annually like Medicare GME.

1. "[Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education Payment Program Evaluation](#)," Academic Years 2018-2023.

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.



child and adolescent  
psychiatrists.



pediatric dentists  
and podiatrists.



family medicine and other  
adult specialists for their  
pediatric rotations.<sup>1</sup>

## MOST

physicians in some fields  
like pediatric rehabilitation  
receive their training at  
CHGME hospitals.<sup>2</sup>

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.

## 45%

of the areas served by CHGME-  
funded hospitals are rural.<sup>1</sup>