

Background

In 2015, Minnesota was the first state in the nation to implement a comprehensive program to integrate immigrant medical graduates into the physician workforce, recognizing their potential to address pressing issues of healthcare disparities and workforce shortages in rural Minnesota and among the urban underserved. The IMG program consists of three parts:

- **Career Guidance and Support Services**, which help IIMGs ready themselves to apply for residency or to seek alternative primary care pathways that will allow them to make use of their medical background in helping Minnesotans;
- **Clinical Preparation**, via the BRIIDGE program – a nine-month residency preparatory program at the University of Minnesota that helps IIMGs develop the clinical skills necessary to become successful residents in the United States medical system; and
- **State-funded Primary Care Residency Slots** for IIMGs.

BRIIDGE Program (Bridge to Residency for Immigrant International Doctor Graduates)

Clinical experience/medical residency prep program

- 17 IIMGs have graduated the BRIIDGE program to date.
- 15 of the 17 IIMGs have been accepted into residency programs
 - 10 were accepted into MN residency programs,
 - 1 was accepted into a program that includes WI and MN clinical care, and
 - 4 were accepted into non-Minnesota residency programs.
- 8 of the 17 have completed residency training, and of those, 6 now in practice in Minnesota, 1 in Iowa, and 1 just graduated from residency.

State-funded Primary Care Residency Slots

Eligible Primary Care residencies include accredited family medicine, general surgery, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, psychiatry, and pediatric residency programs.

- 17 IIMGs have been accepted into a dedicated state-funded primary care residency to date.

Name of Program	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
UMN Pediatrics	2*	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
HCMC Internal Medicine		1**	2		1		1	1
Mayo Clinic Pediatrics			1***					
UMN Psychiatry				1**				

*One IMG selected during the application process for the dedicated IMG position was funded by the University of Minnesota

**Position supported 50% from the IMG Assistance Program and 50% from the Primary Care Residency Expansion Grant Program

***Resident did not finish training

For more information, please contact: MN_health.IMG@state.mn.us