ACGME RTP Designation Process Toolkit

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Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)
This interactive toolkit is intended to provide information about the ACGME Rural Track Program (RTP) designation* processes, criteria, and resources.

Click the desired link to navigate to a specific page.

ACGME Definitions

• ACGME Rural Track Program (RTP)
• ACGME Rural Track Program Designation
• ACGME Rural Track Related Program

ACGME RTP Designation Process

• RTP Designation Types Summary
• Type 1 (separate accreditation) - Full version
• Type 1 (separate accreditation) - Animated version
• Type 2 (program expansion) - Full version
• Type 2 (program expansion) - Animated version

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• Type 2 Data Inputs/Outputs and Criteria
• “Rural” criterion
• Duration threshold

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• Policy questions

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*The ACGME RTP designation is independent of any rural track designation by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and does not guarantee that a program will meet CMS eligibility requirements for GME or other financial support.
ACGME Rural Track Program (RTP)

An ACGME-accredited program in which all or some residents/fellows gain both urban and rural experience with more than half of the education and training for the applicable resident(s)/fellow(s) taking place in a rural area (any area outside of an urban Core-Based Statistical Area (CBSA)).
ACGME Rural Track Program Designation

A classification provided by the ACGME that identifies Rural Track Programs at the time of application for accreditation (Type 1) or with the approval of a permanent complement increase request and the addition of at least one new rural participating site (Type 2).
ACGME Rural Track Related Program

A separately accredited program in the same specialty at the same Sponsoring Institution in which residents/fellows have some overlapping education and training experiences with the ACGME Rural Track Program (Type 1) residents/fellows and may share resources.
RTP Designation Types Summary

**Type 1** (separate accreditation)
- DIO initiates at program application
- Criteria include:
  - > 50% GME in rural PPS hospital and/or non-provider site(s)
  - Rural area = county outside of an urban CBSA
  - Some required non-rural GME

**Type 2** (track within program)
- Program director initiates using sidebar option within ADS
- Criteria include:
  - All of the Type 1 criteria; and,
  - At least one rural participating site is new (program’s current residents/fellows not rotating there)

**Two approval steps:**
1. MUA/P and GME review of designation information
2. Review Committee review* of program application (Type 1) or permanent complement increase request and site changes (Type 2)

*The designation process is independent of accreditation review.*
ACGME Rural Track Program Designation: Type 1 (separately accreditation program) – (4.21.21)

Key:
- Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
- Program Director (PD)
- ACGME Review Committee (RC)
- ACGME Executive Director (ED)
- ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)

*DIO initiates program application*  
*Process subject to change with promulgation of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021*
ACGME Rural Track Program Designation: Type 1 (separately accreditation program) – (4.21.21)

*DIO initiates program application*

Seeking RTP designation?

Key:
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ACGME Rural Track Program Designation: Type 1 (separately accreditation program) – (4.21.21)

DIO initiates program application

Seeking RTP designation?

No

PD completes application following standard process

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ACGME Rural Track Program Designation: Type 1 (separately accreditation program) – (4.21.21)

DIO initiates program application

Seeking RTP designation?

Yes

DIO identifies related program (if applicable)*

No

PD completes application following standard process*

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Key:
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- **PD initiates program application**
- Seeking RTP designation?
  - Yes: **DIO identifies related program (if applicable)**
  - No: **PD completes application following standard process**
- **Yes**: PD completes RTP sections of application
- **No**: DIO initiates program application

*Process subject to change with promulgation of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021*
ACGME Rural Track Program Designation: Type 1 (separately accreditation program) – (4.21.21)

DIO initiates program application*

Seeking RTP designation?

Yes

PD submits RTP designation request

No

PD completes RTP sections of application*

DIO identifies related program (if applicable)*

PD completes application following standard process*

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- DIO initiates program application*
- Seeking RTP designation?
  - Yes: DIO identifies related program (if applicable)*
  - No: PD completes RTP sections of application*
- DIO approves RTP designation request
- PD submits RTP designation request
- PD completes application following standard process*

Key:
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DIO initiates program application*

Seeking RTP designation?

Yes

DIO identifies related program (if applicable)*

PD completes RTP sections of application*

No

PD submits RTP designation request

DIO approves RTP designation request

ACGME MUA/P and GME staff screens RTP designation request

ACGME MUA/P and GME staff screens RTP designation request

DIO initiates program application*

PD completes application following standard process*

Key:

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1. **DIO initiates program application** *
2. **Seeking RTP designation?**
   - **Yes**
     - **DIO identifies related program (if applicable)** *
     - **PD completes RTP sections of application** *
   - **No**
     - **PD completes application following standard process** *
3. **ACGME MUA/P and GME staff screens RTP designation request**
4. **DIO approves RTP designation request**
5. **PD submits RTP designation request**

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**Key:**
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DIO initiates program application* → Seeking RTP designation? → No → PD completes application following standard process*

Yes → DIO identifies related program (if applicable)* → PD completes RTP sections of application*

ACGME MUA/P and GME staff screens RTP designation request → DIO approves RTP designation request → PD submits RTP designation request

Meets designation criteria? → No → RTP designation declined and communicated to PD

Key:
- Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
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DIO initiates program application

Seeking RTP designation?

Yes

DIO identifies related program (if applicable)*

No

PD completes application following standard process*

PD submits RTP designation request

DIO approves RTP designation request

Meets designation criteria?

No

RTP designation declined and communicated to PD

PD updates info and submits request for re-review for RTP designation*

ACGME MUA/P and GME staff screens RTP designation request

Key:
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DIO initiates program application

Seeking RTP designation?

Yes

PD completes application following standard process

No

DIO identifies related program (if applicable)

PD completes RTP sections of application

ACGME MUA/P and GME staff screens RTP designation request

DIO approves RTP designation request

PD submits RTP designation request

Meets designation criteria?

No

RTP designation declined and communicated to PD

PD updates info and submits request for re-review for RTP designation

PD chooses not to proceed with program application

Key:
- Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
- Program Director (PD)
- ACGME Review Committee (RC)
- ACGME Executive Director (ED)
- ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)

*Process subject to change with promulgation of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021
PD proceeds with program application (without RTP designation)*

PD chooses not to proceed with program application*

PD updates info and submits request for re-review for RTP designation*

RTP designation declined and communicated to PD

PD completes application following standard process*

DIO initiates program application*

Seeking RTP designation?

Yes

DIO identifies related program (if applicable)*

PD completes RTP sections of application*

No

ACGME MUA/P and GME staff screens RTP designation request

DIO approves RTP designation request

PD submits RTP designation request

ACGME Rural Track Program Designation: Type 1 (separately accreditation program) – (4.21.21)

DIO identifies related program (if applicable)*

PD completes RTP sections of application*

Meets designation criteria?

No

RTP designation declined and communicated to PD

PD updates info and submits request for re-review for RTP designation*

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PD proceeds with program application (without RTP designation)*

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- **DIO initiates program application**
- **Seeking RTP designation?**
  - **Yes**
    - **DIO identifies related program (if applicable)**
    - **PD completes RTP sections of application**
    - **PD submits RTP designation request**
  - **No**
    - **PD completes application following standard process**
- **PD completes RTP sections of application**
- **DIO approves RTP designation request**
- **PD submits RTP designation request**
- **RTP designation granted, and standard communication issued to PD**
- **RTP designation declined and communicated to PD**
- **PD updates info and submits request for re-review for RTP designation**
- **PD chooses not to proceed with program application**
- **PD proceeds with program application (without RTP designation)**

Key:
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ACGME Rural Track Program Designation: Type 1 (separately accreditation program) – (4.21.21)

DIO initiates program application*

Seeking RTP designation?

- Yes

DIO identifies related program (if applicable)*

PD completes RTP sections of application*

- No

PD submits RTP designation request

DIO approves RTP designation request

PD completes application following standard process*

Meets designation criteria?

- Yes

RTP designation granted, and standard communication issued to PD

ED notified of RTP designation

- No

RTP designation declined and communicated to PD

PD updates info and submits request for re-review for RTP designation*

PD chooses not to proceed with program application*

PD proceeds with program application (without RTP designation)*

Key:
- Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
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- **DIO initiates program application**
  - **Seeking RTP designation?**
    - **Yes**
      - **DIO approves RTP designation request**
    - **No**
      - **PD completes application following standard process**

  - **PD submits RTP designation request**
    - **DIO identifies related program (if applicable)**
      - **Yes**
        - **PD completes RTP sections of application**
      - **No**
        - **DIO identifies related program (if applicable)**
          - **Yes**
            - **PD completes RTP sections of application**
          - **No**
            - **RTP designation declined and communicated to PD**

  - **PD completes RTP sections of application**
    - **RTP designation granted, and standard communication issued to PD**
    - **ED notified of RTP designation**

  - **PD updates info and submits request for re-review for RTP designation**

  - **PD chooses not to proceed with program application (without RTP designation)**

- **PD proceeds with program application (without RTP designation)**

**Key:**
- Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
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ACGME Rural Track Program Designation: Type 1 (separately accreditation program) – (4.21.21)

DIO initiates program application*

Seeking RTP designation?

Yes: DIO approves program application following standard process*

No: PD completes RTP sections of application*

ACGME MUA/P and GME staff screens RTP designation request

- DIO identifies related program (if applicable)*
- PD submits RTP designation request

- RTP designation granted, and standard communication issued to PD
- ED notified of RTP designation

- RTP designation declined and communicated to PD
- PD updates info and submits request for re-review for RTP designation*

- PD chooses not to proceed with program application*
- PD proceeds with program application (without RTP designation)*

DIO approves RTP designation request

PD completes application following standard process*

Key:
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ACGME Rural Track Program Designation: Type 1 (separately accreditation program) – (4.21.21)

**Process subject to change with promulgation of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021**

- **DIO initiates program application**
  - Seeking RTP designation?
    - Yes: DIO approves RTP designation request
    - No: PD completes application following standard process
  - DIO identifies related program (if applicable)
  - PD completes RTP sections of application

- **PD submits RTP designation request**
  - Meets designation criteria?
    - Yes: RTP designation granted, and standard communication issued to PD
    - No: RTP designation declined and communicated to PD
  - PD updates info and submits request for re-review for RTP designation

- **RC receives and processes application**
  - Site visit completed

- **PD proceeds with program application**
- **PD chooses not to proceed with program application**

**Key:**
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- Program Director (PD)
- ACGME Review Committee (RC)
- ACGME Executive Director (ED)
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ACGME Rural Track Program Designation: Type 1 (separately accreditation program) – (4.21.21)

Get-seeking RTP designation?

- DIO initiates program application

  - Yes: DIO approves RTP designation request
  - No: PD completes application following standard process

  - Yes: Site visit completed
  - No: Designated Institutional Official (DIO) identifies related program (if applicable)

  - Yes: DIO approves RTP designation request
  - No: RTP designation declined and communicated to PD

  - Yes: Program in substantial compliance
  - No: PD proceeds with program application (without RTP designation)

  - Yes: ACGME MUA/P and GME staff screens RTP designation request
  - No: PD updates info and submits request for re-review for RTP designation

  - PD chooses not to proceed with program application

  - PD completes application following standard process

  - PD completes RTP sections of application

  - PD submits RTP designation request

  - ED notified of RTP designation

  - RTP designation granted, and standard communication issued to PD

  - DIO completes program application

Key:
- Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
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- ACGME Review Committee (RC)
- ACGME Executive Director (ED)
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**Key:**
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- ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)

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**Diagram:**

1. **DIO initiates program application**
   - **Seeking RTP designation?**
     - **Yes:**
       - **DIO approves RTE designation request**
       - **DIO identifies related program (if applicable)**
     - **No:**
       - **RTP designation declined and communicated to PD**
       - **PD updates info and submits request for re-review for RTP designation**

2. **ACGME MUA/P and GME staff screens RTP designation request**
   - **Meets designation criteria?**
     - **Yes:**
       - **RTP designation granted, and standard communication issued to PD**
     - **No:**
       - **RTP designation declined and communicated to PD**

3. **DIO approves RTE designation request**
   - **PD completes RTP sections of application**
   - **PD submits RTE designation request**

4. **PD completes application following standard process**
   - **Yes:**
     - **DIO approves program application**
   - **No:**
     - **PD proceeds with program application (without RTP designation)**

5. **RC receives and processes application**
   - **Site visit completed**
   - **Program in substantial compliance?**
     - **Yes:**
       - **Initial Accreditation granted**
     - **No:**

---

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ACGME Rural Track Program Designation: Type 1 (separately accreditation program) – (4.21.21)

DIO initiates program application

- Seeking RTP designation?
  - Yes: DIO approves RTP designation request
  - No: DIO identifies related program (if applicable)

- PD completes application following standard process

- DIO approves program application

- Site visit completed

- RC receives and processes application

- Program in substantial compliance?
  - Yes: Initial Accreditation granted
  - No: Accreditation withheld

- RTP designation granted, and standard communication issued to PD

- PD completes RTP sections of application

- DIO approves RTP designation request

- PD submits RTP designation request

- ACGME MUA/P and GME staff screens RTP designation request

- Meets designation criteria?
  - Yes: RTP designation
  - No: RTP designation declined and communicated to PD

- PD completes application following standard process

- PD proceeds with program application (without RTP designation)

- PD chooses not to proceed with program application

- PD updates info and submits request for re-review for RTP designation

- DIO initiates program application

Key:
- Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
- Program Director (PD)
- ACGME Review Committee (RC)
- ACGME Executive Director (ED)
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Type 1 RTP Designation Inputs

- Seeking ACGME RTP designation
- Program director information
- ACGME Rural Track Related Program (if applicable)
- Participating sites data: site address (including county), Medicare Provider ID for Prospective Payment System (PPS) hospital providing financial support for GME at each site, months at each site, block diagram, RTP Rotation Information Form (available on web page)

Type 1 RTP Designation Criteria

- More than 50 percent of aggregated rotation months occur at rural PPS hospitals or non-provider site(s)
- Rural participating site(s) are in a rural county (outside of any CBSA) based on the CBSA crosswalk file on most recent IPPS Final Rule Home Page
- Includes required rotations at a non-rural PPS hospital or non-provider site

Type 1 RTP Designation Outputs

- Designation process updates: designation declined/approved
- Letter of Notification: ACGME Rural Track Program designation
- Publicly available report of ACGME Rural Track Program designations
ACGME Rural Track Program Designation: Type 2 (expansion of existing program with new rural site) – (2.24.22)

PD initiates
ACGME Rural Track Program designation request

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Designation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural Track Program</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Key:
- Program Director (PD)
- Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
- ACGME Review Committee (RC)
- ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)
PD initiates ACGME Rural Track Program designation request

PD completes RTP rotation information form

Designation
Rural Track Program

Key:
- Program Director (PD)
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ACGME Rural Track Program Designation: Type 2 (expansion of existing program with new rural site) – (2.24.22)

PD initiates ACGME Rural Track Program designation request

1. PD completes RTP rotation information form

2. PD completes rural site(s) and faculty information

Designation
Rural Track Program

Key:
- Program Director (PD)
- Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
- ACGME Review Committee (RC)
- ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)
ACGME Rural Track Program Designation: Type 2 (expansion of existing program with new rural site) – (2.24.22)

1. PD initiates ACGME Rural Track Program designation request
2. PD completes RTP rotation information form
3. PD completes permanent complement increase request

Designation
Rural Track Program

Key:
- Program Director (PD)
- Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
- ACGME Review Committee (RC)
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ACGME Rural Track Program Designation: Type 2 (expansion of existing program with new rural site) – (2.24.22)

**Designation**
- Rural Track Program

**Key:**
- Program Director (PD)
- Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
- ACGME Review Committee (RC)
- ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)
ACGME Rural Track Program Designation: Type 2 (expansion of existing program with new rural site) – (2.24.22)

1. PD completes RTP rotation information form
2. PD completes rural site(s) and faculty information
3. PD completes permanent complement increase request
4. PD completes specialty-specific form (if applicable)

PD submits RTP designation and complement change request

Designation
Rural Track Program

Key:
Program Director (PD)
Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
ACGME Review Committee (RC)
ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)
ACGME Rural Track Program Designation: Type 2 (expansion of existing program with new rural site) – (2.24.22)

1. PD initiates ACGME Rural Track Program designation request
2. PD completes RTP rotation information form
3. PD completes rural site(s) and faculty information
4. PD completes permanent complement increase request

DIO reviews RTP designation and complement change request
PD submits RTP designation and complement change request

Key:
- Program Director (PD)
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ACGME Rural Track Program Designation: Type 2 (expansion of existing program with new rural site) – (2.24.22)

Key:
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- Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
- ACGME Review Committee (RC)
- ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)

1. PD initiates ACGME Rural Track Program designation request
2. PD completes RTP rotation information form
3. PD completes rural site(s) and faculty information
4. PD completes specialty-specific form (if applicable)

DIO approves RTP designation and complement change request
DIO reviews RTP designation and complement change request
PD submits RTP designation and complement change request

ACGME MUA/P and GME staff screens RTP designation request (1 and 2)

Return to TOC
PD initiates ACGME Rural Track Program designation request

1. PD completes RTP rotation information form
2. PD completes rural site(s) and faculty information
3. PD completes permanent complement increase request
4. PD completes specialty-specific form (if applicable)

DIO approves RTP designation and complement change request
DIO reviews RTP designation and complement change request
PD submits RTP designation and complement change request

ACGME MUA/P and GME staff screens RTP designation request (1 and 2)

Complete and meets criteria?

Key:
- Program Director (PD)
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1. PD initiates ACGME Rural Track Program designation request
2. PD completes RTP rotation information form
3. PD completes permanent complement increase request
4. PD completes specialty-specific form (if applicable)

DIO approves RTP designation and complement change request
DIO reviews RTP designation and complement change request
PD submits RTP designation and complement change request

ACGME MUA/P and GME staff screens RTP designation request (1 and 2)

Complete and meets criteria?

Yes

ACGME RTP designation and communicated to PD

No

ACGME RTP designation declined and communicated to PD
ACGME Rural Track Program Designation: Type 2 (expansion of existing program with new rural site) – (2.24.22)

1. PD initiates ACGME Rural Track Program designation request
2. PD completes RTP rotation information form
3. PD completes permanent complement increase request
4. PD completes specialty-specific form (if applicable)

Designation
Rural Track Program

Key:
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Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
ACGME Review Committee (RC)
ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)

DIO approves RTP designation and complement change request

ACGME MUA/P and GME staff screens RTP designation request (1 and 2)

DIO reviews RTP designation and complement change request

Complete and meets criteria?

No

PD updates info and submits request for re-review for RTP designation

ACGME RTP designation declined and communicated to PD

ACGME RTP designation declined and communicated to PD

Return to TOC
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Task</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>PD completes RTP rotation information form</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>PD completes rural site(s) and faculty information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>PD completes permanent complement increase request</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>PD completes specialty-specific form (if applicable)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Designation**

Rural Track Program

---

**Key:**
- Program Director (PD)
- Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
- ACGME Review Committee (RC)
- ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)
1. PD initiates ACGME Rural Track Program designation request
2. PD completes RTP rotation information form
3. PD completes permanent complement increase request
4. PD submits RTP designation and complement change request

DIO approves RTP designation and complement change request

ACGME MUA/P and GME staff screens RTP designation request (1 and 2)

Complete and meets criteria?

No

ACGME RTP designation declined and communicated to PD

PD updates info and submits request for re-review for RTP designation

PD completes specialty-specific form (if applicable)

PD completes specialty-specific form (if applicable)

ACGME RTP designation declined and communicated to PD

PD completes rural site(s) and faculty information

PD completes permanent complement increase request

Key:
- Program Director (PD)
- Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
- ACGME Review Committee (RC)
- ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)

*PD could exit the designation section and follow standard processes to submit a permanent complement increase request
ACGME Rural Track Program Designation: Type 2 (expansion of existing program with new rural site) – (2.24.22)

1. PD initiates ACGME Rural Track Program designation request
2. PD completes RTP rotation information form
3. PD completes permanent complement increase request
4. PD completes specialty-specific form (if applicable)

DIO approves RTP designation and complement change request
DIO reviews RTP designation and complement change request
PD submits RTP designation and complement change request
ACGME MUA/P and GME staff screens RTP designation request (1 and 2)

Complete and meets criteria?
Yes
No

ACGME RTP designation declined and communicated to PD
PD updates info and submits request for re-review for RTP designation
PD withdraws RTP designation request*

*PD could exit the designation section and follow standard processes to submit a permanent complement increase request

Key:
- Program Director (PD)
- Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
- ACGME Review Committee (RC)
- ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)
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**Key:**
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- ACGME Review Committee (RC)
- ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)

1. PD initiates ACGME Rural Track Program designation request
2. PD completes RTP rotation information form
3. PD completes permanent complement increase request
4. PD completes specialty-specific form (if applicable)

- DIO approves RTP designation and complement change request
- DIO reviews RTP designation and complement change request
- PD submits RTP designation and complement change request

**Acme MUA/P and GME staff screens RTP designation request (1 and 2)***

**Complete and meets criteria?**

- Yes
  - Contingent ACGME RTP designation granted, and standard communication issued to PD
- No
  - PD updates info and submits request for re-review for RTP designation

**PD updates info and submits request for re-review for RTP designation***

**RC receives and processes complement change request (2, 3, and 4)***

**PD completes specialty-specific form (if applicable)***

**PD initiates ACGME Rural Track Program designation request***

*PD could exit the designation section and follow standard processes to submit a permanent complement increase request*

*PD could exit the designation section and follow standard processes to submit a permanent complement increase request*
ACGME Rural Track Program Designation: Type 2 (expansion of existing program with new rural site) – (2.24.22)

PD initiates ACGME Rural Track Program designation request

1. PD completes RTP rotation information form
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4. PD completes specialty-specific form (if applicable)

DIO approves RTP designation and complement change request
DIO reviews RTP designation and complement change request
PD submits RTP designation and complement change request

ACGME MUA/P and GME staff screens RTP designation request (1 and 2)

Complete and meets criteria?
Yes
Contingent ACGME RTP designation granted, and standard communication issued to PD

No
PD updates info and submits request for re-review for RTP designation
PD completes rural site(s) and faculty information

PD completes specialty-specific form (if applicable)

PD submits RTP designation and complement change request

RC receives and processes complement change request (2, 3, and 4)

Request approved?

Key:
Program Director (PD)
Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
ACGME Review Committee (RC)
ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)

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ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)
ACGME Rural Track Program Designation: Type 2 (expansion of existing program with new rural site) – (2.24.22)

1. PD completes RTP rotation information form
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Designation
Rural Track Program

DIO approves RTP designation and complement change request

ACGME MUA/P and GME staff screens RTP designation request (1 and 2)

DIO reviews RTP designation and complement change request

PD submits RTP designation and complement change request

RC receives and processes complement change request (2, 3, and 4)

PD completes specialty-specific form (if applicable)

Complete and meets criteria?
Yes

Contingent ACGME RTP designation granted, and standard communication issued to PD

No

PD updates info and submits request for re-review for RTP designation

ACGME RTP designation declined and communicated to PD

PD withdraws RTP designation request*

PD completes rural site(s) and faculty information

Complement change declined (no RTP designation)

Complement change granted (with RTP designation)

*PD could exit the designation section and follow standard processes to submit a permanent complement increase request

Key:
Program Director (PD)
Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
ACGME Review Committee (RC)
ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)
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- ACGME MUA/P and GME staff screens RTP designation request (1 and 2)
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- Contingent ACGME RTP designation granted, and standard communication issued to PD
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- Complement change declined (no RTP designation)
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Key:
- Program Director (PD)
- Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
- ACGME Review Committee (RC)
- ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)

*PD could exit the designation section and follow standard processes to submit a permanent complement increase request.
**Type 2 RTP Designation Data Inputs**

1. Rural Track Program Rotation Information Form (available on web page)
2. At least one new rural participating site (and new faculty member(s), if applicable)
3. Permanent complement increase request
4. Specialty-Specific Rural Track Program Questionnaire (if applicable)

**Type 2 RTP Designation Criteria**

- More than 50% of aggregated rotation months occur at participating site(s) that are rural PPS hospitals or non-provider site(s).
- At least one of the rural sites is new.
- Rural participating site(s) are located in a rural county (outside any urban CBSA).
- The program includes required rotations at a non-rural PPS hospital or non-provider site.

**Type 2 RTP Designation Outputs**

- Designation process updates: designation declined/approved
- Letter of Notification: ACGME Rural Track Program designation
- Publicly available report of ACGME Rural Track Program designations
“Rural” Criterion for ACGME RTP Designation

- Refer to the CBSA Crosswalk File on the most recent IPPS Final Rule Home Page
- County considered “rural” if Column E on the Crosswalk sheet is blank (not within an urban CBSA)

### FY 2022 Final Rule Data Files

1. FY 2022 Final Rule Impact File (ZIP)
2. AOR/BOR File (ZIP)
3. Case Mix Index File (ZIP)
4. FY 2022 Final Rule: HCRIS Data File (ZIP)
5. Cost Center HCRIS Lines Supplemental Data File (ZIP)
6. Standardizing File (ZIP)
7. **County to CBSA Crosswalk File and Urban CBSAs and Constituent Counties for Acute Care Hospitals File (ZIP)**
8. FY 2022 Final Rule and Correcting Amendment Wage Index Public Use Files (ZIP)
9. FY 2022 IPPS Final Rule and Correcting Amendment: Medicare DSH Supplemental Data File (ZIP)
10. Lugar Hospitals in Counties that Qualify for an Outmigration Adjustment for FY 2022: Note, this file will no longer be posted as all relevant information is available in Table 2.
11. HRRP Supplemental File (ZIP)
12. FY 2023 New Technology Thresholds Final Rule and Correcting Amendment (ZIP)
ACGME RTP Rotation Information Form* and rotation months per year listed in the Accreditation Data System (ADS) must show:

- ✓ more than 50% in rural sites (PPS hospitals and/or non-provider sites)
- ✓ some required GME in non-rural sites (PPS hospitals and/or non-provider sites)

*An ACGME RTP Rotation Information Form must be uploaded (separate from and in addition to the program’s block diagram) for designation consideration. The template can be found on the ACGME Rural Track Programs web page.
Contact

ACGME MUA/P Staff
• Questions about the ACGME RTP designation and ACGME’s efforts to address GME in MUA/P

Check MUA/P web page

Specialty Review Committee Staff
• Questions pertaining to compliance with Program Requirements

Check ACGME specialty web pages

Institutional Review Committee Staff
• Questions pertaining to compliance with Institutional Requirements

Check ACGME IRC web page

ADS Team
• Technical questions with application or Annual Update

ads@acgme.org
312.755.7474

Check ACGME specialty web pages

Check ACGME IRC web page

Return to TOC
If you have questions about the CMS rural track policy, contact your GME finance staff and/or the PPS hospital’s Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC).

The most current rural track policy can be found on the electronic code of federal regulations in 413.79(k).

A rural track regulation references document is available on the ACGME Rural Track Programs web page.
Federal Updates

- Section 127 of Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021
- Changes to rural track policy in FY 2022 IPPS Final Rule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Before October 1, 2022</th>
<th>Cost reporting periods on or after October 1, 2022</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Separate program</td>
<td>Program expansion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban funding only</td>
<td>Rural and urban funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three-year rolling average</td>
<td>No rolling average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FM-centric</td>
<td>All specialties</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Programs that have received designation request approval and achieved Initial Accreditation are under the “Rural Track Approved” status.
Public Report of ACGME-Accredited Programs with RTP Designation

Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) - Public

Rural Track Program Designation

This report shows programs that have received ACGME designation as a Rural Track Program. This designation is intended to be consistent with the CMS definition of a “rural track” in the Code of Federal Regulations (413.79(k)). The ACGME Rural Track Program designation is independent of any rural track designation by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and does not guarantee that a program will meet CMS eligibility requirements for GME or other financial support. If you have questions about the CMS rural track policy, contact your GME finance staff and/or the Prospective Payment System (PPS) hospital’s Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC).

Specialty

State

All Specialties

All States

View Report
Instructions for Requesting ACGME Rural Track Program Designation and Other Resources Are Available on the ACGME Rural Track Programs Web Page

Rural Tracks

ACGME Rural Track Program Designation

Consistent with Section II of the MUA/P framework, the ACGME is developing processes addressing ACGME-accredited programs that are also "rural tracks" as defined in rules and regulations of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in 42 CFR §413.79(k).

Under current CMS regulations, urban teaching hospitals have an opportunity to obtain reimbursement for direct GME (DGME) and indirect medical education (IME) financing by partnering with rural hospitals and other rural sites to create separately accredited rural track programs (RTPs). In RTPs, residents are assigned to certain types of participating sites in rural areas for more than half of the length of their residency program. While CMS does not limit the creation of RTPs to specific specialties, RTPs have historically been created in the specialty of family medicine only (some RTPs in Family Medicine are often called "1-2 programs."). Recognizing that alignment of ACGME processes with CMS regulations will facilitate the expansion of opportunities to address the health care needs of medically underserved areas through the development of rural track programs, the ACGME has developed a common, criterion-based process for designating ACGME-accredited RTPs across specialties.

RTPs may share resources with already existing ACGME-accredited programs, and residents/fellows in RTPs may have overlapping rotations with residents/fellows in those programs. Requests for RTP designation may identify the existing programs as Rural Track Related Programs (see definition below).