

CONRAD 30 WAIVER PROGRAM

General

Federal law requires International Medical Graduates (IMGs) who are not U.S. citizens to apply for the J-1 visa, which allows IMGs to remain in the U.S. until they complete their studies. Following their studies, the IMGs on J-1 visas (the “J-1 Physicians”) must return to their home country for at least two (2) years before they can return to the U.S. (the “two-year home country physical presence requirement”).

The Virginia Conrad 30 Waiver Program agrees to waive the “two-year home country physical presence requirement” by sponsoring J-1 Physicians who agree to serve in designated shortage areas of the Commonwealth.

Criteria

Full eligibility criteria may be found on the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Office of Health Equity (OHE) website at:

<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/healthpolicy/primarycare/incentives/j1visa/index.htm>

The program has a limited number of 30 available slots each year. Preference is given to:

- * Physicians trained in the specialties of Family Practice, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynecology and general Psychiatrists
- * Non-primary care physicians who fill a documented community health care need
- * J-1 Physicians being recruited for placement in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs)

Procedure

After eligibility is determined, the application process begins as follows:

1. Obtain a J-1 visa waiver case number from the U.S. Department of State and Identify Practice sites in Virginia eligible to employ J-1 Physicians.
2. Seek and secure employment at an eligible practice site.
3. Submit an application to VDH.

Other Considerations

A second J-1 Visa Waiver Program with an unlimited number of available slots is available in Virginia for J-1 Physicians practicing in a locality within the Appalachian Region Commission (ARC). To verify eligibility and apply for the ARC J-1 Visa Waiver Program, please visit the ARC

<http://www.arc.gov/j1visawaiver>.

Applications are accepted September 1 through August 31 of each year.

Please send your questions to olivette.burroughs@vdh.virginia.gov or call (804)864-7435.