

Virginia Conrad 30

J-1 Visa Waiver Program



Overview

Improving access to primary health care and needed specialty care in medically underserved areas is an important goal of the Virginia Department of Health (VDH). Through the Conrad 30 Program, VDH may request J-1 Visa Waivers on behalf of eligible J-1 physicians who agree to practice at qualifying healthcare facilities within designated health workforce shortage areas. A J-1 Visa waiver allows International Medical Graduates who fulfill the three-year service commitment to waive the J-1 Visa “two-year home country physical presence requirement”, which would otherwise be required.

This program accepts primary care physicians and some non-primary physicians who fill a documented community health care need.

Criteria

The program has a limited number of **30 available slots** each year.

To be eligible, a J-1 physician must:

- Have completed or be in the final year of a residency training program in Primary Care or Specialty Care
- Received an offer of full-time employment at a health facility in a designated Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) or Medically Underserved Area (MUA) and;
- Agree to practice full-time for at least three consecutive years in a federally designated shortage area

Full eligibility criteria and program guidelines may be found on the VDH - Office of Health Equity (OHE) website:

vdh.virginia.gov/health-equity/



Application

The application cycle begins on **October 16** and closes on **April 16** of each year. Slots will be filled with eligible applications on a first-come, first-served basis. Please see the VDH-OHE website for guidance on how to apply.

Other J-1 Waiver Programs

Appalachian Region Commission (ARC) J-1 Visa Waiver: J-1 Physicians practicing in HPSAs located within Virginia’s Appalachian region may apply for a J-1 Visa Waiver through the ARC J-1 Visa Waiver Program. To verify eligibility and apply, please visit www.arc.gov/j1visawaiver

National Interest Waiver (NIW): VDH may request a NIW on behalf of eligible physicians who commit to five years of service in a HPSA or MUA. Visit the VDH-OHE website for more information.