Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security

Ontario Learn and Stay Grant – Medical Education

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Ontario Learn and Stay Grant – Medical Education (OLSG-ME)?

- Starting in Fall 2026, the Ontario Learn and Stay Grant – Medical Education will provide grant funding to medical trainees enrolled in postgraduate family medicine programs. In return, recipients must commit to practising comprehensive primary care as family medicine physicians anywhere in Ontario for five (5) full years after completing their residency.
- The grant amount will be approximately equivalent to the direct educational costs incurred for their undergraduate medical education, based on the medical school from which they graduated.

What is the intent of the Ontario Learn and Stay Grant – Medical Education?

- The Ontario Learn and Stay Grant – Medical Education aims to help incent newly graduated family physicians to pursue a career in family medicine and practise comprehensive primary care in Ontario. This supports the government's goal of connecting all Ontarians with a family doctor or primary care team.

Who is eligible for the grant?

- The grant is restricted to medical trainees in postgraduate family medicine residency programs at Ontario medical schools who attended and graduated from an Ontario medical school for their undergraduate medical education. The first cohort of eligible grant recipients will be medical trainees enrolled in the first year of a two-year postgraduate family medicine residency program at an Ontario medical school starting in 2026-2027.
- Applicants must also be Canadian citizens, permanent residents or protected persons and at the start of their postgraduate family medicine residency program, must have resided in Ontario for at least 12 consecutive months without including months in full-time postsecondary studies.

What medical specialties will be eligible for the grant?

- The grant is only available to medical trainees in postgraduate family medicine residency programs at Ontario medical schools. It does not extend to other medical specialties.
- Individuals currently enrolled in a Family Medicine/Enhanced Skills (FM/ES) program are not eligible. However, grant recipients may submit a request to defer

their Ontario Learn and Stay Grant – Medical Education service commitment requirements for up to one year if they later enroll in an eligible FM/ES program immediately after completing their postgraduate family medicine residency program and if they agree to practise comprehensive primary care as a family medicine physician anywhere in Ontario for five (5) full years after completing their residency.
- Further information about the deferral process and related eligibility criteria will be made available to applicants in the coming months.

How much funding will medical trainees receive?

- The grant amount will be approximately equivalent to the tuition, fees, and other direct educational costs such as books, supplies, and equipment incurred by an Ontario Learn and Stay Grant – Medical Education recipient for their undergraduate medical education based on the medical school from which they graduated.

How will grant recipients be paid?

- Grant funding will be used first to pay down any outstanding Ontario Student Loans owed to the province. Any remaining funds will be issued directly to the recipient. Those without any Ontario Student Loans will be issued the full grant amount.

When can someone apply for the grant?

- In 2026-27, the grant will be available only to those individuals starting their first year of a postgraduate family medicine residency program at an Ontario medical school.
- Individuals enrolled in their second year of a postgraduate family medicine residency program in 2026-27 will not be eligible for the grant.

Will currently practising family physicians be eligible for the grant?

- No. In 2026-27, the grant will be available only to those individuals starting their first year of a postgraduate family medicine residency program at an Ontario medical school.

How does the Ontario Learn and Stay Grant – Medical Education interact with other Ontario return-of-service or medical training programs?

- The Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security (MCURES) and the Ministry of Health (MOH) are working together to ensure provincial return-of-service and medical training programs are administered in a coordinated manner, and that applicants receive consistent information about program requirements and related commitments.

- For example, MCURES and MOH are coordinating the implementation of OLSG-ME alongside the Resident Loan Interest-Relief Program (RLIRP) to support clear communications for applicants.

- MCURES and MOH will continue to work together to provide applicants with timely information regarding how OLSG-ME interacts with other provincial return-of-service programs (such as RLIRP) and medical training programs, including any relevant eligibility requirements, service commitments, and administrative considerations.

Are there any exclusions related to other medical training or return-of-service programs?

- With the exception of the RLIRP, individuals who have received, or are currently receiving, financial assistance from another government program to help cover the cost of their undergraduate medical education, or who are participating in another government-funded return-of-service or medical training program, are not eligible for the OLSG-ME. This includes federal programs such as the Canadian Armed Forces' Military Medical Training Program (MMTP) or Medical Officer Training Plan (MOTP).
- Individuals who received funding through OSAP, or other scholarships or bursaries to support the cost of their undergraduate medical education, remain eligible for OLSG-ME.

How do people apply for Ontario Learn and Stay Grant – Medical Education?

- Applications will open online on September 17, 2026. Interested individuals can apply through their existing OSAP account or create a new OSAP account.
- Applicants will only need to apply once, normally in the first year of their two-year postgraduate family medicine residency program to receive the full grant amount.
- For applicants who did not apply in the first year of their two-year postgraduate family medicine residency program, applications will also be accepted in the second year of the residency program, so long as they started their residency in

family medicine after July 2026. These applicants will be eligible to receive the full grant amount.

Where can someone work during their service commitment?

- Grant recipients can work anywhere in Ontario after completing their residency. Recipients must fulfill their service commitment by practising as a family medicine physician in Ontario, in a comprehensive primary care practice. Recipients will do so by practising as a family medicine physician under one of the following approved comprehensive primary care models, in accordance with a signed agreement with the Ministry of Health or Ontario Health:
    1. Comprehensive Care Model
    2. Family Health Network
    3. Family Health Group
    4. Family Health Organization
    5. Blended Salary Model as part of a Family Health Team
    6. Rural and Northern Group Physician Agreement
    7. Rural Generalist Model

- Recipients may also work for an eligible employer that delivers comprehensive primary care, in accordance with a signed agreement with the Ministry of Health of Ontario Health such as:
    8. Community Health Centre
    9. Indigenous Primary Health Care Organization
    10. Sioux Lookout Regional Physician Services Inc
    11. Group Health Centre
    12. Weeneebayko Area Health Authority

How long is the service commitment?

- Grant recipients must work for five (5) full years practising comprehensive primary care as a family medicine physician anywhere in Ontario.

Is a grant recipient allowed to complete third year enhanced skills (PGY3) training?

- Medical residents who received the OLSG-ME grant and want to pursue additional training (i.e., proceed to PGY3) to enhance their family medicine practicing skills can apply for a service commitment deferral. **Note**: Medical residents can only apply for the grant when they are in PGY1 or PGY2.

Does the service commitment have to start immediately after graduation?

- Recipients have a grace period of up to one year between completion of their family medicine residency training and the start of their five-year service commitment. This grace period is intended to provide recipients with time to transition into practice and secure a position that meets program requirements as outlined in their Service Commitment Agreement.

What happens if a recipient of the Ontario Learn and Stay Grant—Medical Education does not fulfil their service commitment?

- If the Service Commitment Agreement is breached, the grant will convert into a repayable loan.