

Karine Keys

From: Rural Medicine <RuralMedicine@albertadoctors.org>
Sent: November 19, 2024 2:56 PM
Subject: Letter From Dr. Rithesh Ram, President, Section of Rural Medicine: New Grant Funding for Rural Health Care

To all Rural Alberta Municipal Mayors,

My name is Dr. Rithesh Ram, and I am the President of the Alberta Medical Association's Section of Rural Medicine (SRM). I am also a Rural Generalist living and working in Drumheller, Alberta, so I understand the challenges rural communities face in attracting and retaining the health care professionals who provide essential care for their citizens. Many of us are also small business owners. Rural Generalists are a vital economic pipeline for rural Alberta and without us you would see the economic diversity and prosperity of communities diminish. If a Rural Generalist leaves a community, both the clinic and hospital suffer with reduced services or closures.

As you may know, the Government of Alberta recently announced that they were investing \$12 million over the next two years into two primary health care grants – a Rural Team Recruitment Grant and a Municipality Supported Clinics Grant. I want to draw your attention to these grants as Expressions of Interest must be submitted by *November 30, 2024*.

Physicians in your community may approach you about these grants, or you may wish to have conversations with physicians you know, and I want to provide you with some information that may be of assistance. The Section of Rural Medicine recently hosted an information session on the new grants, and you can find a recording of the session, the slide deck and other resources [here](#).

Like you, I know how important rural medicine is to the health of the people who live in rural and remote communities and to the economic stability of those communities. When communities can offer stable, reliable primary health care, those communities thrive. The grants have the potential to improve the lives of rural Albertans and make the communities they call home more resilient.

The AMA's Section of Rural Medicine will continue to advocate to stabilize and strengthen rural medicine. I encourage you to explore these grant opportunities before the *November 30, 2024*, deadline and to email any specific questions about the grants to PrimaryHealthCareGrant@gov.ab.ca.

Regards,
Dr. Rithesh Ram
President, Section of Rural Medicine