

Eligibility & Application Process

Employer Eligibility

- A healthcare facility must offer a prospective physician a full time, three year contract at a salary comparable to that paid to a U.S. physician in a similar position.
- A J-1 physician may not work under a contract including a non-compete clause.
- A healthcare facility can be located anywhere in Colorado if designated as Health Professional Shortage Area or Medically Underserved Area.
- The healthcare facility must provide care for those on Medicare, Medicaid and CHP+ as well as offer a sliding fee schedule for those who are uninsured or unable to pay the full cost of a copay.

Application Process

- Applications are available on the Primary Care Office Web site — *see back fold*.
- Applications are accepted year round.
- Applications must be approved before the physician is hired.

A typical Colorado J-1 physician serves six times as many patients who are medically underserved as a U.S. physician.

Conrad 30 J-1 Visa Waiver Program

Primary Care Office
Colorado Department of
Public Health and Environment
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South
Denver, CO 80246

For more information call:
303-692-2466

or visit:
www.cdphe.state.co.us/pp/primarycare



**Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment**

Improving access to
quality, affordable
primary care service



Conrad 30 J-1 Visa Waiver Program

Primary Care Office

Colorado Department of
Public Health
and Environment

Program Overview

The Primary Care Office at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment is committed to assisting all residents of Colorado with accessing quality, affordable healthcare services. The Conrad 30 J-1 Visa Waiver Program began in Colorado in 1998 as a means of increasing the availability of physicians in areas of Colorado designated as Health Professional Shortage Area or Medically Underserved Area.

- International medical graduates (IMG) are physicians trained in other countries, who come to the United States for residency and fellowship training on a J-1 Visa.
- Normally, IMGs must return home for at least two years before they can apply for permanent U.S residency. If a waiver is granted under the Conrad 30 J-1 Visa Waiver program, this requirement is waived.
- The J-1 Visa Waiver Program focuses on the placement of IMG primary care physicians (family practice, internal medicine, general pediatrics, OB/GYN, and psychiatry). The program also places physicians from other specialties where there is a demonstrated shortage in the service area.

Overview/ Requirements

- Each state is allowed to recommend 30 waivers per year to the U.S. Department of State.
- Nearly 24% of all active physicians in the United States are International Medical Graduates.
- IMGs are screened for security purposes before they are allowed to enter the U.S.

Requirements for J-1 Physicians

- Pass an exam demonstrating knowledge and skills equivalent to a medical student trained in the United States.
- Pass an English language fluency exam.
- Be sponsored by an approved residency or fellowship training program.

60% of J-1 physicians stay in Colorado once their service commitment is complete and 40% stay in the counties where they were initially hired.

Benefits/ Qualifications

Benefits of the Program

- Communities unable to attract a U.S. physician are allowed to recruit foreign physicians trained in the U.S.
- Physicians must commit to a three year, full time contract.
- Each J-1 Visa Waiver physician generates substantial income for the economy in their community.
- Physicians must provide care to Medicaid, Medicare, uninsured and under-insured populations in their community.

Physician Qualifications

- A J-1 Visa Waiver applicant physician must be in the United States for at least three years in residency training, learning American medical practices.
- A J-1 physician must be licensed by the State of Colorado to practice medicine.
- Many J-1 Visa physicians have additional sub-specialty training.