



CONRAD 30 WAIVER PROGRAM

Issue: shortages with forensic pathologists; specialized physicians who most often work for county governments fulfilling the mandated duties of death investigations.

Background:

- ☆ U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Citizenship and Immigration Services - [Conrad 30 Waiver Program](#)
 - Allows J-1 foreign medical graduates to apply for a waiver of the 2-year foreign residence requirement upon completion of the J-1 exchange visitor program.
 - Addresses the shortage of qualified doctors in medically underserved areas.
 - Does not allocate slots for specific specialties or subspecialties.
 - Allows each state's department of health to recommend up to 30 international medical graduates (IMGs) each year for the waiver.
 - For practices located outside designated shortage areas, if an employer can illustrate that they provide services to patients who live in shortage areas, Flex-10 Waivers are also allowable for up to 10 of a state's 30 slots.
 - IMGs must serve in designated health professional shortage areas (HPSAs), medically underserved areas (MUAs), or medically underserved populations (MUPs) for three continuous years.
 - Shortage designation identifies an area, population, or facility experiencing a shortage of health care services.
 - Site eligibility is based on the physical location of the facility where the physician will be on site providing services.
 - Restricts which HPSAs, MUAs, and MUPs are eligible. The site must be in a HPSA or a MUA that has been updated within the last four years.
 - HPSA: <https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/shortage-area/hpsa-find>

- Geographic areas, populations, or facilities, with a shortage of primary, dental or mental health care providers.
 - MUAs/MUPs: <https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/shortage-area/mua-find>
 - Identify geographic areas and populations with a lack of access to primary care services; help establish health maintenance organizations or community health centers.
 - Allows states to designate 10 slots for FLEX positions to be used in non-MUA areas or for specific specialties where the state indicates a need
- ☆ Texas Health and Human Services, Department of State Health Services, Texas Primary Care Office - [Texas Conrad 30 J-1 Visa Waiver Program](#)
- Administers the program for Texas.
 - Annual application cycle, \$3,000 fee, next cycle is 09/06/22 through 09/20/22.
 - All 30 slots are filled each year and usually over 30 applications are received. When more than 30 applications are received, the applications are rank ordered based on physician specialty and location.
 - Does not currently use the Flex-10 Waivers, which are administered according to the regulations of individual states.
- ☆ **Solutions:**
- Petition the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Citizenship and Immigration Services to increase waiver allocations.
 - Petition Texas DSHS to utilize Flex-10 Waivers, and allocate a specific number per year for forensic pathology.

MS, 2022.08.23