

Community First **New Physician Subsidy Program**

Executive Summary

Community First is a Hawai‘i Island 501(c)(3) non-profit focused on improving wellness and designing health care solutions for Hawai‘i County. One aspect of that focus is to serve as the fiscal sponsor of a financial support program designed to recruit new physicians to bring their talents to Hawai‘i Island, sustain them in their practice, and encourage them to make Hawai‘i Island their home. Community First leaders recognize the need in the community for primary care and specialty physicians, who often face financial obstacles and other challenges when they arrive here. In response, local health care institutions and community organizations have joined together to develop financial support packages that will subsidize new physicians who are called to practice in the East Hawai‘i Community. There are two financial support programs available: the community-supported subsidy program and the hospital-supported subsidy program. The **community-supported subsidy program** will support physician positions. Subsidies of up to \$100,000 will be distributed over the course of two years with a three-year obligation of fulltime service in the East Hawai‘i region. Each subsidy requires a physician sponsor to assist with transition to Hawai‘i Island medical practice. There is a preference that the physician sponsor be a member of the East Hawai‘i Independent Physician Association (EHI IPA).

The **hospital-supported subsidy program** will support one physician specialist where there is a high need in the community and in the hospital for this physician’s services. A subsidy will be provided for a two-year period, and paid out as a grant on a quarterly basis, with the selected physician specialist also committing to a three-year obligation of fulltime service in the East Hawai‘i region and being sponsored by a physician in East Hawai‘i.

To be **eligible** for these grants, applicants must be physicians new to the East Hawai‘i Region service area (not currently practicing) or residents completing training in the HHSC Hawai‘i Island Family Medicine Residency. Award recipients will be selected by a selection committee chosen by Community First. The Community First New Physician Subsidy Program is intended and expected to improve the number of primary care and high need specialty practices in medically underserved areas of the East Hawai‘i Region on Hawai‘i Island, as well as improve the retention of health care providers in medically underserved areas by lessening the burden of large debt by subsidizing physician income to stabilize their practice.

The **financial support selection process** involves a series of steps: 1) Community First advertises the financial support program with the support of community partners; 2) New physicians connect with an East Hawai‘i physician (requirement for application); 3) New physicians and sponsoring/mentoring

physicians fill out an application; 4) Applications reviewed by Community First Selection Committee; 5) Selection Committee makes a recommendation and forwards to Community First for a decision; 6) If appropriate, Community First makes offer to new physician; and 7) New physician commits.

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis while funds are available. Notification of award decisions will be sent out within 60 days of application receipt. Questions regarding the application or eligibility can be answered by the Program Administrator at kkobayashi@communityfirst.co or (808) 756-9637 or (808) 785-9579.