Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) are essential to a functioning health care safety net and are a potential partner of rural Graduate Medical Education (GME) which is associated with greater likelihood of service in rural and underserved areas. Currently very little Medicare funding supports GME in the CAH setting, highlighting a missed opportunity to improve access to care in rural America. (J Am Board Fam Med 2012;25:7–8.)
primary care training, such as the teaching health center program, also mean opportunity for CAHs to play an important role in GME expansion. Though this role for CAHs requires no legislative changes, CAHs will face additional hurdles related to accreditation and staffing.

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References