

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama

MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

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The majority of Alabama's counties do not have enough primary care and behavioral health physicians. To address this statewide need, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama (BCBS Alabama) continues to invest in the future of its Primary Care Physician Network by providing scholarship opportunities. Since 2016, BCBS Alabama has **awarded over \$7 million to 109 medical students in medical scholarship funds**. As a condition of these scholarships, the recipients agree to practice as primary care or behavioral health physicians in underserved areas of Alabama after graduation.

PROGRAM IMPACT:

- 6** Scholarship recipients in practice
- 15** New physicians scheduled to begin summer 2022
- 160** Statewide goal for primary doctors in underserved, rural communities

"Edward Via Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM) is grateful to Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama for its foresight of and understanding about the importance of encouraging students to return to practice medicine in medically underserved areas of Alabama. This generous, multi-year commitment by BCBS Alabama enriches VCOM's scholarship program, decreases student debt and enables VCOM students to fulfill the college's mission of returning graduates to rural and medically underserved areas in Alabama."

– Dixie Tooke-Rawlins, president and provost, Edward Via College of Medicine

