

26 | concluded that "Florida's physician workforce is inadequate to
 27 | meet projected demand," and

28 | WHEREAS, the Office of Program Policy Analysis and
 29 | Government Accountability reported that the shortage of
 30 | physicians in this state could affect citizens' access to health
 31 | care if current trends persist, with a supply of physicians to
 32 | meet only 77 percent of the projected demand for physicians in
 33 | Florida by 2035, and

34 | WHEREAS, there were some 835,000 practicing doctors in
 35 | American in 2023, according to the United States Bureau of Labor
 36 | Statistics, and the United States is currently experiencing a
 37 | shortage of practicing doctors because demand exceeds supply,
 38 | NOW THEREFORE,

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40 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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42 | **Section 1. Section 1009.899, Florida Statutes, is created**
 43 | **to read:**

44 | 1009.899 The First in Your Family Florida Medical School
 45 | Scholarship and Grant Program.—

46 | (1) There is established the First in Your Family Florida
 47 | Medical School Scholarship and Grant Program to be administered
 48 | by the Department of Education to provide scholarships to
 49 | students who are the first in their families to be enrolled in
 50 | an in-state or out-of-state accredited medical school or

51 approved physician assistant program and to create
52 nontraditional mentoring services or support programs for
53 certain students.

54 (2) The department shall award scholarships to students
55 who are the first in their families to be enrolled in an in-
56 state or out-of-state accredited medical school or approved
57 physician assistant program that will lead to licensure under
58 chapter 458 or chapter 459. The scholarship amount shall be
59 determined by the department. Priority shall be given to
60 students who are enrolled in an accredited medical school in the
61 state and who graduated from a public or private postsecondary
62 educational institution in the state in the last 5 years. The
63 department shall establish criteria for the program, which must
64 include:

65 (a) Student eligibility criteria, including, but not
66 limited to, requirements that the applicant:

67 1. Be the first in his or her family to be enrolled in an
68 in-state or out-of-state accredited medical school or approved
69 physician assistant program.

70 2. Be a United States citizen.

71 (b) Program and scholarship award requirements, including,
72 but not limited to, that:

73 1. Awards must be income-based for students whose annual
74 household income is less than \$150,000.

75 2. Two-thirds of the scholarships that are available and

76 awarded through the program must be to students who are enrolled
77 in an in-state medical school or physician assistant program at
78 a public postsecondary educational institution.

79 3. One-third of the scholarships that are available and
80 awarded through the program must be to students who are enrolled
81 in an out-of-state medical school or physician assistant program
82 at a public or private postsecondary educational institution.

83 4. Preference shall be given to students enrolled at in-
84 state accredited medical schools and approved physician
85 assistant programs at public educational institutions.

86 5. Scholarship award funds shall be dispersed as follows:

87 a. Fifty percent of the total scholarship award shall be
88 paid after September 1 of each year when the enrollment of the
89 student has been verified.

90 b. Twenty five percent of the total scholarship award
91 shall be paid in January of each year.

92 c. Twenty five percent of the total scholarship award
93 shall be paid in June of each year.

94 6. A scholarship may be awarded and renewed for a total of
95 4 years, based upon proof of enrollment or continued enrollment
96 in an accredited medical school or approved physician assistant
97 program.

98 7. A student receiving an award through the program may
99 use up to \$5,000 of the scholarship for emergency funds for
100 students experiencing an emergency or a financial crisis,

101 including, but not limited to, issues relating to a student's
102 car, housing, and health care.

103 8. A student receiving an award through the program may
104 use up to \$2,500 of the scholarship for fees, kits, coats,
105 clothing, medical bag, blood pressure kits, drug testing, or
106 disability insurance.

107 (3) The department may award grants to public
108 postsecondary educational institutions or nonprofit
109 organizations under s. 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal
110 Revenue Code to create and implement nontraditional mentoring
111 services or support programs to assist students who are enrolled
112 in an accredited medical school or approved physician assistant
113 program at a public educational institution in the state. A
114 grant awarded under this subsection may not exceed \$100,000.

115 **Section 2.** For the 2025-2026 fiscal year, and each fiscal
116 year thereafter, the sum of \$10,000,000 in recurring funds is
117 appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of
118 Education for the purpose of implementing the First in Your
119 Family Florida Medical School Scholarship and Grant Program.

120 **Section 3.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.