

The Who, What and Whys About J-1 Programs

Presented by: Don Buecker, President



Before we Get Started

A) Let me tell you a little bit about my background

And

B) How many of you know anything about J-1 Physicians?



J-1 Physicians are.....

- A) Foreign Medical Graduates (FMGs) who come to the USA to perform post-graduate medical education training.....i.e. residencies and/or fellowships.
- B) The J-1 Visa is a training visa and is considered by most to be the “appropriate” visa for performing post-graduate medical education training (although some FMGs do train on H-1B visas)
- C) There is a part of the J-1 Visa that is called “The Two-Year Homebound Requirement”
- D) In order to be able to stay in the USA after their training is complete, the J-1 Physician must obtain a “Waiver” of the Two-Year Homebound Requirement.

(For a more detailed explanation please see the hand-out)



J-1 Waiver Programs

- A) Veterans Administration (VAs). The first “Interested Government Agency” (IGA) to do J-1 Visa Waivers (mid-1980s)
- B) Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). The second IGA to do J-1 Waivers (late 1980s). Became an organized and “official” ARC program in 1991.
- C) Conrad “State 30” Programs. Passed by Congress in 1994 as the “State 20” Programs.
- D) Delta Regional Authority (DRA). Began in 1999 at the inception of the DRA.
- E) Department of Health and Human Resources

(For a more detailed explanation please see the hand-out)



Benefits to Communities Regarding the Recruitment of J-1 Physicians

- A) Increases access to care
- B) Decrease in infant mortality and morbidity rates.
- C) More Physicians in the area has a positive affect on the general health and wellness conditions of community.
- D) The quality of the physicians in general are extremely good.....the “Best and the Brightest” individuals are those who come from their countries to the USA to train.....the tangential effect is that the J-1 doctors are quite good.....and are without exception American Board Certified.
- E) Economic Benefits.....more physicians in the community helps to keep the local dollars at home.



A Few Challenges to Communities Regarding the Recruitment of J-1 Physicians

- A) Moving away from the concept that the J-1 Waiver Programs are a way to “bridge the gap” between the recruitment of American Born & American Trained (ABAT) physicians.
- B) Promoting the realization that the J-1 Physician retention rates are almost identical to retention rates for ABATs.
- C) Developing a welcoming atmosphere for the “new” docs in town.



THANK YOU!!!

And Good Luck With Your Physician Recruitment!!

