

Support Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education (GME)

The **Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education (CHGME)** Payment Program has been a vital investment in the nation's nearly 60 independent children's teaching hospitals. The funding from the CHGME program helps to address the unintended but serious inequity for the pediatric workforce and children's hospitals. These payments represent significant progress toward Congress' goal of providing a level of federal GME support to the independent children's teaching hospitals comparable to what other hospitals already receive through Medicare. The payments are a much-needed investment in the future of pediatric medicine and children's health care.

Independent children's hospitals, with federal CHGME support, have played a key role in ensuring the continued growth of our nation's pediatric workforce, including pediatric subspecialists in short supply. CHGME has afforded children's hospitals the opportunity to sustain and improve their teaching programs, allowing them to expand and reverse a decline in pediatric residencies that began in the 1990s. Together, CHGME-recipient hospitals have accounted for more than 65 percent of the growth in pediatric specialist training.

While the CHGME program has helped increase the number of pediatric residents and fellows, there is still a lack of pediatric subspecialists nationwide. These ongoing shortages cause families to experience challenges accessing timely and appropriate care due to long wait times for medical appointments for their children.

The **Public Policy Council** appreciates current CHGME funding at \$317.5 million, but requests full funding of the program at \$330 million for Fiscal Year 2011.

ADVOCACY ACTION REQUESTED

Urge your members of Congress to support full funding of the CHGME program at \$330 million for Fiscal Year 2011.

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