



Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce

LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAMS AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS REPORT

Fiscal Year 2023

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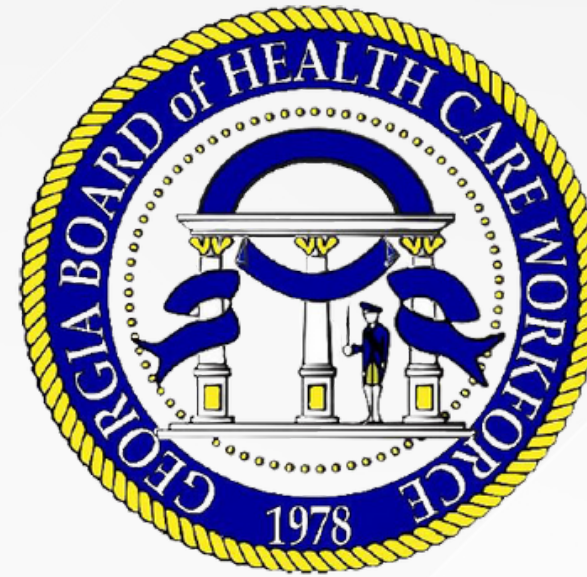
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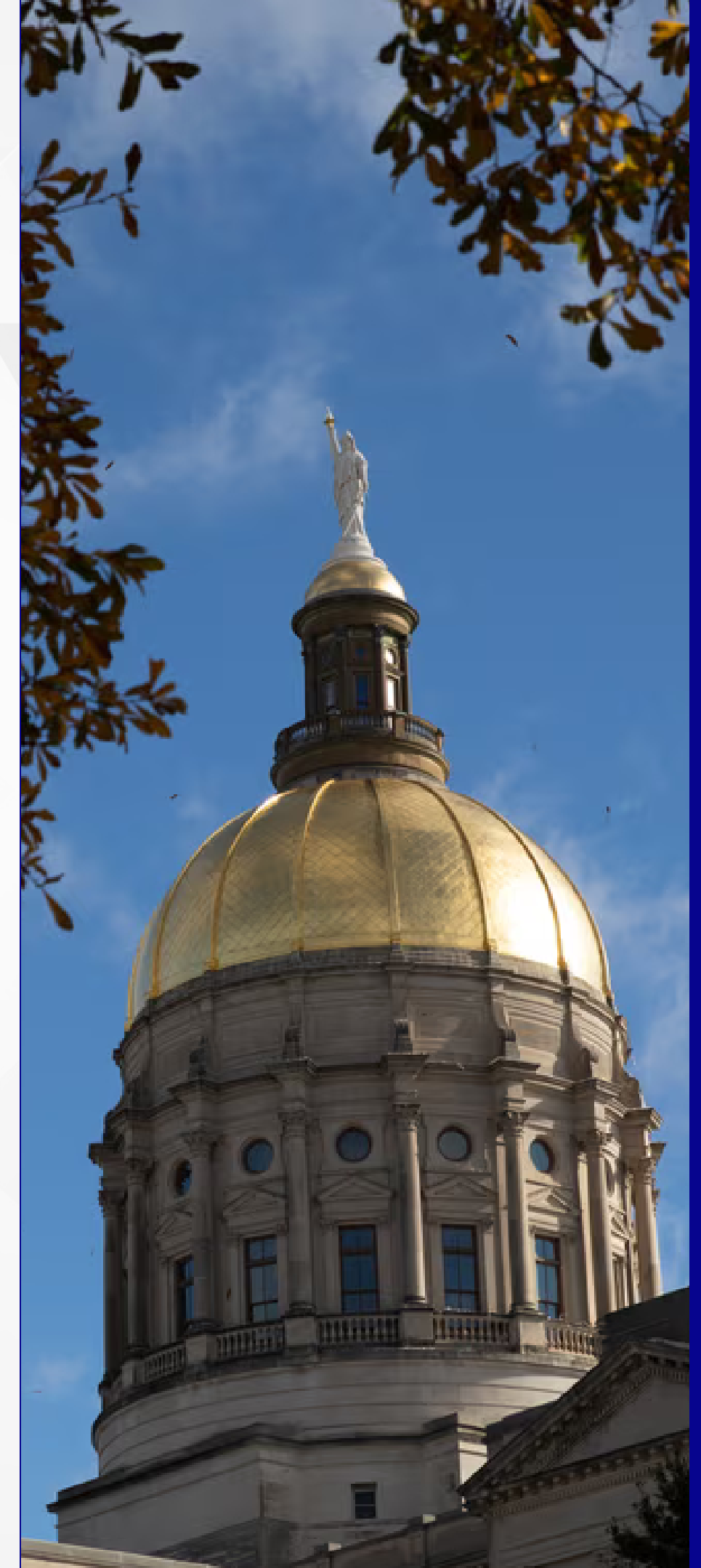
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MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce Board members and staff are pleased to present the Award Report for Loan Repayment Programs and Scholarship Program for the Fiscal Year 2023.

In total, the Board awarded **\$2,239,796** to 116 recipients.

The Loan Repayment programs require a commitment to practice for a minimum of 40 hours per week in a Georgia county with a population of 50,000 or less people according to the 2020 Census Count of the United States Bureau of the Census. The practice time requirement can be split between two or more counties, provided that none of the practice location counties exceed the 50,000 population limit, unless approved by the Board.

Beginning in Fiscal Year 2015, funds for Scholarship Program were realigned through the budgetary process to the Physicians for Rural Areas (PRAA) program of the Board. The realignment of funds provided additional loan repayment awards to physicians. Although the final scholarship award was made in FY2018, there are 10 scholarship recipients that are still under the obligation phase. Not included in these numbers is any recipient currently in the deferral, repayment, or default process. All recipients should complete the Scholarship Program and its service obligation in FY2026.

The administrative costs to carry out these loan repayment programs are funded through the Board Administration program of the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) section in the state's budget, while the awards were funded through the Physicians for Rural Areas Assistance program.

Would you or someone you know want to know more about the Board and the important work we do to better the health care of rural Georgia? Then, please visit us online at <http://healthcareworkforce.georgia.gov/>. The website is an invaluable resource for both health care professionals and interested consumers.



Chet Bhasin, FACHE
Executive Director



PHYSICIANS FOR RURAL AREAS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (PRAA)

The Physicians for Rural Areas Assistance Program (PRAA) Provides a service-cancelable loan of up to \$25,000 to physicians for providing direct patient care in underserved rural areas of Georgia. Contracts are awarded for one year and are renewable for a maximum of four years for a maximum award of \$100,000. Funding for this program is provided by the State of Georgia. The following individuals were each awarded up to \$25,000 through the PRAA for FY 2023.

Name	Award Year(s)	County	Specialty
Rachel P. Anderson, D.O.	2021, 2022, 2023	Thomas	Family Medicine
Amanda Berry, M.D.	2023	Thomas	Anesthesiology
Nikkia A. Blake, M.D.	2022, 2023	Butts	Emergency Medicine
Lauren W. Bullen, M.D.	2023	Laurens	Obstetrics and Gynecology
David M. Carstens, M.D.	2021, 2022, 2023	Brantley	Family Medicine
William H. Cheeley, M.D.	2023	Greene	Internal Medicine
Caitlyn S. Coleman, M.D.	2021, 2022, 2023	Wayne	Pediatrics
Kendrix J. Evans, M.D.	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023	Toombs	General Surgery
Henry L. Ferland, III, D.O.	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023	Toombs	General Surgery
Thomas Ferrari, M.D.	2023	Emanuel	Internal Medicine
Dixie D. Griffin, M.D.	2023	Tift	Allergy and Immunology
James G. Hamilton, M.D.	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023	Lumpkin	Family Medicine
Robert G. Hollenbeck, M.D.	2023	Thomas	Anesthesiology
Shaista Hussain, M.D.	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023	Coffee	Family Medicine
Geri E. Justice, M.D.	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023	Thomas	Obstetrics and Gynecology
Johan Koo, D.O.	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023	Lumpkin	Family Medicine
Kristina L. Kruse, M.D.	2022, 2023	McDuffie	Family Medicine
Abraham Mathai, M.D.	2022, 2023	Fannin	Internal Medicine
Logan C. McCool, D.O.	2021, 2022, 2023	Coffee / Bacon	Physiatry

PHYSICIANS FOR RURAL AREAS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (PRAA) CONTINUED

The Physicians for Rural Areas Assistance Program (PRAA) Provides a service-cancelable loan of up to \$25,000 to physicians for providing direct patient care in underserved rural areas of Georgia. Contracts are awarded for one year and are renewable for a maximum of four years for a maximum award of \$100,000. Funding for this program is provided by the State of Georgia. The following individuals were each awarded up to \$25,000 through the PRAA for FY 2023.

Name	Award Year(s)	County	Specialty
Jeffrey Nasworthy, M.D.	2023	Sumter	Family Medicine
Kevin Nesbit, M.D.	2023	Murray	Family Medicine
Thailang Nguyen, D.O.	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023	Coffee	Family Medicine
Dominiq Okoduwa, M.D.	2022, 2023	Sumter	Internal Medicine
Grace Patterson, M.D.	2022, 2023	Stephens	Pediatrics
Justin Peterson, M.D.	2023	Coffee	Obstetrics and Gynecology
Ra'Shead Pompey, D.O.	2023	Wilkes/Lincoln	Family Medicine
Robert Quick, M.D.	2022, 2023	Stephens	Family Medicine
Alicia R. Register, M.D.	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023	Crisp	General Surgery
Jack Royal, M.D.	2021, 2022, 2023	Crisp	Anesthesiology
Josh D. Simmons, M.D.	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023	Thomas / Decatur	Internal Medicine
Michael Sumner, M.D.	2023	Washington	Internal Medicine
Ravin B. Talati, M.D.	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023	Habersham	Family Medicine
Erin R. Tanner, M.D.	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023	Candler	Internal Medicine
Brandi W. Warren, D.O.	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023	Thomas	Family Medicine
Jesse R. Warren, D.O.	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023	Thomas	Family Medicine
Joshua J. Wilburn, M.D.	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023	Haralson	Internal Medicine
Sherida L. Williams, M.D.	2022, 2023	Upson	Obstetrics and Gynecology
Rhonda O. Williams, M.D.	2023	Laurens	Internal Medicine

IMPACT OF PRAA

In FY 2023, the Board awarded 38 recipients through the Physicians for Rural Areas Assistance program which provided 27 rural Georgia counties with improved access to care as indicated in blue.



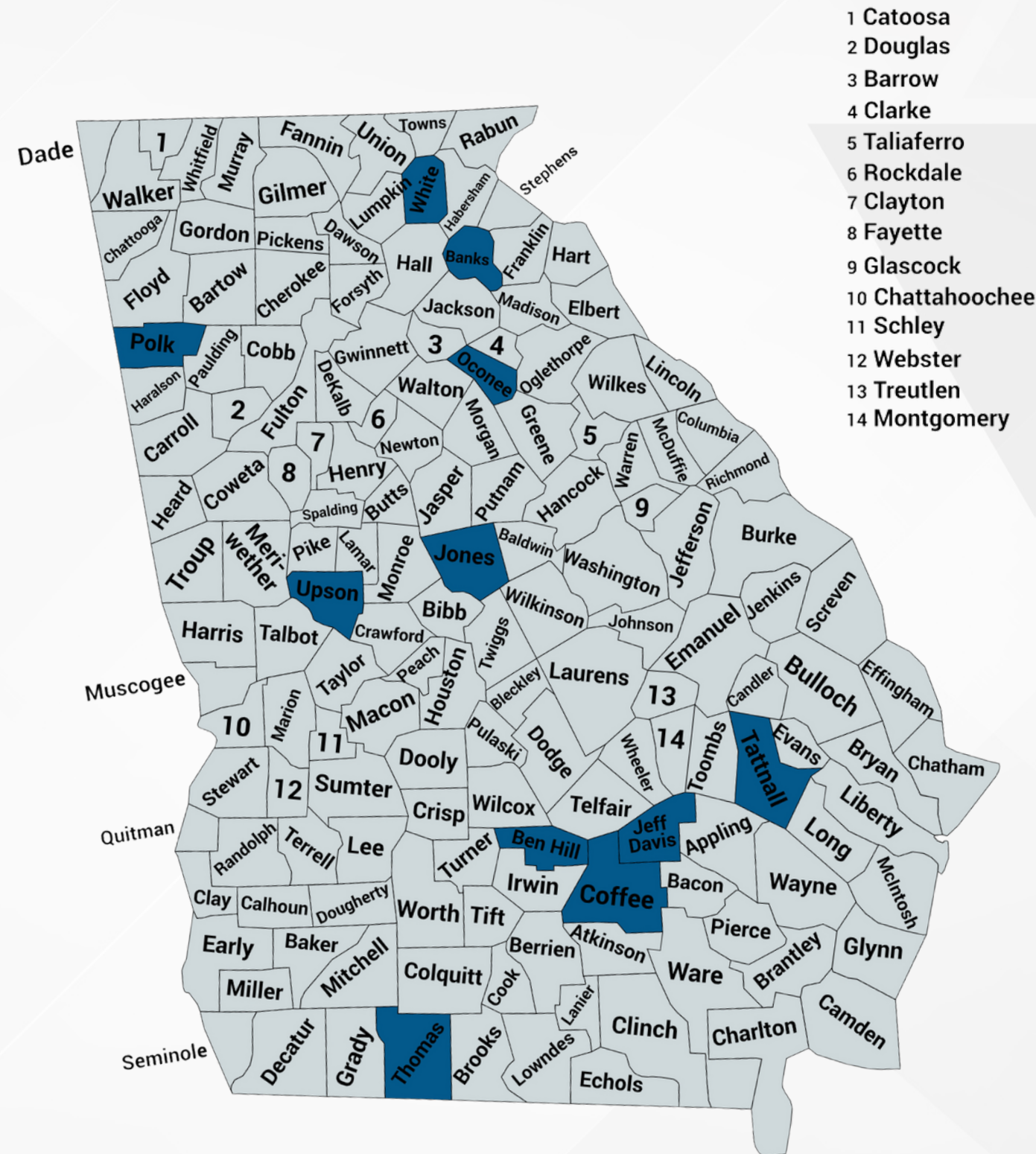
DENTISTS LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM (DRAA)

The Dentists for Rural Areas Assistance Program (DRAA) provides service-cancellable loans of up to \$25,000 per year in return for dental practice in an underserved, rural county in Georgia. Contracts are awarded for one year and are renewable three times for a maximum of four years and a total award of \$100,000. Funding for this program is provided by the State of Georgia. The following individuals were each awarded \$25,000 through the DRAA for FY 2023, unless otherwise noted.

Name	Award year(s)	County
Benjamin W. Alverson, D.M.D	2023	Polk
Nathan Buck, D.M.D	2022, 2023	Tattnall
Bum M. Chung, D.M.D	2023	Oconee
Roderick R. Dunham, D.M.D	2022, 2023	Tattnall
William C. Fussell, D.M.D	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023	Coffee / Jeff Davis
Jessilee B. Grantham, D.M.D	2022, 2023	Coffee / Jeff Davis
Bahar Jalalian, D.M.D	2022, 2023	Ben Hill / Upson
Brett Maddox, D.M.D	2023	White
Shannon Pittman, D.M.D	2023	Banks
Eun J. Shin, D.M.D	2022, 2023	Oconee
Molly C. Smith, D.M.D	2023	Jones
Sharon P. Vickers, D.M.D	2022, 2023	Thomas

IMPACT OF DRAA

In FY 2023, the Board awarded 12 recipients through the Dentists for Rural Areas Assistance program which provided 11 rural Georgia counties with improved access to care as indicated in blue.



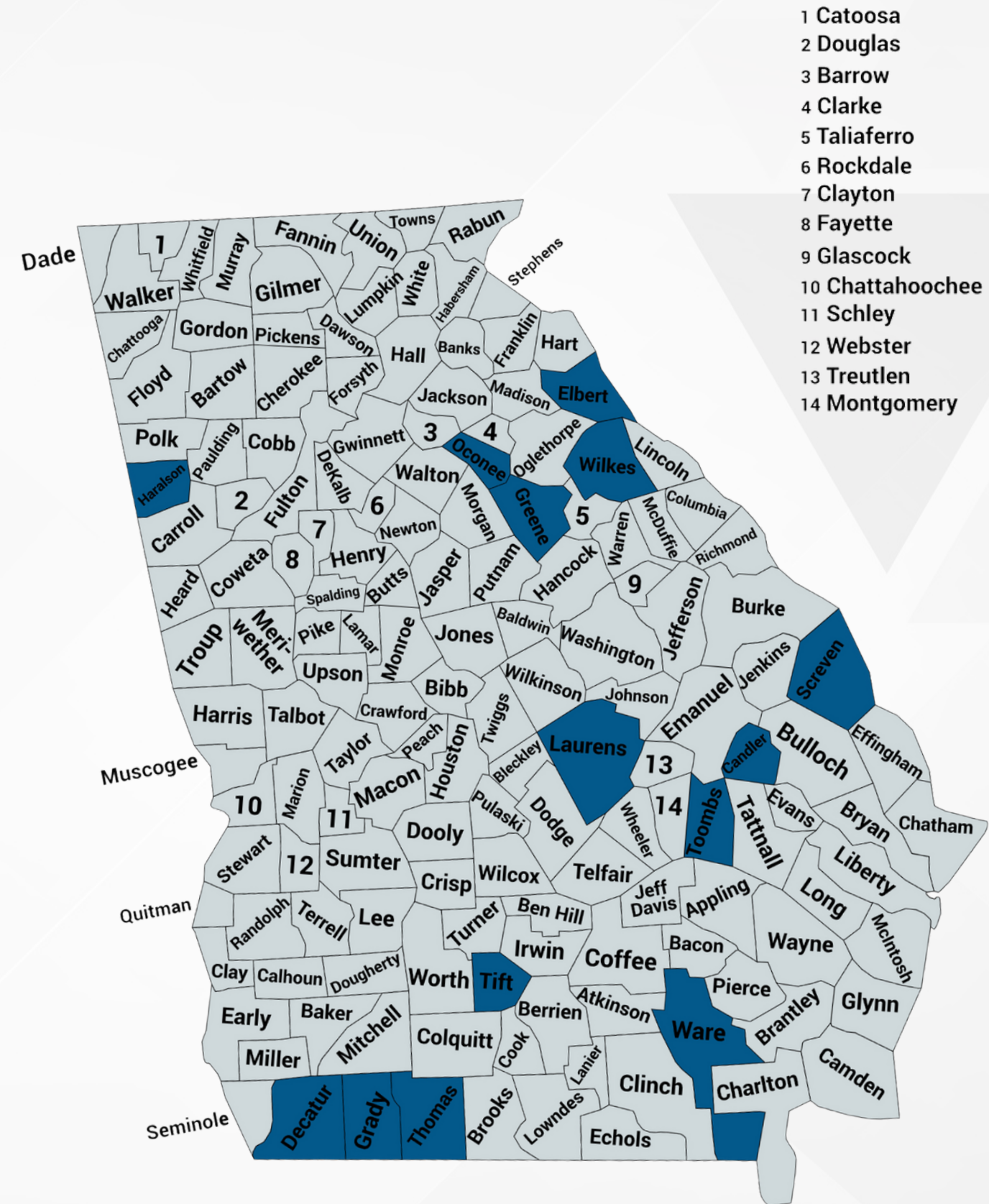
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM (PALRP)

The Physician Assistant Loan Repayment Program (PALRP) provides service-cancellable loans of up to \$10,000 per year in return for physician assistant practice in an underserved, rural county in Georgia. Contracts are awarded for one year and are renewable three times for a maximum of four years and a total award of \$40,000. Funding for this program is provided by the State of Georgia. The following individuals were each awarded \$10,000 through the PALRP for FY 2023, unless otherwise noted.

Name	Award Year(s)	County	Specialty
Ivey E. Allen, PA-C	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023	Thomas	General Surgery
Kathryn Blevins, PA-C	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023	Tift	Emergency Medicine
Jennifer V. Bowers, PA-C	2021, 2022, 2023	Greene	Cardiology
Payton E. Burriss, PA-C	2022, 2023	Wilkes	Family Medicine
Amanda M. Coleman, PA-C	2023	Thomas	Urology
Elena V. Fercilien, PA-C	2023	Oconee	Psychiatry
James B. Fercilien, PA-C	2023	Oconee	Vascular Surgery
Meredith Gaines, PA-C	2023	Ware	Pain Medicine
Marissa Highnote, PA-C	2022, 2023	Wilkes / Elbert	Internal Medicine / Pediatrics
Renah J. Hightower, PA-C	2021, 2022, 2023	Laurens	Allergy and Immunology
Jonathan D. Hill, PA-C	2023	Oconee	Urgent Care
Jacob R. Lunsford, PA-C	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023	Laurens / Candler	Emergency Medicine
Lesley E. Maples, PA-C	2021, 2022, 2023	Grady / Thomas	Family Medicine
Brandi L. Parker, PA-C	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023	Haralson	Family Medicine
Joseph E. Rad, PA-C	2023	Decatur	Critical Care
Justin H. Roberts, PA-C	2023	Tift	Pulmonary and Critical Care
Roxy J. Sheffield, PA-C	2023	Ware	Family Medicine
Dillon Veal, PA-C	2022, 2023	Ware	Emergency Medicine
Zachary J. Whitaker, PA-C	2023	Toombs	Primary Care
Callie A. Wilkes, PA-C	2022, 2023	Toombs	Pediatrics
Anna H. Williams, PA-C	2022, 2023	Screven	Family Medicine

IMPACT OF PALRP

In FY 2023, the Board awarded 21 recipients through the Physician Assistant Loan Repayment Program which provided 14 rural Georgia counties with improved access to care as indicated in blue.



ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSE PRACTITIONER LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM (APRNLRP)

The Advanced Practice Nurse Practitioner Loan Repayment Program (APRNLRP) provides service-cancellable loans of up to \$10,000 per year in return for nursing practice in an underserved, rural county in Georgia. Contracts are awarded for one year and are renewable three times for a maximum of four years and a total award of \$40,000. Funding for this program is provided by the State of Georgia. The following individuals were each awarded \$10,000 through the APRNLRP for FY 2023, unless otherwise noted.

Name	Award Year(s)	County
Ashley Adams, MSN	2023	Toombs
Mary L. Anderson, MSN	2023	Stephens
Sherry Bailey, MSN	2023	Coffee
Cynthia R. Beeland, MSN	2023	Upson
Corlynda J. Bloodworth, MSN	2023	Crisp
Sharonda Brown, MSN	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023	Berrien
James P. Bryson, MSN	2023	Pickens
Joey M. Bullard, MSN	2023	Liberty
Kera A. Carter, MSN	2023	Coffee
Morgan R. Carter, MSN	2022, 2023	Stephens
Kimberly T. Fulmer, MSN	2023	Tift
Tracy L. Garrett, MSN	2023	McDuffie
Dawn Glisson, MSN	2023	Tift
Courtney L. Green, MSN	2023	Heard
Callie Hill, MSN	2023	Heard

ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSE PRACTITIONER LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM (APRNLRP) CONTINUED

The Advanced Practice Nurse Practitioner Loan Repayment Program (APRNLRP) provides service-cancellable loans of up to \$10,000 per year in return for nursing practice in an underserved, rural county in Georgia. Contracts are awarded for one year and are renewable three times for a maximum of four years and a total award of \$40,000. Funding for this program is provided by the State of Georgia. The following individuals were each awarded \$10,000 through the APRNLRP for FY 2023, unless otherwise noted.

Name	Award Year(s)	County
Amanda S. Hobbs, MSN	2023	Bryan
Laura M. Hodges, MSN	2023	Bryan
Kathlyn T. Hogg, MSN	2022, 2023	Baldwin
Alisha Holloway, MSN	2023	Tift
Carmen Y. Jackson, MSN	2022, 2023	Ware
Glenda Kepler, MSN	2023	Toombs
Steven Lashley, MSN	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023	Toombs
Sybil Lew, MSN	2022, 2023	Upson
Robert S. Sizemore, III, MSN	2023	Bryan
Marcie Merritt, MSN	2023	Toombs
Jessica D. Milner, MSN	2021, 2022, 2023	Baldwin
Dana Morgan, MSN	2023	Ware
Ashley L. Nasworthy, MSN	2023	Toombs
Candace Nesmith, MSN	2023	Baldwin
Justin D. Nicholson, MSN	2023	Fannin

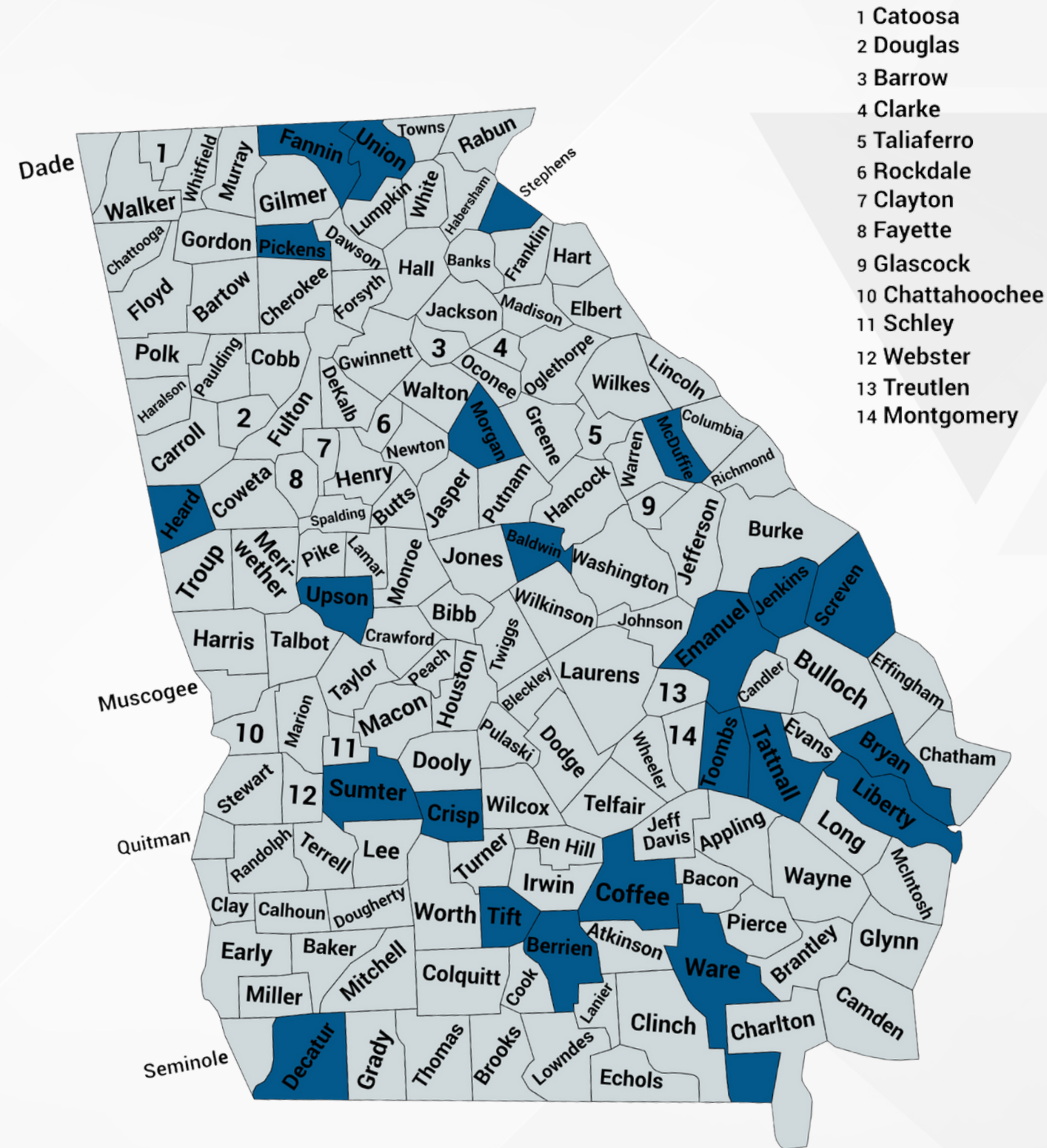
ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSE PRACTITIONER LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM (APRNLRP) CONTINUED

The Advanced Practice Nurse Practitioner Loan Repayment Program (APRNLRP) provides service-cancellable loans of up to \$10,000 per year in return for nursing practice in an underserved, rural county in Georgia. Contracts are awarded for one year and are renewable three times for a maximum of four years and a total award of \$40,000. Funding for this program is provided by the State of Georgia. The following individuals were each awarded \$10,000 through the APRNLRP for FY 2023, unless otherwise noted.

Name	Award Year(s)	County
Rhonda Oglesby, MSN	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023	Emanuel
Sharon D. Peebles, MSN	2023	Emanuel
Elisabeth A. Proenza, MSN	2023	Toombs
Debbie Purvis, MSN	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023	Coffee
Brittani S. Sales, MSN	2023	Morgan
Laurel S. Sapp, MSN	2022, 2023	Toombs
Kelli B. Sharpton, MSN	2023	Toombs
Tracy G. Smith, MSN	2023	Decatur
Cala B. Tanner, MSN	2023	Tattnall
Stacey J. Tapley, MSN	2023	Screven / Jenkins
Jennifer Taylor, MSN	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023	Crisp
Amanda C. Tomberlin, MSN	2023	Tift
Whitney C. Walls, MSN	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023	Sumter
Mary Ward, MSN	2023	Union
Kya'Shirah B. Wright, MSN	2023	Ware

IMPACT OF APRNLRP

In FY 2023, the Board awarded 45 recipients through the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Loan Repayment Program which provided 23 rural Georgia counties with improved access to care as indicated in blue.



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM (GME)

The Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce Scholarship Program was an annual award for Georgia students who were accepted in an accredited four-year medical school in the U.S. leading to a Doctor of Medicine or Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree. This scholarship was designed to furnish \$20,000 in financial aid to deserving medical students who could not afford the cost of medical school while also bringing needed medical attention to smaller, rural counties in Georgia. Upon graduation from medical school and a residency program, recipients must be licensed to practice in Georgia and must practice medicine in a community of 50,000 or less for one year after completing graduate medical education for each year of scholarship funding received. The scholarship was renewable for up to four years for a maximum of \$80,000. No new scholarship awards are being made due to the realignment of funding.

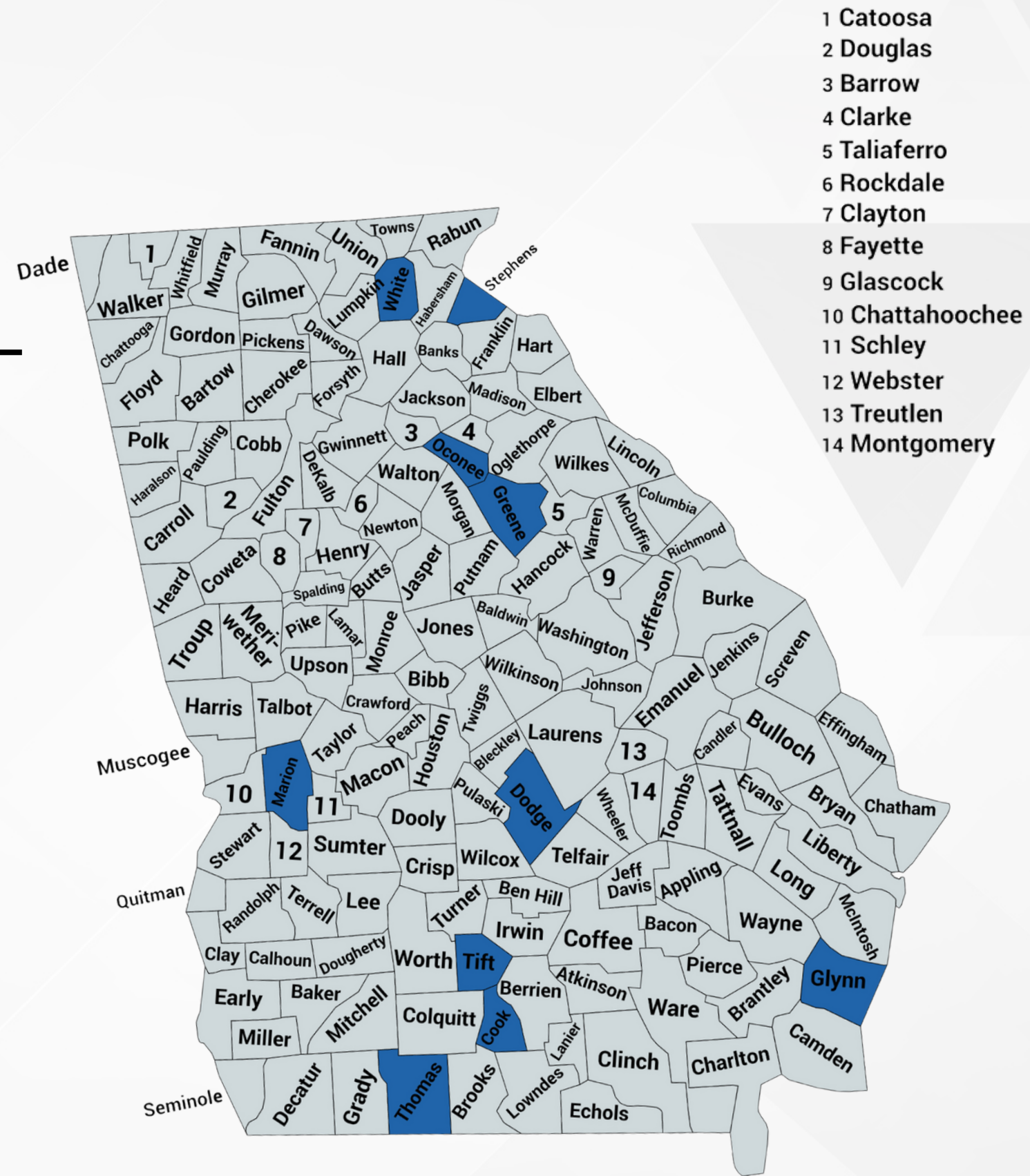
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM (PRACTICE)

The following individuals were awarded the scholarship in previous fiscal years, have completed a graduate medical education program, and are now practicing in a rural area as part of their contract obligation of the Scholarship Program.

Name	Award Years	County	Specialty
Rachel Anderson, D.O.	2014, 2015, 2016, 2017	Thomas	Family Medicine
Ito Daniels, M.D.	2010, 2011, 2012, 2013	Greene	Internal Medicine / Pediatrics
Timothy Fuller, M.D.	2008, 2009, 2010, 2011	Tift	General Surgery
Evan Fountain, M.D.	2012, 2013, 2014, 2015	Glynn	Internal Medicine / Pulmonary Critical Care
Elizabeth Garcia-Cardenas, M.D.	2013, 2014, 2015, 2016	Oconee	Obstetrics and Gynecology
Katie Hudgens, M.D.	2013, 2014, 2015, 2016	Cook / Tift	Internal Medicine / Pediatrics
Chris Kiker, M.D.	2014, 2015, 2016, 2017	Stephens	Family Medicine
Brittany Lord, M.D.	2015, 2016, 2017	Dodge	Pediatrics
Jontu Solomon, M.D.	2014, 2015, 2016, 2017	Marion	Family Medicine
Kaitlyn Vann, D.O.	2013, 2014, 2015, 2016	White	Family Medicine

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM (PRACTICE)

In FY 2023, There were 10 former recipients of the Board's Scholarship program fulfilling practice obligations that provided 10 rural Georgia counties with improved access to care as indicated in blue.



GEORGIA BOARD OF HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE



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