



# NCMS Foundation **COMMUNITY** PRACTITIONER PROGRAM

**The Community Practitioner Program (CPP)** is the flagship program of the North Carolina Medical Society Foundation. CPP offers support for service to practitioners serving in rural and underserved areas of the state.

In 1989, the vision, wisdom and passion of two leaders, Dr. Harvey Estes and Jim Bernstein, and the contributions of key state organizations paved the way for the birth of CPP.

The Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust provided the generous financial support of \$4.5 million to make the program a reality. In 2005, The Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina (BCBSNC) Foundation provided additional support to CPP through a five-year \$10 million grant.

The program receives no state or federal funds, the Foundation does receive contributions from physicians, other healthcare providers, Foundation partners, and donors.

To learn more about CPP eligibility and how to apply, visit the NCMS Foundation website: <http://www.ncmedsoc.org/about-ncms/partner-organizations/ncms-foundation/community-practitioner-program/>

Or contact Franklin Walker, MBA, and VP of Rural Health Systems Innovation, who serves as the Executive Director of the program at 919-833-3836.  
fwalker@ncmedsoc.org

Over the last 28 years, the impact of CPP providing access to healthcare in rural and underserved areas of the state includes:

- \$16.4 million has been awarded
- \$377 million in value of care provided to under and uninsured patients
- A combination of 500 providers and practices have received financial support
- 84 counties of the state's 100 counties have been served
- \$2.6 million in value of care provided to under and uninsured patients annually

In addition to supporting primary care providers, CPP currently funds providers working in areas of emergency departments, psychiatry, forensic nursing, and trauma treatment in pediatrics.

**In 2017 alone, CPP supported 50 practitioners including:**

**MD – 16    DO – 3    PA-C – 15    FNP – 15    CNM - 1**

Each year the number of applicants increases as providers are challenged with overwhelming educational debt. Within the past two-years, nearly 100 providers have applied for the program. It is estimated the number of applicants in 2017 will be the largest ever.

## KAREN ISAACS, MD, MPH

Community Practitioner Program (CPP) Participant

**W**e have a prime opportunity to help our patients learn how to navigate the health care system, advocate for themselves and be accountable for their health-related behaviors. We value this trusted position with our patients, who are “high risk” as defined by incidence of risk behaviors, and who often face significant concomitant mental health and/or socioeconomic challenges that can complicate their care.”

“My proudest moments are when parents say: ‘I wish I had a place like this when I was a teenager.’ To me, that exemplifies a parent who is present for their child and recognizes the value of access to nonjudgmental, safe and confidential services.”



KAREN ISAACS, MD, MPH  
Family Medicine, Wilmington Health  
Access for Teens (WHAT)

## CARING FOR COMMUNITIES

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North Carolina Medical Society  
**FOUNDATION**  
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