

**Vandalia Health – Charleston Area Medical Center (CAMC) and Greenbrier Valley Medical Center (GVMC)  
Office of Graduate Medical Education**

**Educational Stipend Policy**

**Eligibility**

All Vandalia Health CAMC and GVMC residents and fellows are eligible to receive a \$1,000 educational stipend per PG (post-graduate) level of training, beginning July 1, 2026. The educational stipend support replaces the previous one-time trip benefit affording residents/fellows more flexibility in how and when they want to use their educational benefit as well as reducing the workload on the learner to get access to use those funds.

Current residents or fellows in three-year training programs who have already received financial support for a “one-time trip” are not eligible for additional educational stipend funds. The previous benefit afforded a resident/fellow with a travel opportunity up to \$3,000 (equivalent to \$1,000 per year). Residents and fellows in three-year training programs that have not used a one-time trip are eligible for \$1,000 per PG year benefit.

Current residents in a four- or five-year training program are eligible for a \$1,000 per PG year benefit. Those residents who have taken a one-time trip with a benefit up to \$3,000 are still eligible for \$1,000 for the PG4 and PG5 years. Those residents who have not taken their one-time trip will be eligible for \$1,000 for each prior year of training.

**Purpose**

The educational stipend is intended to support residency and fellowship education and training expenses. Stipends are paid in \$1,000 increments each PG year. Annual stipend benefits can be requested each year or be rolled over year to year and accumulated for more expensive purchases such as conference travel at a distance location.

Examples of appropriate educational stipend expenses include, but are not limited to:

- Specialty conference attendance
- Professional society meetings
- Journals
- Textbooks
- Board review courses
- Professional membership fees

Funds are generally not meant to support basic professional supplies expected of a trainee such as white coats, scrubs, computers, or stethoscopes. These funds are also not meant to support personal/private expenses such as moving expenses, rent, utilities or other personal items.

**Process for requesting funds**

Any time after the start of a new PG year, residents/fellows may apply for that year’s \$1,000 stipend via an “Approvals” request in TEAMS. Residents/fellows may choose: 1) To request payout of that year’s funds and/or previous year’s funds with a brief explanation regarding use of funds, or 2) To roll over the full amount to the following year to accumulate funds for a future purchase. Once approved, requested funds will be added to the first paycheck of the following month. The Central GME office will track and pay out educational stipend funds. Funds may not be requested in smaller increments, so it is important to “batch” expenses and request the funds

for educational purchases totaling \$1,000 or relevant amount. For example, perhaps a trainee wishes to purchase a \$300 medical textbook and \$700 online board review course.

### **Timing of educational stipend request**

#### Current residents

- May request their educational stipend payment any time after a new PG year begins. Funds do not have to be requested at the start of the academic year.

#### Transferring, Resigning or Graduating Residents/Fellows

- Any remaining stipend balance must be requested at least 30 days before the end of training or graduation.
- Failure to request funds before this 30-day deadline will result in forfeiture of funds.

#### Residents/Fellows who are Dismissed

- Individuals who are dismissed from the program early forfeit any remaining stipend funds that were not previously requested prior to dismissal.

#### Residents/Fellows Repeating a Training Year

- Individuals who must repeat a full or partial year of training are not eligible for another educational stipend payment until they are successfully promoted to the next year of training. Additional years of training do not add to the stipend eligibility.

All educational stipend funds paid to residents and fellows are considered taxable income in accordance with IRS regulations. Questions related to this policy should be directed to the GME office at 304-388-9948 or by email at [gme@vandaliahealth.org](mailto:gme@vandaliahealth.org).