



Training in Policy Studies Fellowship Program

Website: <https://osteopathic.org/residents/tips-program/>

The AOA's Training in Policy Studies (TIPS) Fellowship Program is training the next generation of leaders in health policy. This program, generously funded by the American Osteopathic Foundation (AOF), will provide residents with an understanding of current health policy issues and help them build skills necessary to tackle complex public health challenges through policy. Issues addressed in the program include effectively communicating policy proposals, payment reform, building the future health care workforce, and policy approaches to addressing public health issues.

The program will seek to develop the following skills:

- Policy analysis: Fellows will enhance their analytical skills by reviewing policy proposals and evaluating their impact, as well as through developing their own proposals.
- Data translation: Fellows will hone their ability to translate research and data into usable information for policy makers.
- Writing for policy change: Fellows will develop a policy paper during the fellowship to adapt and apply their writing abilities to the public policy environment.
- Leadership and communication: Fellows will gain a greater understanding of how to be an effective spokesperson for their patients and for the profession. Fellows will also have the opportunity to engage with professionals in the health policy field.

Meeting Participation:

Fellows will participate in a total of seven learning sessions, including a final presentation. Of these sessions, three will be in-person, and four will be held digitally. The program will start in September 2024 and conclude at the 2025 OMED. Final presentations will be presented at the OMED meeting. TIPS Fellows must participate in at least 6 of the meetings to receive a certificate at the end of the program.

Engagement:

Reading and projects outside of class sessions help support Fellows' learning and facilitate thoughtful discussion and policy analysis during meetings. We recognize the time constraints that residents face and have worked to design assignments to be accomplished in the time allotted without overburdening residents. Assignments will include:

- Readings for each discussion session will be assigned 1 to 2 weeks before the meeting.
- 1 policy brief (1 page)
 - Fellows will draft a policy brief based on a subject of their choosing, which will serve as a building block for starting the final research paper
- 1 final paper (3-4 pages)
 - The final paper will evaluate a unique public health or health policy issue and propose policy changes that can be implemented to address the issue. The paper will be research-based and will help Fellows enhance their translation and analytical skills. Papers will follow JOM article formatting, and fellows can submit to the JOM for peer review and potential publication at completion of the TIPS program.

Agenda:¹

Meeting Dates	Subject(s)	Description and Assigned Reading Due Dates
In-Person Meeting: September 22, 2024 OMED, San Antonio, TX	Program Overview Part 1: Introduction to the TIPS Program and Policy Analysis Part 2: Legislative Process Overview Part 3: 2025 Policy Outlook	<p>AOA leadership will welcome the new cohort of Fellows and lead a discussion on the importance of physician involvement in policymaking.</p> <p>Part 1: Discussion will provide fellows with a brief insight into the policy making process and how to approach policy analysis. Discussion will address evaluating policy from different stakeholder perspectives and considering unintended consequences.</p> <p>Part 2: Discussion will provide an overview of the federal legislative process, with a focus on how to influence various stages of the process to maximize impact</p> <p>Part 3: Discussion will provide an overview of trends that are shaping the policymaking landscape in 2025, addressing areas that will likely be of focus for Congress and federal agencies.</p>
Virtual Meeting: Dec 4, 2024 7:30pm ET	Part 1: The Affordable Care Act Part 2: Writing a Policy Brief	<p>Part 1: Discussion will focus on the goals of the ACA, including making health insurance affordable and widely available, expanding Medicaid, and creating innovative medical delivery methods to lower health care cost while maintaining or improving health outcomes.</p> <p>Part 2: This discussion will provide an overview of best practices for drafting a policy brief.</p>
Virtual Meeting: Feb 12, 2025 7:30pm ET	Part 1: Introduction to Medicare Part 2: Primer on Regulatory Policy	<p>Part 1: Discussion will provide an overview of the Medicare program.</p> <p>Part 2: Discussion will describe the rulemaking process, how federal agencies implement laws passed by Congress, and opportunities for stakeholder engagement within this process</p>

¹ Topics subject to change based on current events and evolving policy landscape.

Policy Brief Due Friday, March 7, 2025		
DO Day Virtual Leadership Conference March 22-23, 2025		
Virtual Meeting: April 14, 2025	Part 1: State Policy Overview	Part 1: Discussion will provide a panorama on state legislative processes, how state lawmaking impacts the practice of medicine, and current state-level issues affecting the osteopathic profession and patients. Issues addressed may include telemedicine, liability issues, and scope of practice.
	Part 2: Introduction to Medicaid	Part 2: Discussion will provide an overview of the public insurance program that provides health coverage to low-income families and individuals, including children, parents, pregnant women, seniors, and people with disabilities. Discussion will cover the program's joint federal-state funding and how eligibility and benefits can vary from state to state.
	Part 3: Writing Workshop	Part 3: This segment will outline expectations for the TIPS fellows final project and the two options for work products: an article developed to the <i>Journal of Osteopathic Medicine</i> standards or a policy white paper. Discussion will provide guidance on drafting, and address paper structure, tone, supporting literature, and other considerations for fellows as they develop their final papers.
Paper Draft Due Friday, May 31, 2025		
In Person Meeting: June 2025 Washington, DC	Part 1: Issues impacting residents and new physicians in practice	Part 1: Discussion will provide an overview of current policy issues uniquely impacting physician residents. Examples may include loan reform and deferment, private equity, and challenges faced by new physicians in practice.
	Part 2: Current Efforts to Address Out-of-Pocket Costs	Part 2: With nearly 12 years passed since the ACA was signed into law, this session will look at recent trends in healthcare costs and efforts to address them.
	Part 3: Grassroots engagement in the U.S. political system	Part 3: Discussion will focus on the role of grassroots/advocacy in the policymaking process and the impact of stakeholders in shaping policy.

	and its impact	
Virtual Meeting: Aug 2025	<p>Part 1: Regulation of Health Information Technology and Health Data</p> <p>Part 2: Regulating AI in Health Care</p>	<p>Part 1: Discussion will provide an overview of the current landscape for regulation of health data, outlining the roles of various federal agencies, including the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT, the HHS Office for Civil Rights, and the Federal Trade Commission.</p> <p>Part 2: Building on part 1, discussion will address, at a high level, some the unique challenges faced with regulating AI technologies used in healthcare, particularly in light of the broad range of technologies being developed, their differing uses, and the gaps within current regulatory frameworks.</p>
Final Papers and Presentation Due Monday, July 21, 2025		
OMED Meeting, Nashville, TN: Sep 25-28	Proposal Presentations and Program Conclusion	Fellows will present their policy proposals and leadership from AOA and AOF will conclude the program with the fellows.