

Dear Colleagues,

With the September residency recruitment cycle well underway, I wanted to reach out to share an update about the 2024 Electronic Residency Application Service® (ERAS®) season's opening and the progress we have been making in the ERAS program. Some of the early data hold promise for the future and underscore the value of continued collaboration across the transition to residency community to address some of our greatest challenges.

Preliminary data collected following the ERAS September program opening show a 3.4% decrease in the overall average number of applications per residency applicant. This is good news! It's the first time in more than a decade that this number has dropped, and some specialties saw a decrease of 20% or more in the number of applications per applicant. While it's important to note that this is a snapshot in time and that the AAMC will continue to analyze ERAS information throughout the season, we wanted to pause and share this good news with you now.

We firmly believe that these early-season data show that our ongoing efforts – to increase transparency in the process, reduce costs to applicants, and enable holistic applicant review for programs – are working. And it is thanks to our commitment to working together to develop and implement innovations. Highlights include:

- Specialty leaders who engaged with the AAMC and ERAS teams to share their need for more tools and access to data.
- Program directors who asked for tools and strategies that support holistic review.
- Advisors who have provided feedback on what they need and guided their students with sound application strategies.
- Learners who have represented their peers in AAMC affinity groups and who have shared their perspectives on the need for change.
- Collaborating organizations that communicated the need for greater transparency and richer data-sharing through the Residency Explorer™ tool.

I look forward to sharing more positive updates as we address additional challenges in the transition to residency. For example, our new collaboration with Thalamus will strengthen our ability to provide insight that will, in turn, ramp up innovation. And at [Learn Serve Lead 2023: The AAMC Annual Meeting](#), we'll be sharing details about expanding the AAMC Fee Assistance Program to reduce residency application costs for learners who are most in need.

The AAMC remains committed to engaging with you, our colleagues within all specialties, across programs and at medical schools, to address your ongoing needs. We're focusing our efforts on data tools, research, and thought leadership, and we're using your input to

make these updates as we remain focused on the future.

Please don't hesitate to [reach out with any questions or feedback](#) as we continue to support this dynamic ERAS community.

Sincerely,

Patrick Fritz  
Senior Director  
Admissions and Selection Application Services

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**Need Help?** Contact [ERAS Client Technical Support](#) Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. ET

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