Introduction the 2026 Main Residency Match®

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Thursday, May 8, 2025

THE MATCH®
NATIONAL RESIDENT MATCHING PROGRAM®

Agenda

1. Main Residency Match Calendar & Overview
2. Roles & Program Types
3. Getting Started
4. Program Set-up Options
5. Match Policies
6. Fees
7. Support Resources
8. Q & A

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Getting Applications

NRMP and the different application services are separate organizations with separate systems.

- The most widely-used application service is the AAMC's Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS®).
- ResidencyCAS is the application service being used by OB/Gyn and Emergency Medicine programs.

You will review applications and supporting materials in the application service system used by your program, NOT in the NRMP system.

- NRMP is the matching service where you will register your user account to administer your program in the Match, rank applicants, and receive Match results.
- NRMP partners with the application services to conduct SOAP®.

Programs and applicants register for both the application and the Match separately.

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Match Calendar

Thursday, May 1 **12:00 P.M. ET**	NRMP Match registration opens for programs and institutions – Program users register, activate programs, check quota, and set Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program® (SOAP®) status
Monday, September 15	NRMP Match registration opens for applicants and medical schools
Wednesday, September 24	Applications available to programs using the ERAS® system
Wednesday, October 1	Applications available to programs using the ResidencyCAS system (Obstetrics and Gynecology and Emergency Medicine)
Friday, January 30 **11:59 P.M. ET**	Quota Change, Withdrawal, & SOAP Participation Status Deadline
Monday, February 2 **12:00 P.M. ET**	Ranking Opens for applicants and programs
Wednesday, March 4 **9:00 P.M. ET**	Rank Order List (ROL) Certification Deadline for applicants and programs

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Match Week & SOAP

Monday, March 16 **10:00 A.M. ET**	SOAP Begins Program and Applicant Match Status Released
Tuesday, March 17	Programs can review SOAP applications in in their preferred application service, interviewing, and begin creating Preference Lists in NRMP
Thursday, March 19 **9:00 A.M. – 9:00 P.M. ET**	Four SOAP Offer Rounds Confidential Roster of Matched Applicants released at 2:00 P.M. ET
Friday, March 20 **12:00 P.M. ET**	Match Day!
≈ July 1	Training Begins

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Roles and Responsibilities

- **Institutional Official (IO):** provides oversight for all programs in the Match, activates institutions and programs, and approves changes (usually the ACGME DIO).
- **Institutional Administrator (IA):** assists the IO with administering programs in the Match and (new!) can activate programs.
- **Program Director (PD):** manages the program's participation in the Match including (new!) activating programs, adding program tracks, entering reversions, changing the quota, certifying the ROL, and editing a certified ROL.
- **Program Coordinator (PC):** assists the PD with administering the program including viewing program details, entering the ROL, and updating program directory information.

Only one program coordinator can be designated per program in R3.

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Roles and Responsibilities: PD and PC

Match Task	Program Director	Program Coord.
Register with NRMP R3 system	👍	👍
Update Program Directory Information	👍	👍
Activate Programs	👍	
Set SOAP Participation Status	👍	
Adjust Quota and Request Changes to Program Status	👍	
Enter Rank Order List in R3 system	👍	👍
Certify Rank Order List	👍	

Sharing R3 system login information (username and password) is a violation of NRMP Policy!

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Types of Programs

Categorical	**C**	Training that is 3-7 years in length, begins in the PGY-1 year, and leads to specialty board certification.
Primary Care Categorical	**M**	Categorical programs in primary care offered by some Internal Medicine and Pediatrics programs.
Preliminary	**P**	Training that is one year in length in transitional, medicine, surgery, or other specialty programs and provides the prerequisite training for advanced programs.
Advanced	**A**	Training that is 3-4 years in length in specialty programs that begin after one or more years of preliminary training. Advanced positions in the 2026 Match begin in 2027.
Reserved-Physician	**R**	Training in specialty programs reserved for physicians with prior graduate medical education and who can enter advanced training in the year of the Match. Reserved-Physician positions in the 2026 Match begin training in 2026.

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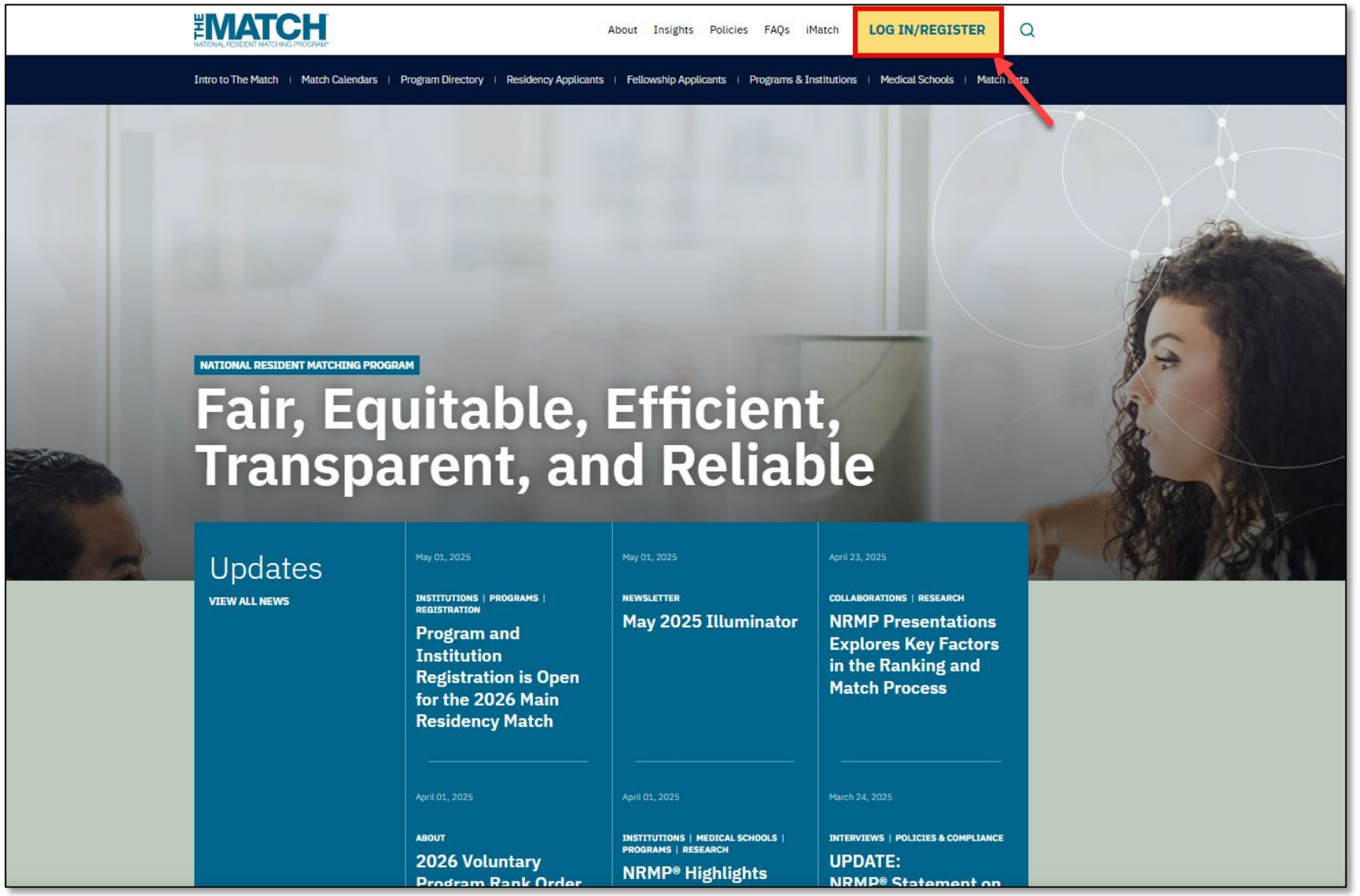
R3® System



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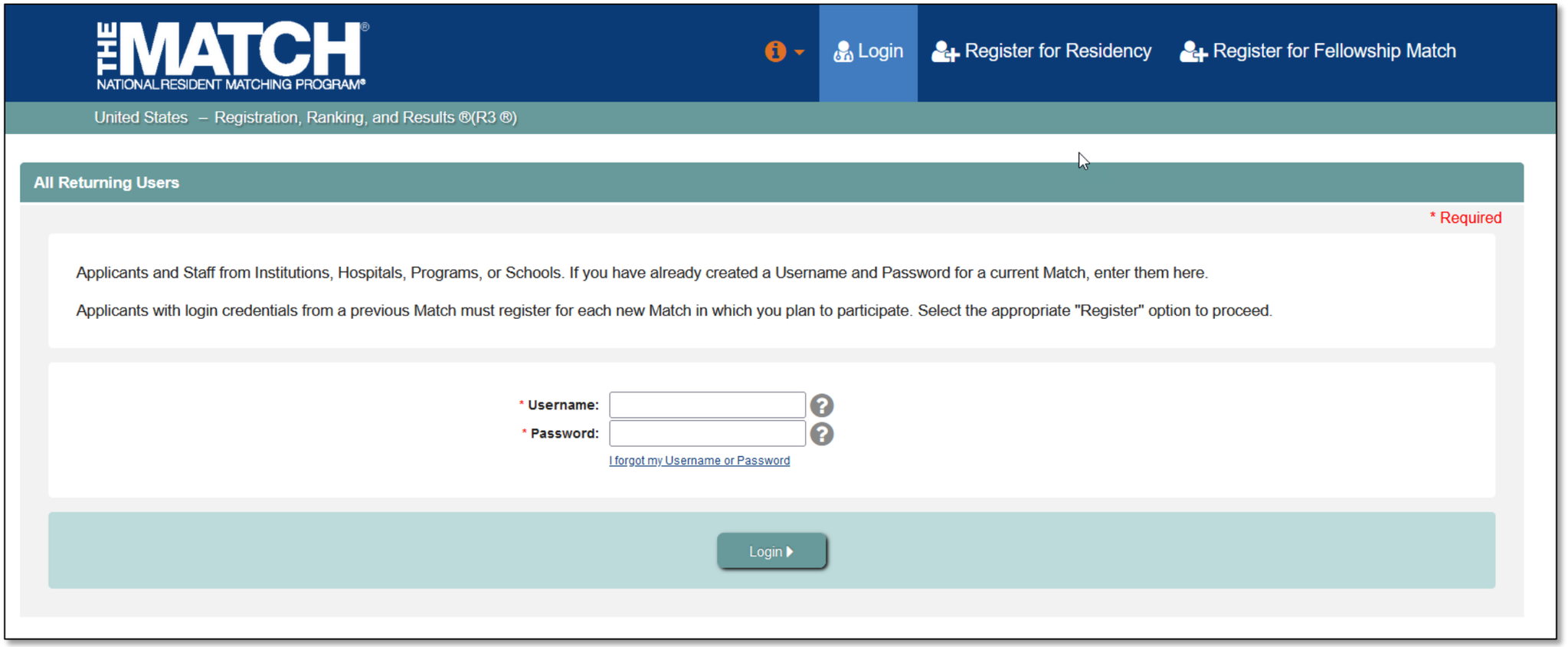
R3® System



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Token Link & Registration

THE MATCH®
NATIONAL RESIDENT MATCHING PROGRAM®

Dear John Smith,

Welcome to the [redacted] Main Residency Match. Registration for institution and program users is now open, and we look forward to another successful year! Below you'll find key registration information, helpful resources, and important upcoming dates.

Registration
All Match participants use the NRMP Registration, Ranking, and Results® (R3®) system to:

- Register for the Match
- Submit rank order lists of preferred programs or applicants
- Access Match results and reports

To get started, click your unique token link below to create your individual user R3 account. If you no longer are the program director, instructions are available to update the role.

Your token link: https://r3.nrmp.org/validateToken?tokenCode=FakeTokenValueForTesting&emailAddress=FakeEmail&tenantId=100

Please save your username and password securely – avoid using browser password-saving features.

Important: Use of the program director's credentials by the program coordinator to access the R3 system is a breach of the Match Participation Agreement and may result in sanctions.

Institution and Program Activation
The institutional official (IO) must activate the institution in the R3 system for participation in the Match. Once activated, each program track must also be activated. While the IO can activate programs directly, they may now delegate this task to you as the program director or to the institutional administrator. This approach allows you to confirm participation at the program level, update your program information, and set quotas efficiently. Please view the Activating Programs support guide and ensure your program(s) are activated promptly.

Program tracks and quotas are rolled over from the previous year's Match. Confirm which program tracks will be available for this year's Match before activating and that tracks are named appropriately so applicants can distinguish individual tracks for ranking.

If a program/track is not participating in the Match this year, it must be marked as 'Not Participating.' If the program has already been activated for participation, it must be withdrawn by the Quota Change Deadline of January

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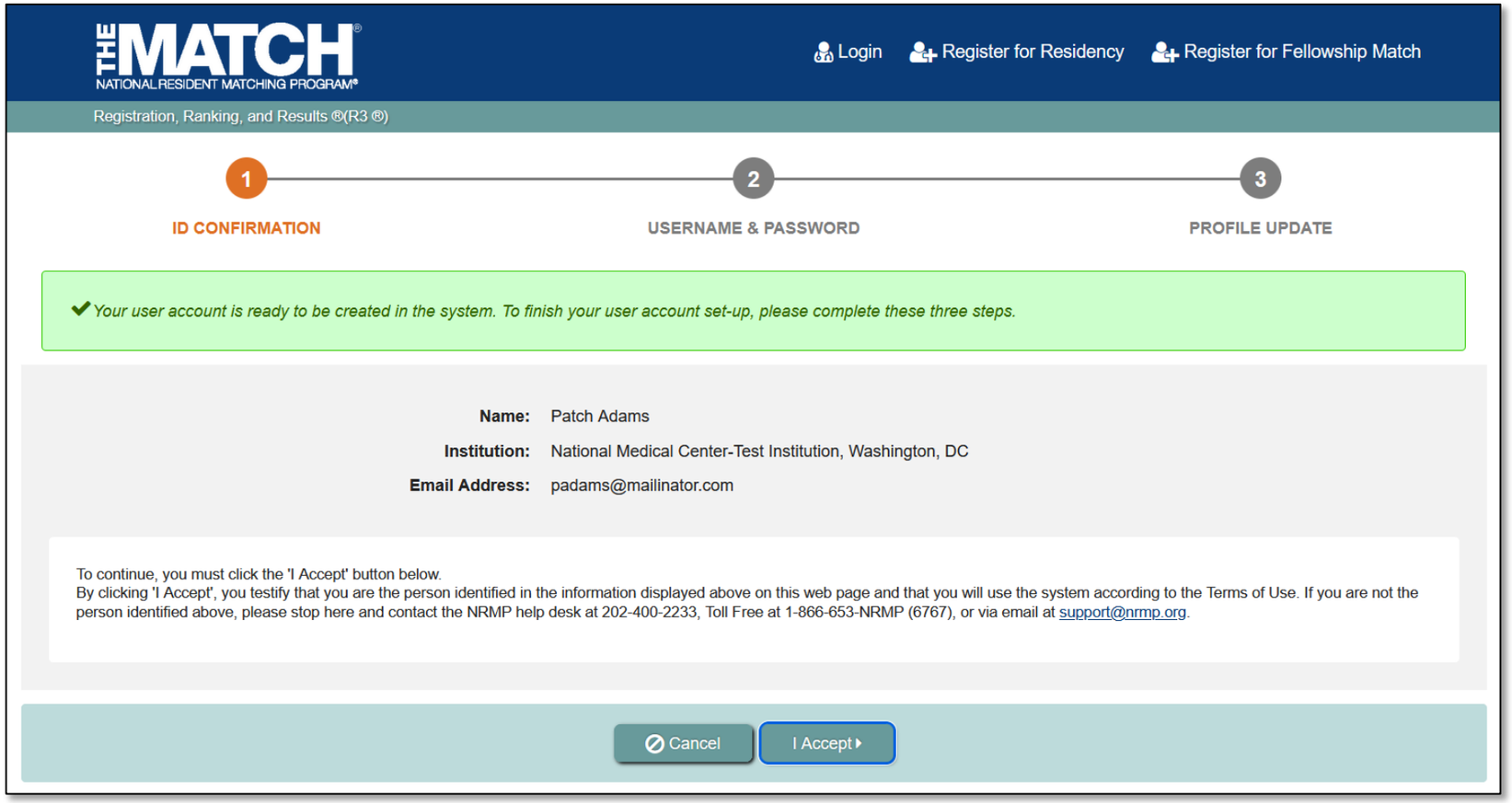
Token Link & Registration



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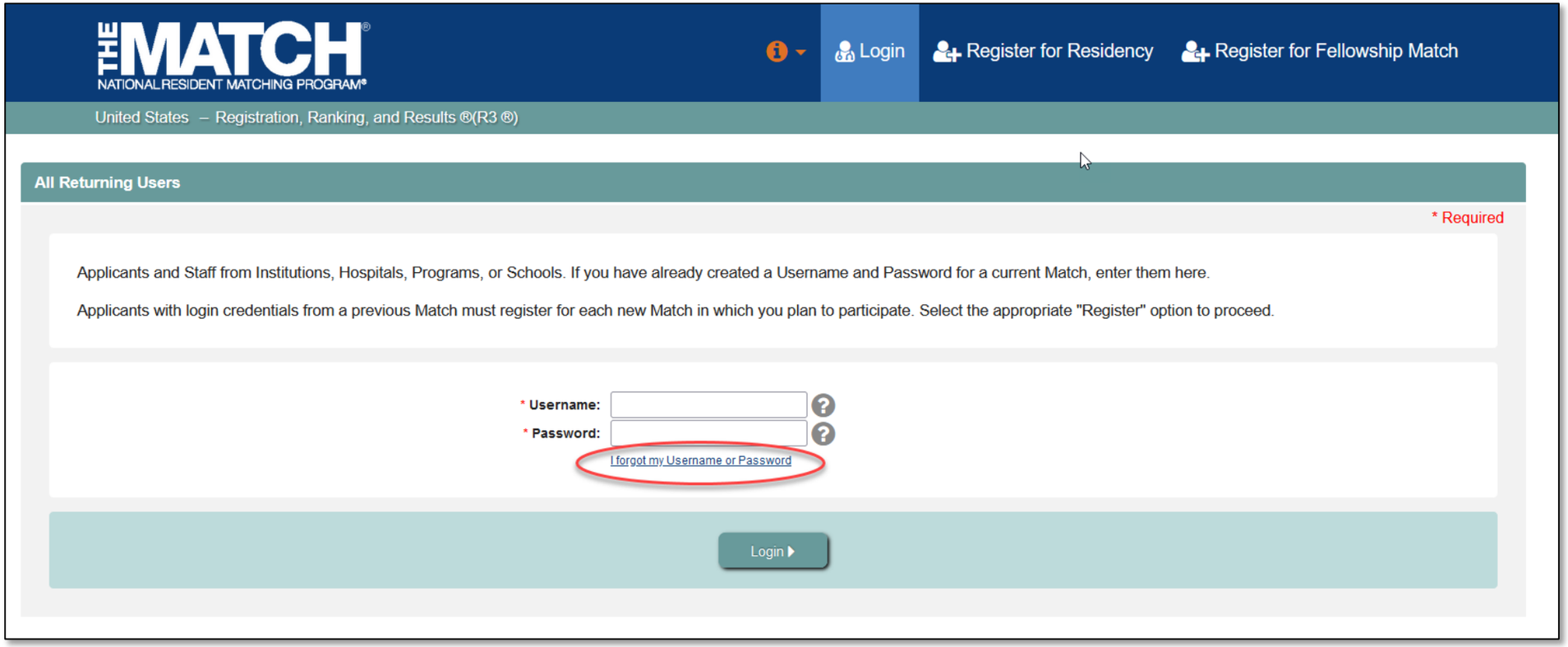

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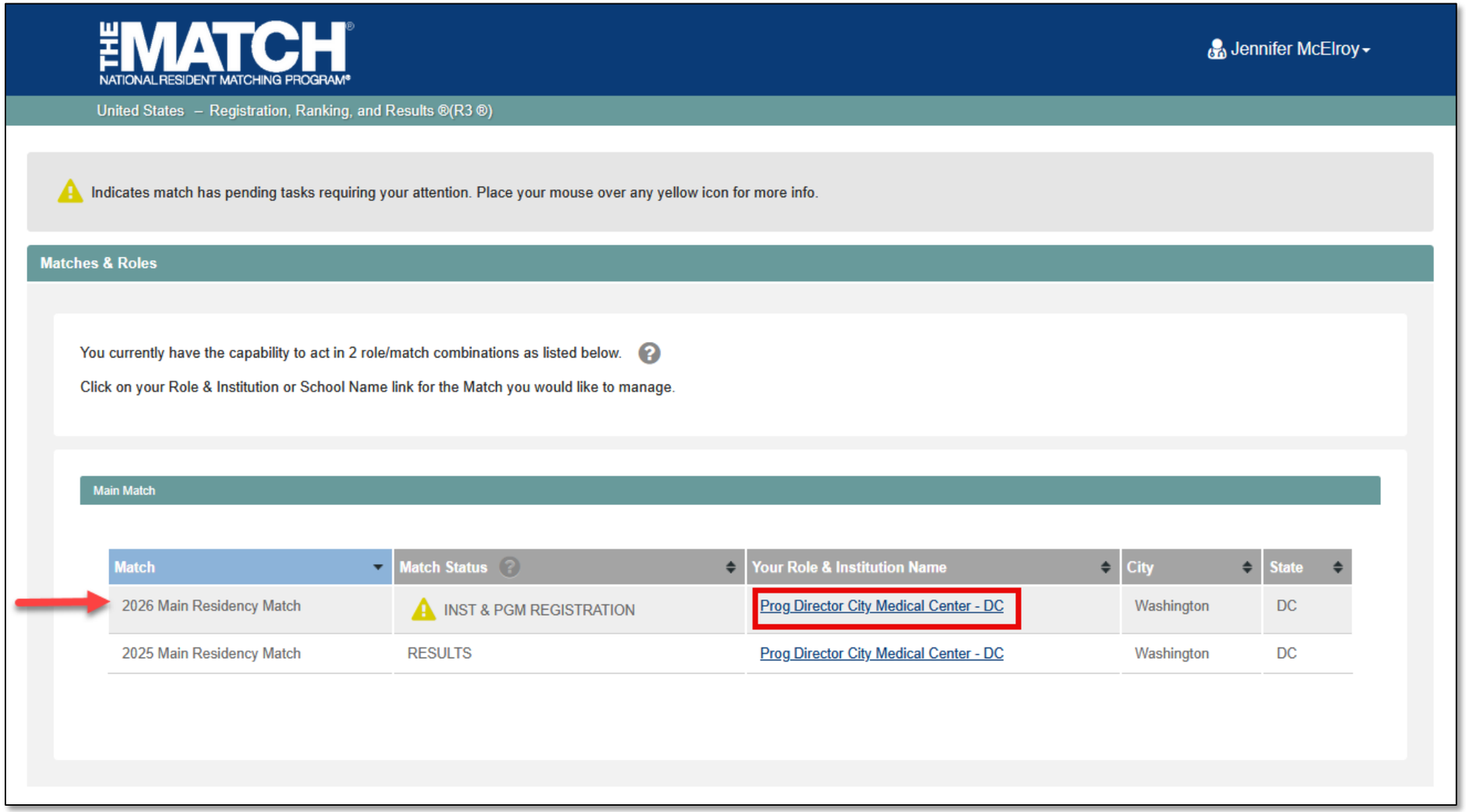
Matches and Roles



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Match Participation Agreement

- Provides the rules governing the matching process.
- Different versions for different users.
- Important Notices provide highlights of the Match Participation Agreement (MPA).
- All Match participants must electronically sign the MPA as part of the registration process.

Match Participation Agreement

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Program Codes

Every program has a unique 9-11-character code:

- Characters 1-4: the institution code
- Characters 5-7: the ACGME specialty code
- Character 8: program type letter (C, A, M, P, R)
- Character 9-11: track number

Ex: 1000400C0

Provide the NRMP program code to applicants during the interview process to assist them in ranking your program.

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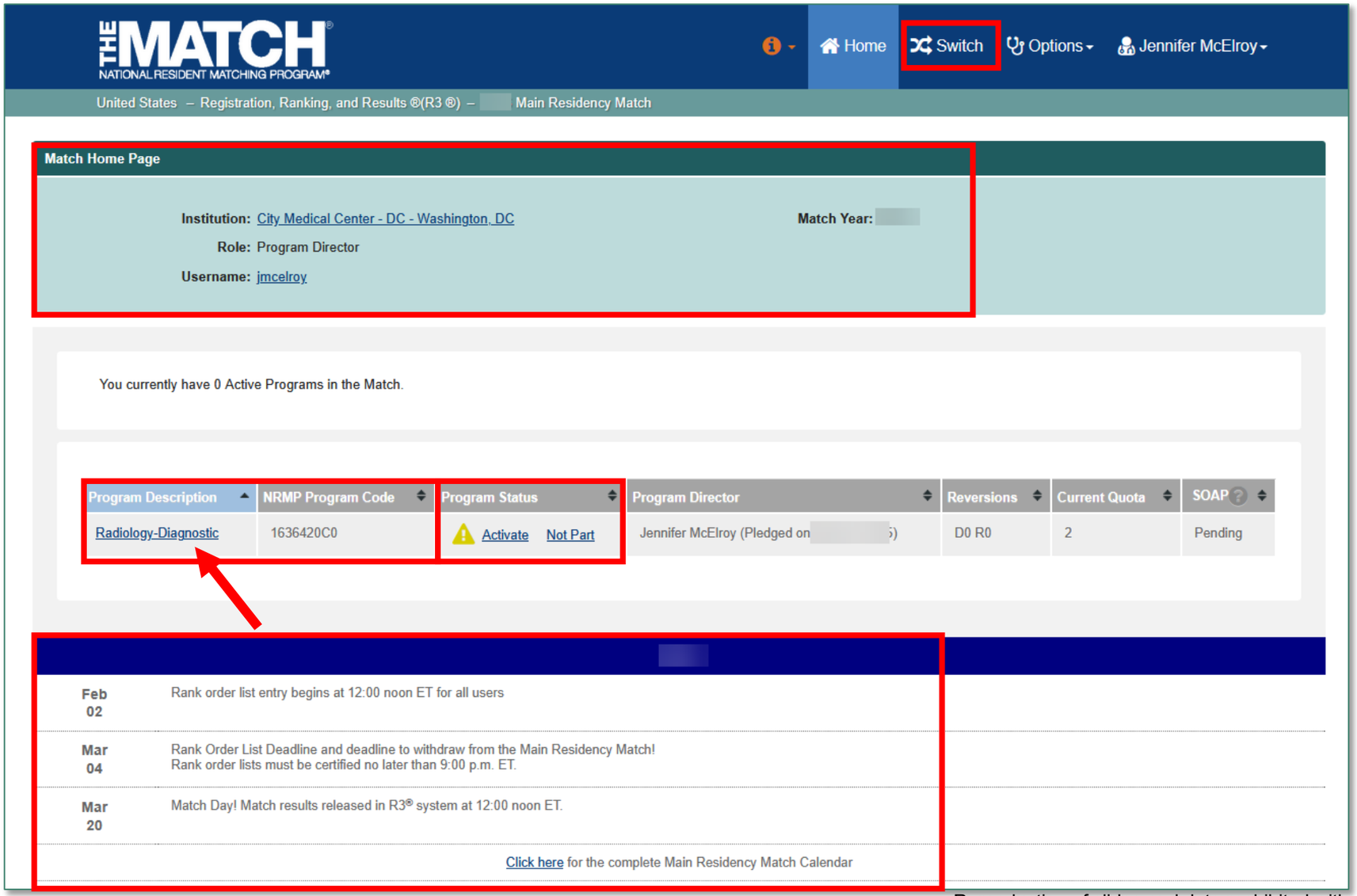
Match Home Page



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Program Activation

Program information rolls over from the previous Match including quotas.

IOs are responsible for activating the institution.

Programs cannot make any updates until the Institution has been activated.

Each program track also must be activated.

Programs can be activated by the institutional official or they can direct the program director or institutional administrator to activate the program(s).

If a program track will not be used for the current Match, it should be marked as Not Participating.

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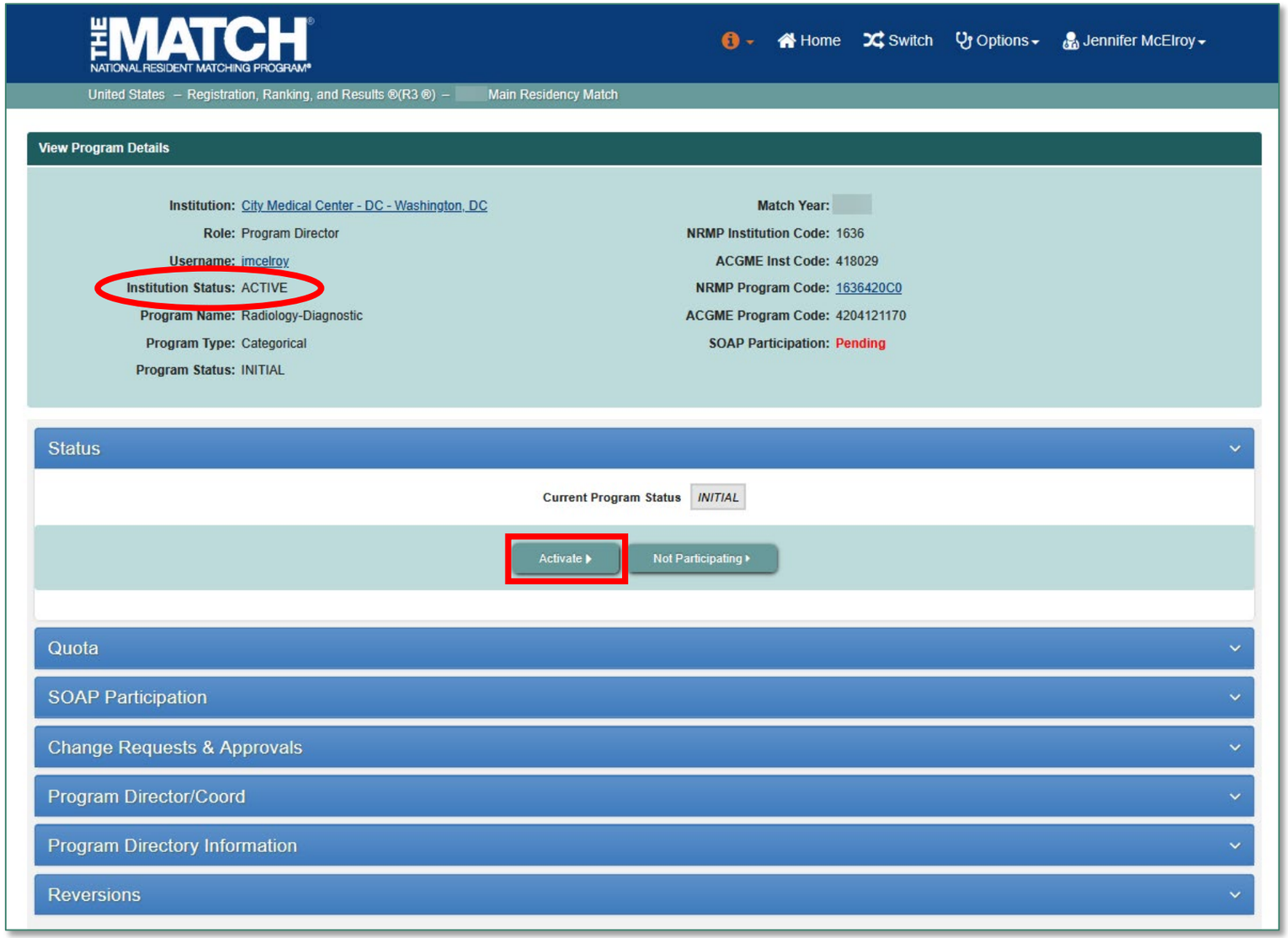
View Program Details



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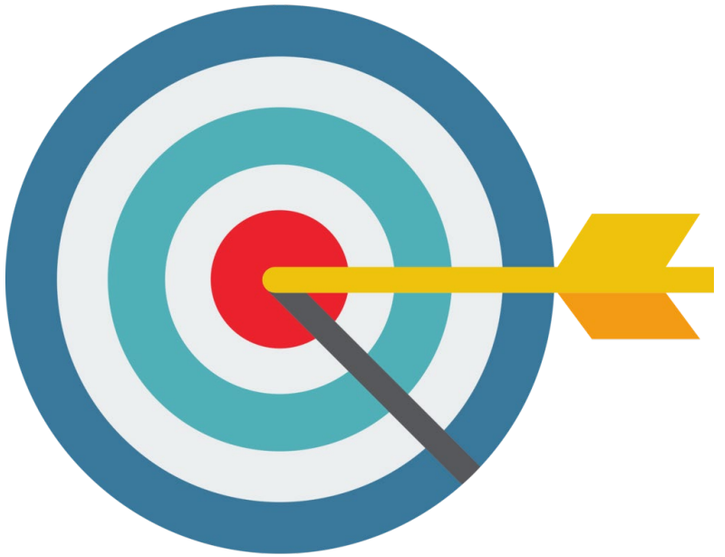
Quota

Quota = Number of positions to be filled in the Match.

- Quota information rolls over from the previous Match.
- PD is responsible for confirming quota and making any changes.
- PD must be registered before the Quota Change Deadline to review or change quota.
- IO is responsible for approving all quota changes.



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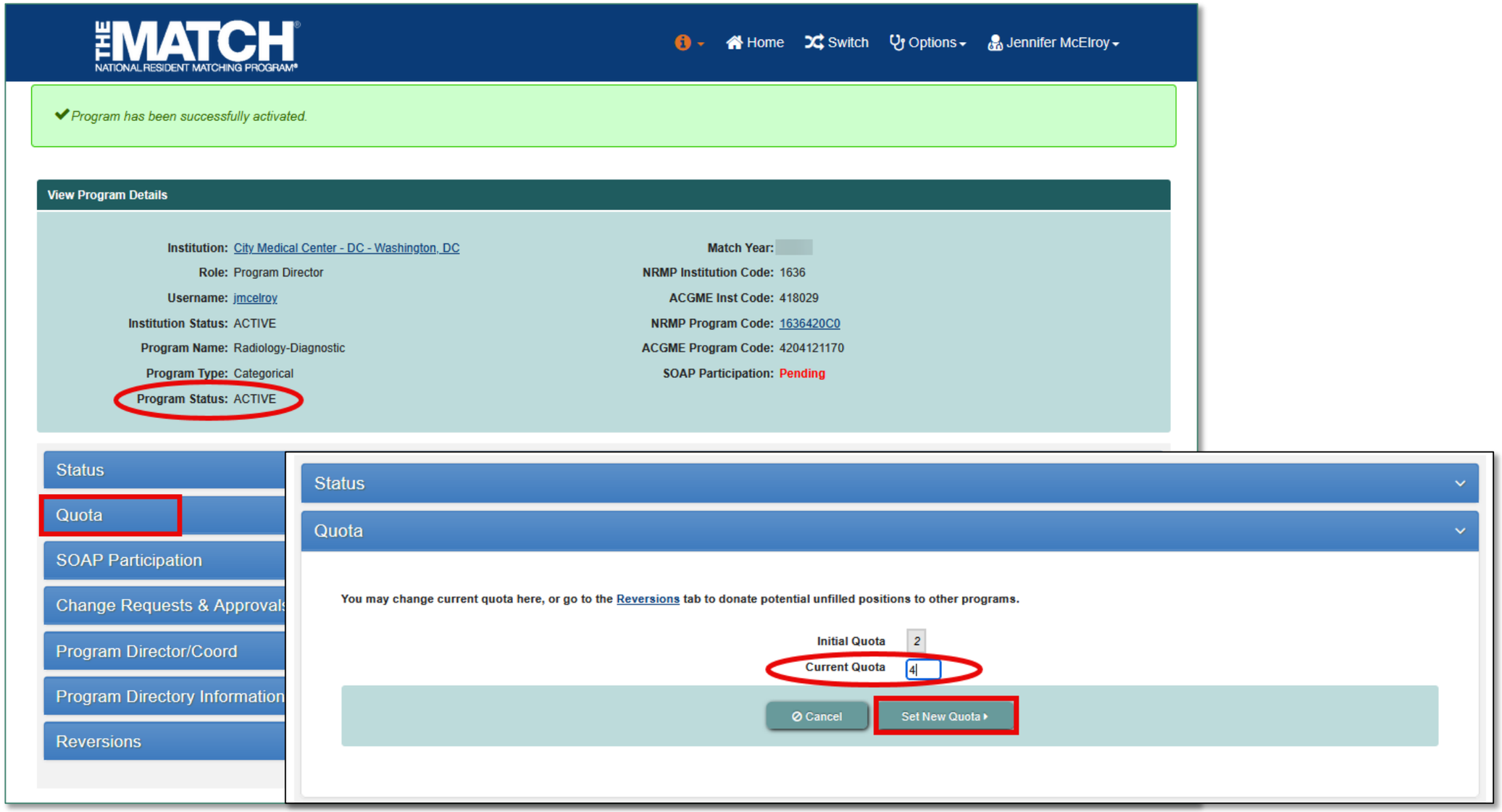
Quota



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Setting SOAP Participation

- PDs can set their SOAP participation indicator beginning when Match registration begins.
- Programs electing to participate in SOAP agree to offer positions ONLY through SOAP.
- Programs electing not to participate in SOAP are prohibited from extending offers until after SOAP concludes on Thursday of Match Week.

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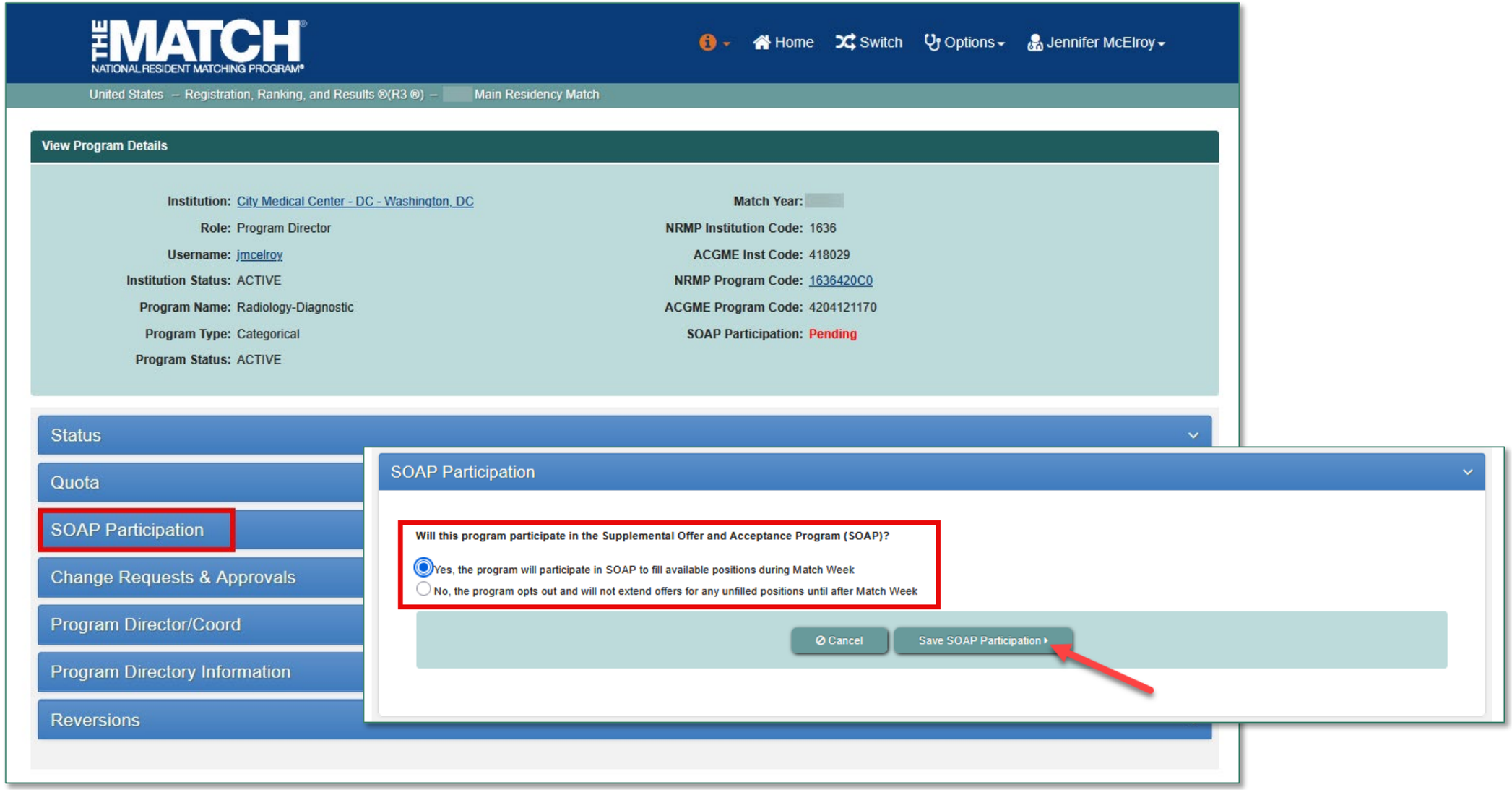
Setting SOAP Participation



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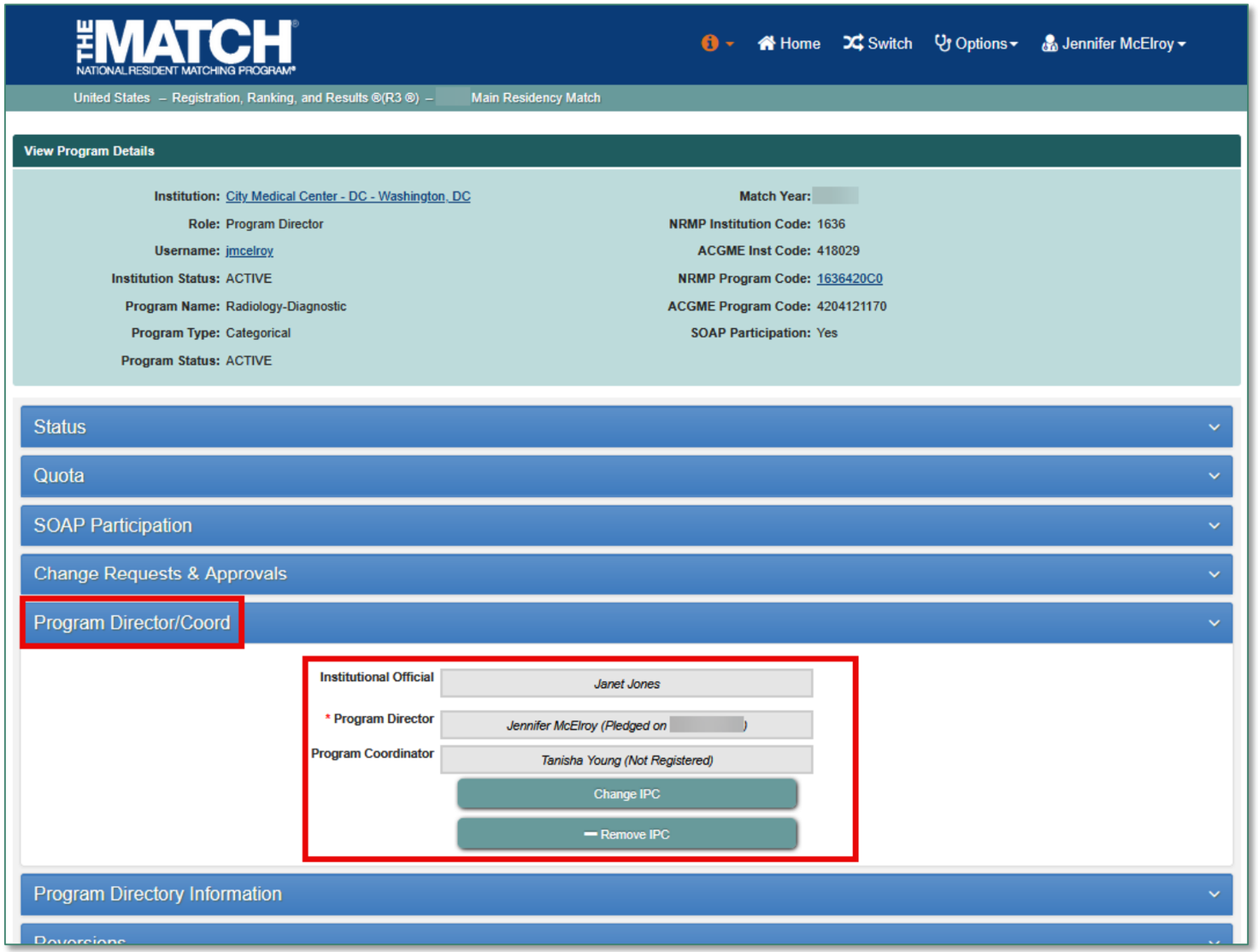
Program Information

- Ensure program director/coordinator are correct. PD and PC roles can be updated by the IO or IA. Contact your GME office to update these roles.
- Program Directory Information: address, email, website, and application service information for main season and SOAP.
- Program Directory information is viewed in the:
  - Public Program Directory
  - R3 Program Directory
  - *List of Unfilled Programs* if your program does not fill.

Program Information



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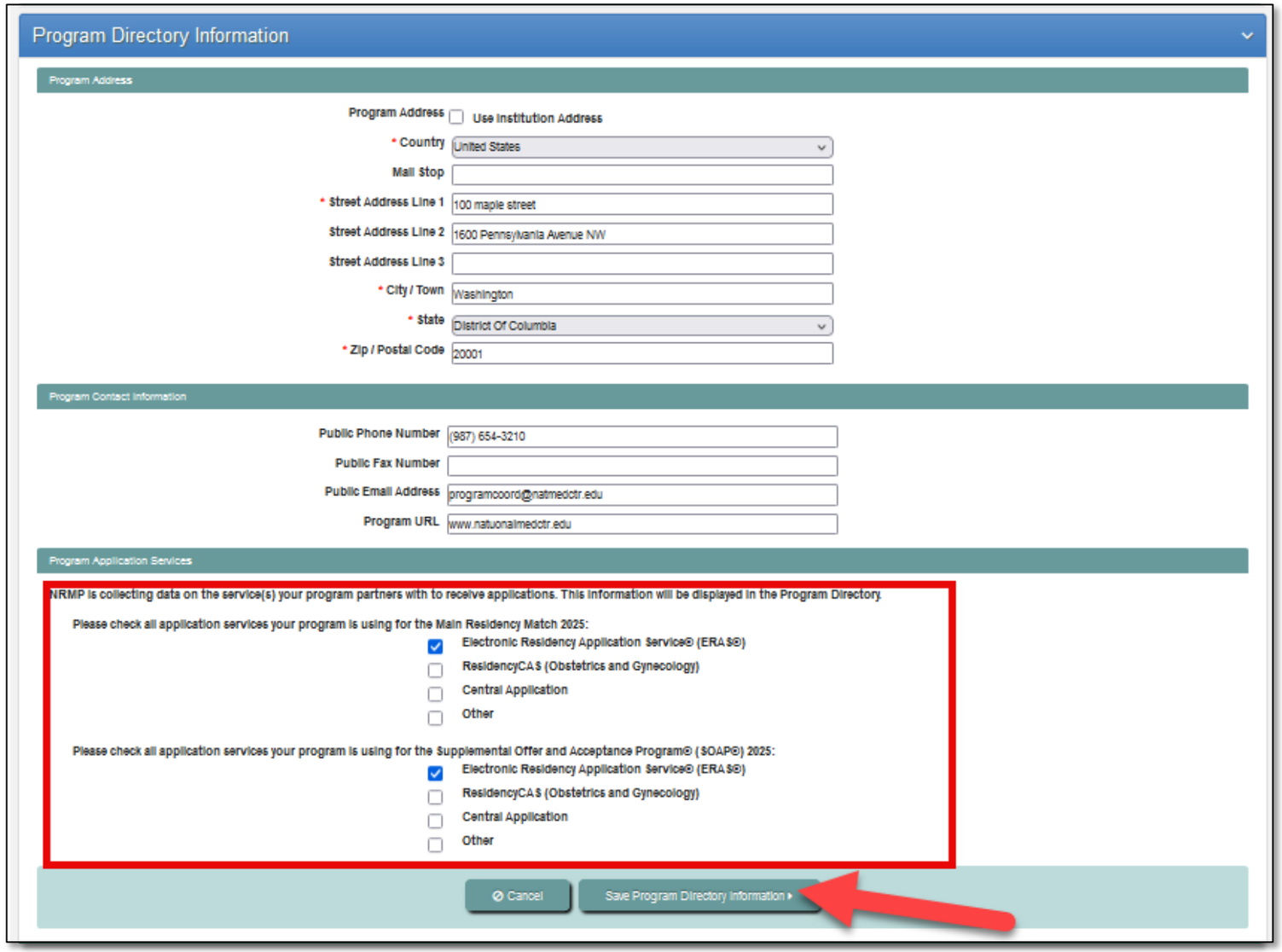
Program Directory Information



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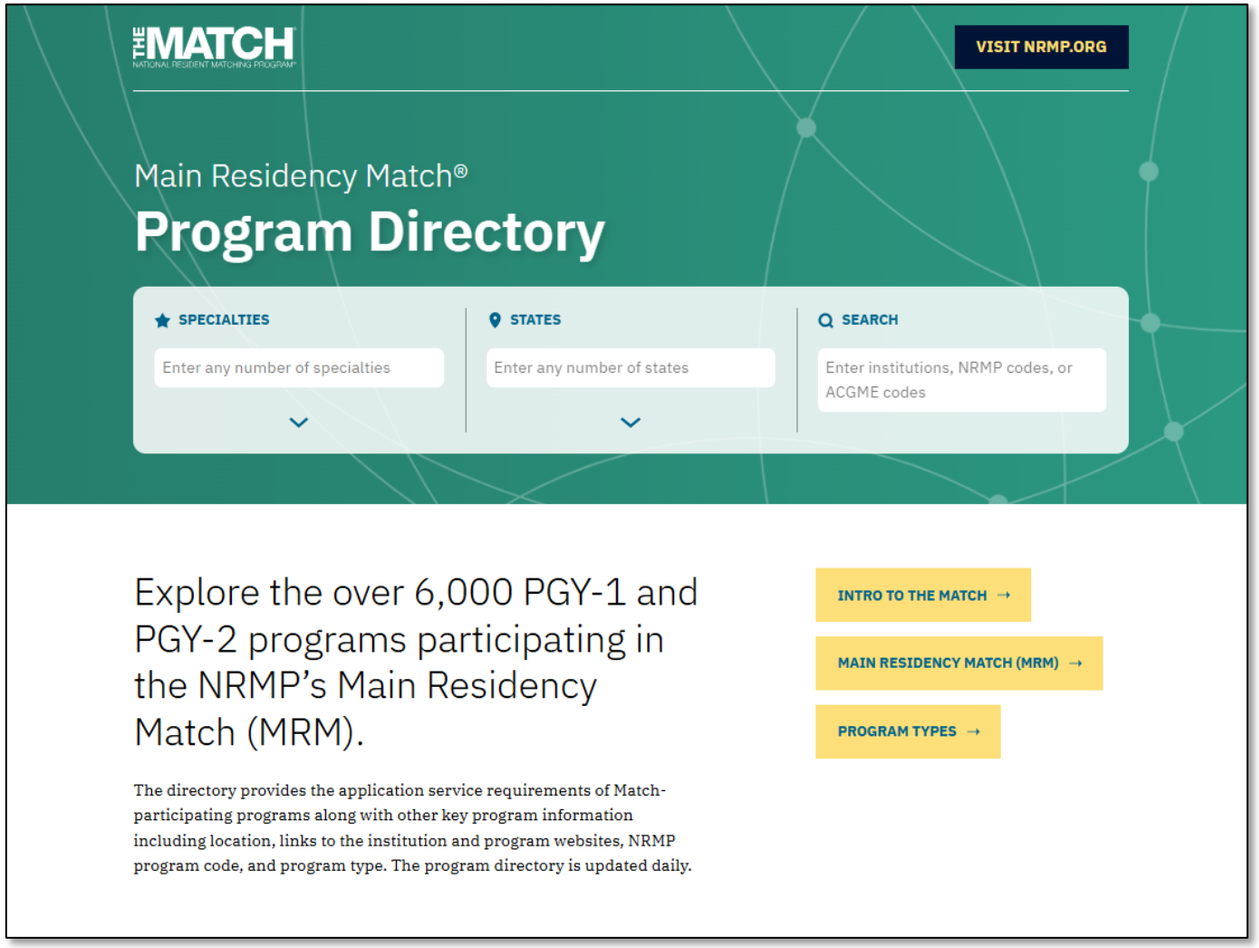
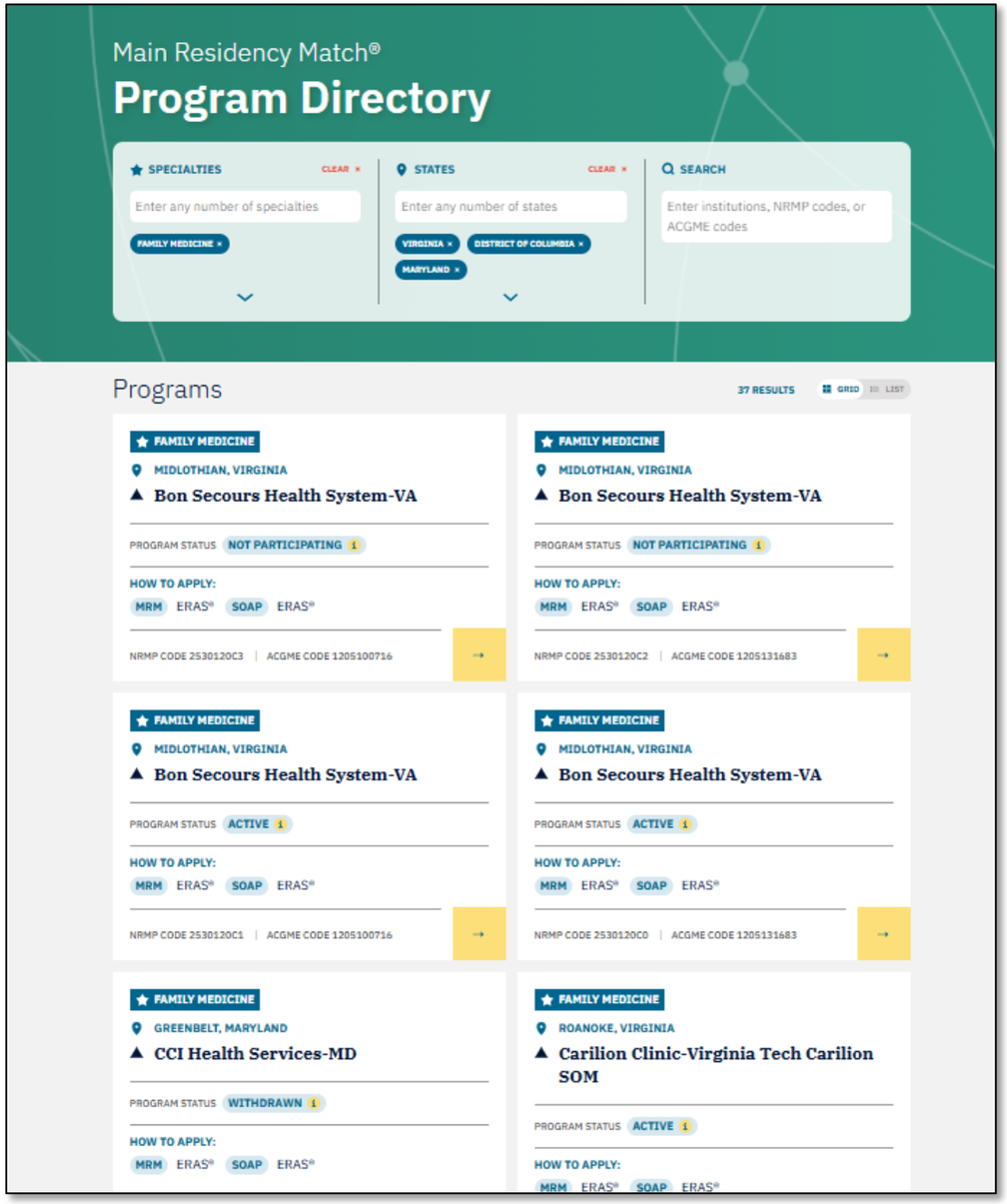
NRMP Program Directory

programdirectory.nrmp.org





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Program Set-up Options

Program Tracks

- Based on needs of programs.
- Can be created by the PD, IA, or IO. Must be activated by for participation.
- Examples: location, research, rural, external funding, etc.
- Reversions can be created to guard against being unfilled.

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Program Set-up Options

Reversions

- Donate unfilled positions in one program or track to another during the matching process.
- Reversions **do not** roll over. They must be created each year.
- Donor program creates the reversion.
- If used, the rank order list of the recipient program is used to fill the positions donated.
- Cannot revert more than the current program quota.
- Both program tracks **MUST** have a certified rank order list.
- Reversions must be approved by IO.

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Reversions

Internal Medicine track
2 Positions

Set to Revert

Internal Medicine/Rural track
2 Positions

Algorithm Begins Processing:

- IM track fills its 2 positions
- IM/Rural track fills 1 of its 2 positions

1 unfilled IM/Rural track position reverts to the main IM track.

Algorithm tries to fill the position using the main IM track rank list.

IM track fills the 1 additional position reverted from the IM/Rural track.

Match Results:

- IM track fills 3
- IM/Rural track fills 1
- Both programs show as filled.

Program Set-up Options

Joint Advanced-Preliminary Programs

- Link an advanced (A) program with a preliminary (P) program to create a full course of training for applicants.
- Only applicants ranking the A program on their primary ROL can rank the joined P program on the attached supplemental ROL.
- Applicants can match to the P program only if they first match to the A program.

Must be entered and approved by the IO by January 30.

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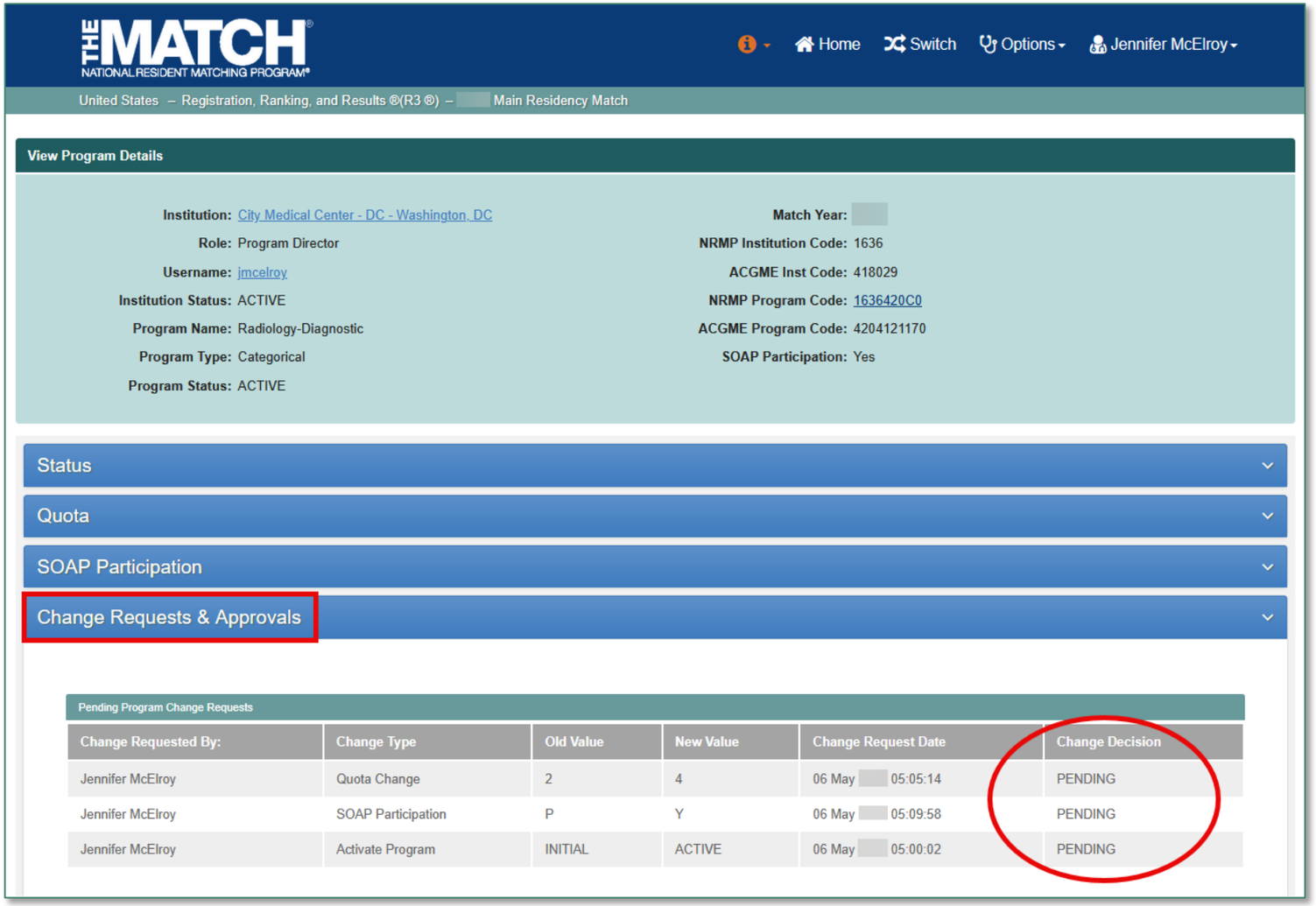
Change Requests & Approvals



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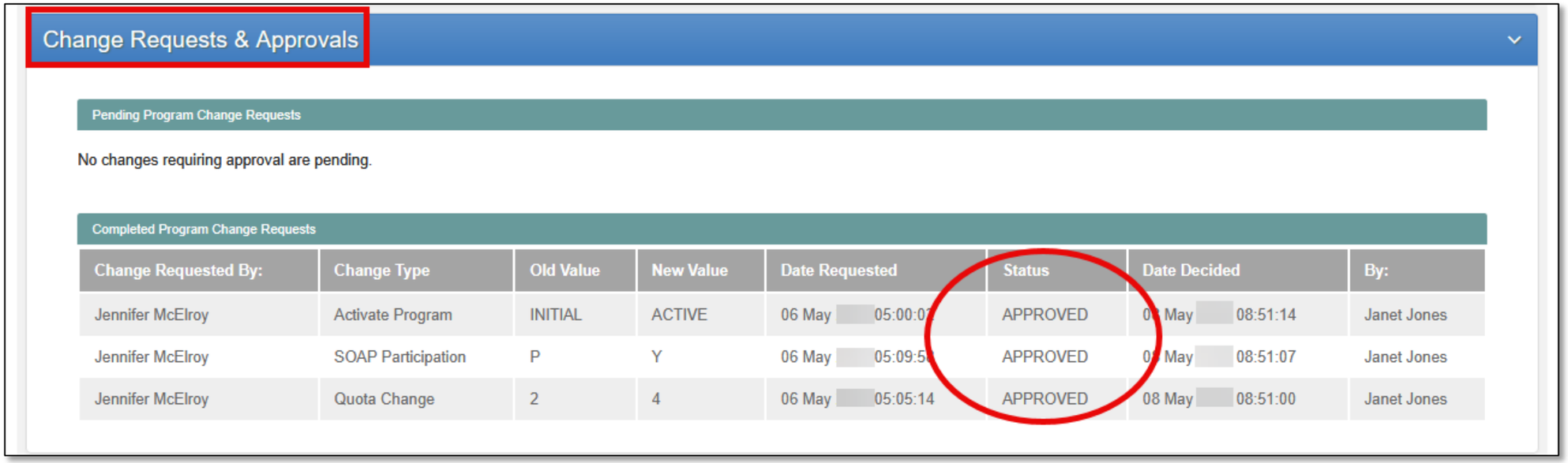

Change Requested By:	Change Type	Old Value	New Value	Date Requested	Status	Date Decided	By:
Jennifer McElroy	Activate Program	INITIAL	ACTIVE	06 May 05:00:0	APPROVED	0 May 08:51:14	Janet Jones
Jennifer McElroy	SOAP Participation	P	Y	06 May 05:09:5	APPROVED	0 May 08:51:07	Janet Jones
Jennifer McElroy	Quota Change	2	4	06 May 05:05:14	APPROVED	08 May 08:51:00	Janet Jones

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Match Policy

NEW!

1.0 Introduction to the Main Residency Match and SOAP

- No part of NRMP's Match data may be used as data for 'training' any large language model or as part of any machine learning or neural network architecture without the express written consent of the NRMP.

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Match Policy

Binding Commitment (Section 9.0)

- Upon conclusion of Match and SOAP, programs:
  - Are in binding commitment with an applicant and must offer an appointment as matched or offered.
  - Must begin training applicants on the start date specified in the appointment contract with the intent to complete the applicant's training.

Applicant Match History (in the R3 system)

- Determine whether an applicant is eligible for appointment prior to offering interviews or if they have a waiver/violation history.
- Available in the R3 system year-round.
- Senior students and applicants who have not participated in an NRMP Match will not appear in search results.

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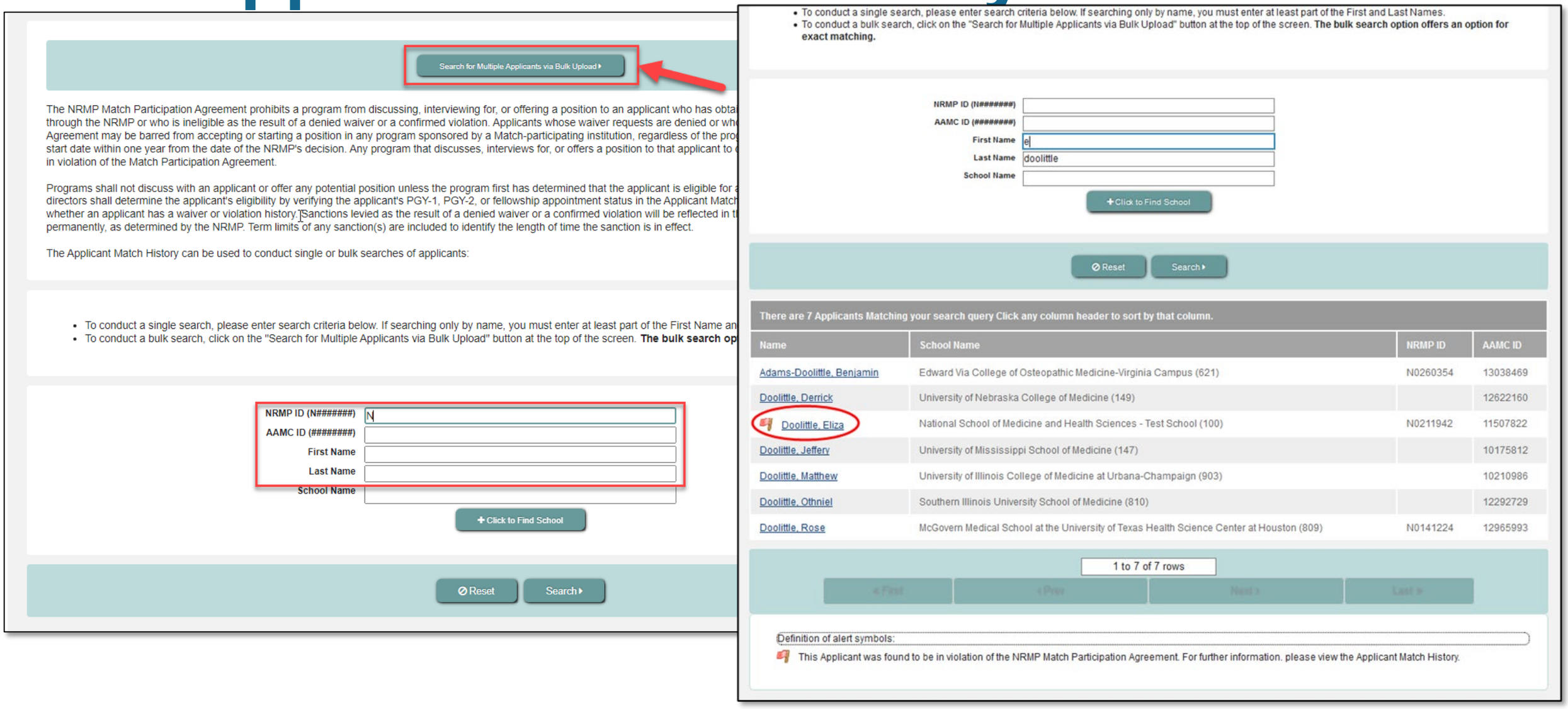
View Applicant Match History



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Match Policy

Interview Period Policy

During the recruitment phase programs shall:

- Extend interview offers that equal, but not exceed, the total number of available interview slots.
- Provide applicants no less than 48 hours to accept or reject an interview invitation.
- Apply reasonable measures of notification (e.g., one-to-two weeks' notice) when needing to cancel or reschedule an interview.

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Match Code Of Conduct for Programs

Interview Scheduling Platforms

Program directors and members of the recruitment team must ensure proper understanding and operation of interview scheduling platforms to maintain a fair and efficient interview process.

Programs must carefully manage their interview capacity to avoid extending more interview invitations than available interview slots.

To promote transparency and reduce applicant stress, programs should:

- Verify the accurate set up of interview dates and capacity limits within the scheduling platforms before releasing invitations.
- Monitor and maintain tracking of filled and available interview slots.
- Release interview invitations only for confirmed available slots to prevent overbooking.
- Establish a clear internal process for managing waitlists and cancelations
- Provide recruitment team members with adequate training of the scheduling platform

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All in Policy

All In Policy Applies To:

- All PGY-1 positions and PGY-2 positions in specialties accredited to begin at either the PGY-1 or PGY-2 level, regardless of whether the program begins in the PGY-1 or PGY-2 year.
- PGY-2 positions that are “reserved” for applicants eligible to begin advanced training in the year of the Main Residency Match.
- PGY-3 positions in Child Neurology.

All In Policy Does NOT Apply To:

- PGY-2 or higher positions in specialties accredited to begin only at the PGY-1 level.
- PGY-3 or higher positions (except Child Neurology) in specialties accredited to begin at either the PGY-1 or PGY-2 level.

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Match Policy

Sponsored Applicants

- A student enrolled in a U.S. medical school accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (“LCME”) or by the American Osteopathic Association (“AOA”) Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (“COCA”); or
- 2. A student who graduated from an LCME or AOA COCA-accredited medical school between June 30 of the calendar year the Match opens and 9:00 pm eastern time on the Rank Order List Certification Deadline in the year of the Match

Program Leadership and Staff

The program director shall:

- Agree to select U.S. MD and DO senior students (“sponsored applicants”) only through the Match or another national matching plan.

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Match Policy

Complete, Timely, and Accurate Information

- Programs must provide complete, timely, and accurate information to applicants interviewed, including a copy of the contract and all institutional policies.
    - Pre-employment testing (e.g., illicit drug screening), background checks (e.g., criminal, financial, etc.), Visa sponsorship, and any other requirement(s).
    - Provided prior the Rank Order List Certification Deadline and/or the offering of a position during SOAP.
- Requirement to provide complete, timely, and accurate information applies to all participant types in the Match, including applicants and their medical schools.
- For the Main Residency Match and SOAP, programs must disclose to applicants, at the start of recruitment, the application service or process they will require.

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Match Policy

Restrictions on Persuasion

- Programs cannot request applicants reveal ranking preferences or the names, specialties, geographic locations, or other identifying information about programs to which they have or may apply.
- Programs cannot request that applicants reveal preference signal(s).
- Programs may not solicit verbal or written statements from an applicant implying a commitment to rank the program.
- Programs may voluntarily communicate to an applicant that they are viewed favorably and will be ranked.
- Be sure all institution staff who participate in interviews, decision-making, or who can speak for the program are aware of policies.

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Waiver and Deferral

If for any reason a matched applicant or program cannot or will not honor the binding commitment, a waiver or deferral must be requested from the NRMP. A deferral is not a waiver; it is a one-year delayed start of training. A deferral must be agreed to by both parties.

Waivers or deferrals can be requested for the following:

- Unanticipated serious and extreme hardship
- Change of Specialty (only for advanced position or a fellowship position)
- Ineligibility to begin training (delayed grad, incomplete PGY-1 year, etc.)
- Visa Issues

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Match Fees

Program Fees	Applicant Fees
Institution Registration **$300**	Registration **$70**
Program Registration (per track) **$100**	Couple Fee (per partner) **$45**
Per Certified Position (Quota) **$75**	Extra Ranks, beyond 20 **$30/program track ranked**

An institution with one program track in the Match, with a quota of one, will be invoiced for $475 at the conclusion of the Match.

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Video Resources & Support Guides

Access NRMP Support Resources

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Transition to Residency: Conversations Across the Medical Education Continuum

Theme: Changing World. Changing Vision

- October 11-12, 2025
- We will explore how a new administration, shifts in health policy focus and priorities, and changes in the transition to residency landscape may be impacting our collective efforts to educate and train the next cohort of physicians.
- Scan the QR code for more details!

Questions?

Put questions into the Q & A box

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THANK YOU and Good Luck in the Match!

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