

State Loan Repayment Program: An Overview

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- SLRP is a grant program administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration, Bureau of Clinician Recruitment and Service
- The program provides a \$1 for \$1 match to states for the purposes of providing support in the form of loan repayment to primary care providers practicing in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs)
- Matching funds must come from a non-federal funding source
- SLRP supports HRSA's overall strategy to increase access to health care.

Legislative Parameters

- Providers must practice at an approved, non-profit sites that provide primary care services and offer a discounted sliding fee scale.
- Practice sites must be located in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA).
- Initial contracts to providers must be awarded for a minimum of 2 years.
- Grantees may provide continuation contracts.
- Award amounts must not exceed \$100,000 over a two year period.

Grant Program Guidelines

- Eligible Primary Care Disciplines:
 - Physicians
 - Nurse Practitioners
 - Dentists
 - Dental Hygienists
 - Certified Nurse Midwives
 - Physicians Assistants
 - Mental and Behavioral Health Professionals
 - Registered Nurses
 - Pharmacists

Eligible Practice Sites

- Eligible Practice Sites include:
 - Community Health Centers
 - Federally Qualified Health Centers
 - Rural health clinics
 - School-based clinics
 - Critical access hospitals
 - Mobile health units
 - State Mental Health facilities
 - Long-term care facilities

- All U.S. States and Territories are eligible to participate in SLRP.
- Currently, there are 32 grantees located in the following states and territories: AK, AZ, CA, CO, DC, DE, HI, IA, IL, KS, KY, LA, MA, MD, MI, MN, MO, MT, ND, NJ, NM, NV, NY, OH, OR, PA, RI, TN, VA, WA, WI, and WV.

Program Management

- The average federal award amount to a state is \$319,000.
- The average award amount to a provider is \$40,000.
- Most grantees host application cycles and make awards until funds are expended.
- Grantees pay the award funds to the participant or directly to the lender(s).
- Award funds are dispersed in lump sum payments or in increments depending on state program policy and/or statute.
- Grantees are required to monitor both participants and sites to ensure program guidelines and policies are being met.

Program Flexibilities

- Grantees have the ability to tailor their programs to suit their individual needs.
- The grantee can determine:
 - the match provider, amount of loan repayment by discipline
 - participating professions
 - full or part time options
 - length of each contract beyond the minimum of two years
 - payment timeline
 - contract extension policy.
- These and other administrative flexibilities provide each grantee the opportunity to best serve the needs of their respective states.

Examples of Program Flexibilities

- Support new and existing state-wide initiatives
 - Oral health, rural health, school-aged children, geriatrics, etc.
- Targeted discipline recruitment efforts
- Health Enterprise Zone
- Targeted sites
 - State Mental Health Facilities
 - Mobile units in rural/frontier communities
- Recruit providers to high need areas

Matching Fund Methodologies

- State
 - Annual appropriation, state tobacco tax, etc.
- Practice Site
- Foundations
- Community-based organizations