

New Hampshire State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP)

Program Summary

The New Hampshire State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) provides funds for educational loan repayment to health care professionals working in areas of the State designated as being medically underserved. These medically underserved areas; identified as Health Care Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs), Mental Health Professional Shortage Areas (MHPSAs), Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas (DHPSAs), Medically Underserved Areas/Populations (MUA/Ps), and Governor's Exceptional Medically Underserved Populations (E-MUP) are indicators that a shortage of primary healthcare providers exist, posing a barrier to access to primary health care services for the residents of these areas. Organizations/facilities that are funded by programs in the Department of Health and Human Services are also considered eligible sites. Health care providers participating in the SLRP agree to provide medical services to all patients regardless of their ability to pay. In addition, the health care provider and the practice site must offer a sliding-fee schedule based on current federal poverty guidelines, accept Medicaid, Medicare, and provide free care when medically necessary. The SLRP requests non-State matching funds for the loan repayment contract but does not require them.

The Division of Public Health Services (DPHS), Rural Health & Primary Care Section (RHPC) administers this program.

More information on repayment amounts, eligibility and provider types can be found at:

<http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/bchs/rhpc/repayment.htm>

Modifications

The SLRP operates using general funds in the amount of \$400,000/year. In the State Fiscal Years' 2016/2017 biennium budget beginning July 1, 2015 the \$400,000/year budget line was reduced by \$169,034 each year. This limited the program's ability to grant future SLRP contracts and to extend existing SLRP contracts. In July of 2015 we received a commitment of \$1.6 million from the New Hampshire Medical Malpractice Joint Underwriting Association (JUA) to fund the SLRP. Because of this influx of funding and the growing concern around available workforce in the areas of mental health and substance use disorder services, we decided to modify the SLRP in order to meet more workforce needs. Starting October 1, 2015 we added new site types that include all DHHS, Maternal & Child Health Section funded primary care centers, include all DHHS, Bureau of Behavioral Health funded community mental health centers, and include all DHHS, Bureau of Drug & Alcohol Services funded treatment centers – outpatient services only. The SLRP also added the provider types of Master Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors (MLADCs) and Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors (LADCs) if they provide outpatient services at those sites.

Outcomes

As of July 1, 2016 we will have 66 providers on SLRP contracts. This represents an increase 300% in the number of providers we are usually able to fund. Of those 69, 27 are general funded and 42 are JUA

funded. 51 are located in rural areas and 18 in non-rural areas. 40 are providers of medical primary care, 22 are behavioral health and 7 are oral health providers. The top site types include 23 of the providers located at Federally Qualified Health Centers, 13 at Community Mental Health Centers, 10 at Rural Health Clinics, 3 at DHHS funded outpatient substance use disorder treatment centers, and 2 at DHHS funded oral health programs. Additional data is included in the attached report.

In reference to the behavioral health providers, our number of behavioral health provider participation increased by 3 times the amount after we added the additional site eligibility. All but one participant comes from an organization that was unable to provide any matching funds.

SLRP as of End of July 1, 2016

There will be 69 providers on contract as of July 1, 2016

Funding Source

JUA – 42

State – 27

Geography

Rural – 51

Non-Rural – 18

Contract Type

New – 67

Extension of service - 2

Provider Types

Primary Care = 40

Physician – 13

Rural General Surgeon – 1

Nurse Practitioner (NP) – 18

Physician Assistant (PA) – 8

Behavioral Health = 22

Psychiatrist – 1

Psychologist – 1

Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner – 3

Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW) – 6

Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor (MHC) – 10

Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor (LADC) – 1

Hold Master's Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor (MLADC) in addition to primary provider type - 3

Oral Health = 7

Dentist – 4

Registered Dental Hygienist – 3

Locations

Ammonoosuc Community Health Services – 5 (2-Physicians, Dentist, NP, PA)

Antrim Medical Group – 2 (Physician, PA)

Coos County Family Health Services – 5 (2-PA, NP, Psych NP, RDH)

Cottage Hospital – 1 (NP)

Families First Health & Support Center – 2 (Dentist, Physician)

Families In Transition – 1 (LADC)

Friendship House – 1 (MHC/MLADC)

Genesis Behavioral Health – 2 (MHC)

Goodwin Community Health Center – 2 (Dentist, LICSW/MLADC)

Greater Nashua Dental Connection – 2 (Dentist, RDH)

Greater Nashua Mental Health Center – 1 (Psych NP)

Health First Family Care Center – 2 (2-NP)

Indian Stream Health Center – 1 (Physician)

Internal Medicine Associates of Wolfeboro – 1 (PA)

Keady Family Practice – 1 (NP)

Lakes Region General Healthcare – 8 (7-NP, Psych NP)

Lamprey Health Center – 2 (Physician, PA)

Manchester Community Health Center – 1 (PA)

Memorial Hospital – 2 (Rural General Surgeon, Physician)

Mental Health Center of Manchester – 2 (2-LICSW)

Mid-State Health Center – 2 (Physician, NP)

Molar Express – 1 (RDH)

Newport Health Center – 2 (NP, PA)

North Country Primary Care – 2 (Psychiatrist, Physician)

Northern Human Services – 3 (MHC, LICSW, LICSW/MLADC)

Ossipee Family Medicine – 1 (NP)

Riverbend Community Mental Health Center – 4 (2-MHC, Psychologist, LICSW)

Saco River Medical Group – 3 (2-Physician, NP)

Speare Primary Care – 1 (NP)

The Youth Council – 1 (MHC)

Valley Regional Hospital – 1 (Physician)

Weeks Medical Center – 1 (Physician)

West Central Behavioral Health – 3 (3-MHC)

Designation Under Which They Qualified

Federally Qualified Health Center – 23

DHHS Funded Community Mental Health Center – 13

Rural Health Clinic – 10

Exceptional Medically Underserved Population – 9

Medically Underserved Area – 4

Medically Underserved Population – 3

DHHS Funded Substance Use Disorder Treatment Center - 3

DHHS Funded Oral Health Program – 2

Mental Health Professional Shortage Area – 1

Dental Health Professional Shortage Area – 1

Service Schedule

Full-time – 61

Part-time - 8