



Applying for the 2022 State Loan Repayment Program

March 9, 2022

Louisiana's Health Initiative

Speaker

- **Beth Butler**
 - HPSA/SLRP Manager
 - Well-Ahead Louisiana





Objectives

- Understand the State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP)
- Know which sites and providers are eligible
- Review check list guidelines
- Understand how to apply online and know important application dates and deadlines
- Understand the application and scoring process

OVERVIEW AND PURPOSE



Overview and Purpose

- Grant administered by Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
 - Louisiana is able to award \$719,100.00 in loan repayment to eligible healthcare providers annually.
- Well-Ahead Louisiana's Primary Care Office (LPCO) is responsible for administering the Louisiana State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP)
- Purpose: to increase the availability of primary health care in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) by assisting in the repayment of educational loans

State Loan Repayment Program Recipients for 2021

Healthcare Provider Type	Total
Primary Care Physicians	8
Nurse Practitioners	15
Dentists	7
Dental Hygienists	0
Psychiatrists	2
Psychologists	2
Licensed Clinical Social Workers	5
Licensed Professional Counselors	2
Total	41

**ELIGIBLE
PROFESSIONALS**

Eligible Healthcare Professionals

- Physicians (allopathic or osteopathic with completed residency training) including:
 - General practice
 - Family practice
 - Obstetrics/gynecology
 - Internal medicine
 - Pediatrics
 - General psychiatry
- Dentists (DDS or DMD general or pediatric)
- Primary care physician assistants
- Primary care certified nurse practitioners
- Certified nurse midwives
- Registered clinical dental hygienists
- Licensed clinical or counseling psychologists (Ph.D. or equivalent required)
- Health service psychologists (Ph.D. or equivalent required)
- Psychiatric nurse specialists
- Licensed professional counselors (Masters or Ph.D. required)
- Marriage and family therapists (Masters or Ph.D. required)
- Licensed clinical social workers (Masters or Ph.D. required)
- Alcohol and substance abuse counselors (Masters or Ph.D. required)

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS



Eligibility Requirements

- Work in a federally-designed HPSA
- Work for a public or non-profit private entity
- Work 40 hours per week
 - 32 hours in an outpatient setting
- Accept assignment of Medicare and Medicaid
- Have a sliding fee scale for low-income, uninsured patients
- Be a United States citizen or national
- Be licensed to practice in Louisiana
- Have no other obligation for health professional services
- Have not defaulted on educational loans without addressing the default
- Have not breached a health professional service contract

ELIGIBLE PRACTICE SITES

Eligible Practice Sites

- Must be located in federally-designated HPSAs
- Public and non-profit private entities located in and providing health care services in HPSAs
 - An IRS Form 501(c)(3) including the facility's physical address is required.
- For-profit health facilities operated by non-profit organizations must accept reimbursement from Medicare, Medicaid, and the Children's Health Insurance Program; utilize a sliding fee scale; and see all patients regardless of their ability to pay
- Must charge for professional services at the usual and customary prevailing rates except free clinics
- Must provide discounts for individuals with limited incomes (i.e., use a sliding fee scale)
 - For information about current HHS Poverty Guidelines, please visit the [Federal Register](#) website
- For those with annual incomes at or below 100 percent of the HHS Poverty Guidelines, states must ensure that practice sites provide services at no charge or at a nominal charge
 - For individuals between 100 and 200 percent of the HHS Poverty Guidelines, sites must ensure they provide a schedule of discounts, which must reflect a nominal charge covered by a third party (either public or private)

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Application Checklist

- Copy of executed employment contract for length of years requesting SLRP participation
 - OR a letter verifying employment, if an employment contract is not available
- Résumé
- Copy of current professional license
- Documentation of the current principle balance of the applicant's certified educational debt
 - Should include name and account number for each loan
- Signed
 - SLRP Site Information Form for all sites the applicant provides services
 - SLRP Site Agreement for All Participating SLRP Sites Form completed by employer
 - SLRP Attestation of No Other Obligation Form, also notarized
 - SLRP Certification Regarding Environmental Tobacco Smoke Form
 - SLRP Release from Liability Form
 - SLRP Consent for Release of Information Waiver of Confidentiality Form

Application Checklist

- **Documentation of employer's**
 - Sliding fee scale/discount fee policy
 - Sliding fee scale/discount fee schedule (actual scale)
- **Photo of employer's**
 - Sliding fee scale/discount fee policy posted in the checkout/lobby
 - Sign posted in the checkout/lobby that states, "We accept all patients regardless of ability to pay."
- **Copy of current Louisiana Medicaid Provider ID Number or a copy of application for this number**
- **Completed IRS Form W-9-Request for Taxpayer ID Number that matches applicant address**
 - This should include YOUR information, not your employer's
- **Completed Electronic Funds Transfer Form with voided blank check or direct deposit form from financial institution**
 - The bottom of this form should be completed by your financial institution
 - Please make sure the box on the middle left of the page is checked
- **Proof of site's non-profit and/or public status**

APPLYING ONLINE



Applying Online

- State Loan Repayment Program Webpage:
 - <https://wellaheadla.com/state-loan/>

IMPORTANT DATES



Important Dates

- **January 3-March 31, 2022: SLRP applications accepted**
 - All applications must be submitted or postmarked by March 31, 2022 in order to be accepted
 - Incomplete application packets submitted will not be considered
- **April-May 2022: applications will be reviewed**
- **May 31, 2022: notifications of funding status will be sent out**
- **October 1, 2022: start date of most contracts**

SCORING PROCESS



Scoring Process

- Priority is given to applicants who work in facilities with the **highest percentage of underserved patients**, including those who use Medicaid managed health plans and Medicare, those who are uninsured and indigent or underinsured and unable to find treatment
- Priority is given to individuals who agree to serve in HPSAs with the **highest degree of shortage, rural**, and whose service will have the **greatest impact on underserved populations** in these high-needs parishes



Scoring Process

- Priority is given to applicants who agree to treat **targeted populations who are designated as underserved** in their service area, e.g. migrant farm workers, homeless, etc.
- Priority is given to individuals who agree to accept referrals and provide health care services to a significant portion, of **at least 25% HIV/AIDS patient-base**
- Priority is given to providers working in a facility **Opioid Treatment Program (OTP)**

QUESTIONS?



Contact Information

- Well-Ahead State Loan Repayment Program
 - <https://wellaheadla.com/state-loan/>
- Beth Butler
 - beth.butler@la.gov



Provider Education Network

- The Provider Education Network helps healthcare professionals address the challenges facing our communities
 - Education
 - Technical Assistance
 - Quality Improvement Strategies
 - Workforce Development
 - Patient Education Tools
 - Links to Community-Based Programs
- Join today at www.wellaheadla.com/join-provider-education-network



Thank You for Joining Us!

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