



State Loan Repayment Program of Kansas Program Description

Size of the Program The goal for the state fiscal year beginning July 1, 2007 is to award up to \$100,000 to assist health professionals in the repayment of educational loans in exchange for primary care practice in a health professional shortage area.

Eligible professions include:

- primary care physicians,
- nurse practitioners,
- physician assistants,
- dentists,
- dental hygienists,
- clinical psychologists, and
- mental health professionals licensed at the independent clinical practice level: clinical social workers, clinical professional counselors, and clinical marriage and family therapists.

Overview: The recruiting practice is required to maintain an open door to all residents of their service area regardless of ability to pay or pay source.

- Site placement priority will be given to state-funded primary care clinics and health centers and to private practices in rural or frontier areas.
- This year, the award for loan repayment assistance will be for a one year service commitment, renewable annually based upon the availability of funds.
- Up to \$25,000 may be awarded for a physician or dentist.
- The maximum for non-physicians will be set at \$15,000
- Loan payments will be made at the completion 12 full months of service.
- No payments will be made for less than one year of service.

PLEASE NOTE: This year, funding is considered taxable income for employment and income tax purposes. A 40% supplemental award will be made to offset taxes.

Term of Service In order to receive funds under the State Loan Repayment Program of Kansas, a health professional must contract to practice in the designated area for one year. The agreement may be amended annually for renewal on the same terms based upon the availability of state or federal funds. The practice site must be located in a federally designated Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA). http://www.kdheks.gov/olrh/SD_hpsa_maps.htm

Selection Criteria for Eligible Sites A **Site Application Form** may be downloaded from the website or is available from the Office of Local and Rural Health (785)296-1200. Eligible sites will be ranked by the following criteria if applications exceed available funds. This year, placements may be made in private practice locations as well as public and private non-profit clinical sites. A site selection committee will review applications and make the final selections.

1. Ratio of practitioners to population and current federal shortage designation
2. Population density of a county: number of persons per square mile
3. Significant high-need factors, such as: infant mortality rate, poverty levels, Medicaid access problems, population over age 65, language or cultural barriers
4. Degree of community support for placement of the health professional
5. Written plan to include access to care for any area resident regardless of ability to pay and use of sliding-scale discounts for low income or uninsured clients. <http://nhsc.bhpr.hrsa.gov/applications/feesched.asp>
6. Written assurance that Medicare assignment will be honored and Medicaid and HealthWave patients served

Selection Criteria for Eligible Applicants Physicians must be licensed in one of the state-defined, primary care specialties, including family practice, osteopathic general practice, obstetrics-gynecology, internal medicine and pediatrics. Dentists and other health care providers must have an active Kansas license for their health profession.

The **Provider Application** may be downloaded from the website or is available from the Office of Local and Rural Health at 785-296-1200. Points will be assigned based upon the following requirements:

1. Kansas resident (others may also apply)
2. United States citizenship
3. Contract for full-time (40 hours per week) clinical practice
4. Completion of the appropriate level of education. Board certified or eligible for board certification if a physician
5. Fees will be charged for professional services at the usual and customary prevailing rates for the area, except that if a person is unable to pay based upon income, charges may be at reduced rates or free care may be provided <http://nhsc.bhpr.hrsa.gov/applications/feesched.asp>
6. Acceptance of Medicare assignment

7. Acceptance of patients covered by Medicaid, HealthWave or other state medical assistance programs.
8. Availability to provide care in an approved site for a minimum of twelve months, full-time service as outlined in the loan repayment contract
9. Demonstration of commitment to serve in qualified underserved areas, especially rural areas or in sites serving medically underserved populations

Coordination with Federal Program In addition to information on the State Loan Repayment Program, the Office of Local and Rural Health is able to answer questions about the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) loan repayment program. In some instances, the NHSC program may be a better option. The next cycle for NHSC loan repayment applications will be March, 2008 and applications will be available in December. Information about last year's program is available at: http://nhsc.bhpr.hrsa.gov/applications/lrp_07/index.asp

Program Deadlines With limited funding available, State Loan Repayment Program applications from sites and health providers must be submitted by December 31, 2007. Individuals planning to enter practice following completion of training as well as those already in practice may apply. For those still in training, awards will be made contingent upon successful program completion and issuance of a license to practice in Kansas.

For more information:

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