**NC Rural Practice Incentive Programs**

North Carolina Office of Rural Health

2009 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC. 27699-2009

[www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/orh](file://localhost/C:/Users/clleighton/Desktop/SLR-HNSB/www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/orh)

1-800-533-8847 (Toll Free)

919-527-6440 (Office)

919-715-1503 (Fax)

**2019 State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) Incentive Guidelines**

**Loan Repayment:**

The North Carolina Office of Rural Health administers the North Carolina State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP). This program helps mental health providers provide primary and psychiatric care to people in rural and underserved areas. The Office of Rural Health Placement team works to identify opportunities to practice in an integrated care setting that matches the providers personal and professional needs with community needs. These integrated care opportunities are in a variety of practice settings including Federal Community Health Centers (also known as Federally Qualified Health Centers, or FQHCs), State-Sponsored Rural Health Centers, County Health Departments, State Mental Health Hospitals, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment Centers, Community Mental Health Facilities, and others.

Based on the amount of relevant educational loans, hours worked per week, and working at an integrated care site, SLRP offers educational loan repayment awards up to $50,000.00. The awards are granted in exchange for a two-year service commitment in a team-based setting that provides access to comprehensive behavioral health services to rural communities with a Health Professional Shortage Area score of 15 or above; i.e., an integrated primary/behavioral health care setting. If funding is available, one-year extensions may be requested after completion of the initial two-year service commitment.

# Tax Liability:

# Not taxable

# Service Commitment:

* Minimum two-year service commitment
* Possible awards for additional 1-year service commitments

**Awards**

1. Office of Rural Health anticipates awarding 4 – 6 SLRP contracts based on availability of funds the applicant’s allowable loan debt, full licensure of the provider, Mental Health HPSA site score, and providers delivering integrated care
2. Provider must be working at a site located in a Mental Health HPSA of 15 or above
3. Site must provide primary care/behavioral health integrated care services and complete Integrated Care Clinic Self-Assessment Questionnaire
4. Applications will not be denied based upon the individual’s race, color, sex, national origin, disability, religion, age, sexual orientation, or gender identity

# Disclaimer:

Guidelines are subject to change at any time and are contingent upon funding and per the discretion of the Office or Rural Health.

# Qualifying Disciplines:

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| **LCSW**: Licensed Clinical Social Worker | NEW! **PA**: Physician Assistant in Mental and Behavioral Health |
| **LPC:** Licensed Professional Counselor | NEW! **NP/ PMHNP**: Nurse Practitioner/ Psychiatric and Mental Health Nurse Practitioner |
| **LMFT**: Licensed Marriage and Family Counselor | NEW! **MD/DO:** Psychiatrist |
| **PNS**: Psychiatric Nurse Specialist | NEW! **LCAS**: Licensed Clinical Addiction Specialist |
| **HSP**: Health Service Psychologist (Clinical & Counseling) |  |

# Provider Eligibility Requirements:

* Provider must be a U.S. citizen (U.S. born or naturalized), U.S. national, or lawful permanent resident
* Provider must be fully licensed to practice in North Carolina. Provisionally licensed providers are not eligible
* Provider must be currently working, applying to, or accepted to work at an eligible team-based, integrated site that is in a federally designated Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) with a score of 15 or higher
* Full-time behavioral health providers must work a minimum of 40 hours/week, for a minimum of 45 weeks/service year. At least 32 hours/week are spent providing patient care at the approved service site; of which no more than 8 hours/week may be spent in a teaching capacity. The remaining 8 hours/week are spent providing patient care at the approved site, and as an extension of care at other approved sites, or performing clinical-related administrative activities.
* Part-time behavioral health providers must work a minimum of 20 hours/week, for a minimum of 45 weeks/service year. At least 16 hours/week are spent providing patient care at the approved service site; of which no more than 4 hours/week may be spent in a teaching capacity. The remaining 4 hours/week are spent providing patient care at the approved site, or performing clinical-related administrative activities.
* Provider must demonstrate current unpaid government or commercial loans for school tuition, reasonable education expenses and reasonable living expenses, segregated from all other debts (that is, not consolidated with non-educational loans). All loan repayment statements will be verified
* Provider may not be actively fulfilling a service obligation with another incentive program while receiving state loan repayment (SLRP)
* If Provider is employed at a site that is an [approved National Health Service Corp (NHSC) site](NHSC_Appr_Site_List%20used%20in%20SLRP%20application.pdf), the provider must apply for NHSC Loan Repayment Program AND been denied prior to applying for SLRP. Documentation of NHSC denial will be required with application submission.
* If Provider is employed by a site that is [eligible](https://ncruralhealth.az1.qualtrics.com/CP/File.php?F=F_0v56aMKQ7x8ET8F) for the National Health Service Corp (NHSC) site certification, the site must provide a letter documenting their commitment to applying for the National Health Service Corp (NHSC).
* Provider working at multiple sites are eligible to apply for a part-time award as long as they meet the SLRP part-time hourly requirements.

# Qualifying North Carolina Sites (Team-Based Integrated Care Setting) Include:

**NEW! ALL QUALIFYING SITES MUST COMPLETE** [**INTEGRATED CARE CLINIC SELF ASSESSMENT TOOL**](../SFY%202018-2022%20SLRP%20Grant%20Application/INTEGRATION%20ASSESSMENT%20TOOL/Integrated_Care_Clinic_Self_Assessment_02.06.2018.xlsx)

* **NEW!** Free and Charitable Clinics
* **NEW!** School-Based Healthcare Programs
* **NEW!** Critical Access Behavioral Health Agencies (CABHA)
* **NEW!** State Mental Health Hospitals
* **NEW!** Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment Centers (ADATCs)
* Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)
* Migrant Health Centers
* FQHC Look-Alikes
* CMS Rural Health Clinics
* State Designated Rural Health Centers
* Community Mental Health Facilities
* Community Outpatient Facilities
* State and County Health Department Clinics
* Critical Access Hospitals
* Indian Health Service Facilities, Tribally-Operated 638 Health Programs, and Urban Indian Health Programs (ITU)
* Non-Profit Private Practices (Solo or Group)

# Site Eligibility Requirements:

# Site must provide team-based, integrated care

# Site must be located in a federally designated Mental Health Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) with a score of 15 and above and demonstrate service to underserved populations within the HPSA

# Site must complete [Integrated Care Clinic Self-Assessment Tool](../SFY%202018-2022%20SLRP%20Grant%20Application/INTEGRATION%20ASSESSMENT%20TOOL/Integrated_Care_Clinic_Self_Assessment_02.06.2018.xlsx)

# If provider is not working in a NHSC approved site or a NHSC eligible site, you will have submit data documenting service in provided to the medically underserved populations within the Mental Health HPSA.

# Required Steps to Apply:

* **Step 1**: Complete the SLRP candidate [eligibility questionnaire (link](https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/orh/north-carolina-state-loan-repayment-program)). Link will be live **Tuesday, June 18 - Monday, July 1** for interested providers to determine their eligibility to formally apply for SLRP. Upon complete eligibility questionnaire, candidates will be informed of their eligibility status. **Eligibility survey link closes at 5:00 pm on Monday, July 1.**
* **Step 2**: Complete the Online SLRP Application. On **Monday, July 8,** personalized email links to the SLRP application will be individually sent to all successfully screened and eligible candidates that completed the SLRP eligibility questionnaire between **Tuesday, June 18- Monday, July 1**.
* SLRP applications must be submitted using the personalized links during the open application period: **Monday, July 8-Friday, July 19. Application link closes at 5:00 pm on Friday, July 19**
* ALL applications and related documents MUST be submitted using the online application. Incomplete applications or information submitted outside the online link will not be considered.
* Contact Maya Sanders with questions at [maya.sanders@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:maya.sanders@dhhs.nc.gov), or 919-527-6476

**SLRP Program Timeline**

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| SLRP Eligibility Questionnaire Link Live  *Questionnaire Link Closes at 5:00 pm on July 1* | Tuesday, June 18 - Monday, July 1 |
| Personalized SLRP Application Links Emailed to Eligible Candidates | Monday, July 8 |
| SLRP Personalized Application Links Live  *Application Link Closes at 5:00 pm on July 19* | Monday, July 8 - Friday, July 19 |
| Screening Period for Eligible Applications | Monday, July 22 – Friday, July 26 |
| Award Decision Announcements by Email | Monday, July 29 |
| 2019 SLRP Awardee Contracts Issued | Monday, July 29 - Friday, August 2 |
| 2019 SLRP Contracts Deadline | Friday, August 9 |