**NC Rural Practice Incentive Programs**

North Carolina Office of Rural Health

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

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**2019-2020 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 one-year service commitments

**Awards**

1. Office of Rural Health anticipates awarding a minimum of 4 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)
* Documentation of denial from National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Loan Repayment Program. If the provider does not have a NHSC loan repayment denial letter, please submit a statement explaining the barrier to having a denial letter on site letterhead.
* 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**](file:///\\10.55.31.169\Shared\Placement_HPSA\Public\SLRP\SFY%202018-2019%20SLRP%20Grant\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](file:///\\10.55.31.169\Shared\Placement_HPSA\Public\SLRP\SFY%202018-2019%20SLRP%20Grant\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:

* Complete the SLRP candidate [eligibility questionnaire (link](https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/orh/north-carolina-state-loan-repayment-program)). Link will be live **Monday, October 21st to Monday, October 28th**. Based on the provider’s questionnaire responses, eligible candidates will receive a SLRP application link. **Eligibility survey link closes at 5:00 pm on Monday, October 28th.**
* 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/Eligible providers will receive SLRP Application from Qualtrics after deemed eligible via Eligibility Questionnaire  *Questionnaire Link Closes at 5:00 pm on October 28* | Monday, October 21-  Monday, October 28 |
| SLRP Application open period  *Application Link Closes at 5:00 pm on November 6* | Monday, October 21 –  Wednesday, November 6 |
| Screening Period for Eligible Applications | Tuesday, November 12–  Monday, November 25 |
| Award Decision Announcements by Email | Tuesday, December 3-  Friday, December 6 |
| 2019-2020 SLRP Awardee Contracts Issued | Monday, December 9-  Friday, December 13 |
| 2019-2020 SLRP Contracts Deadline | Friday, December 20 |