

MONTANA STATE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM (SLRP)

PURPOSE:

The Montana State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) provides loan repayment assistance to healthcare professionals who provide outpatient healthcare services in designated Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA) at an approved National Health Service Corps (NHSC) site.

ISSUE:

Montana has a critical shortage of healthcare providers who can address the needs of our residents.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

By participating in Montana's State Loan Repayment Program, you will have the opportunity to provide healthcare services to Montana's under-served communities while receiving loan repayment towards your student loan debt.

ELIGIBLE HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS:

US Citizen (US born or National)

- Physician in the field of:
 - o Family Medicine
 - o Internal Medicine
 - o OB/GYN
 - o Pediatrics
 - o Psychiatry
- Registered Nurse
- Licensed Professional Nurse
- Dentist
- Dental Hygienist
- Pharmacist
- Advanced Practice Provider:
 - o Physician Assistant
 - o Nurse Practitioner
 - o Certified Nurse Midwife
- Behavioral/Mental Health Provider:
 - o Clinical Psychologist
 - o Psychiatric Nurse Specialist
 - o Clinical Social Worker
 - o Licensed Professional Counselor
 - o Marriage and Family Therapist
 - o Psychiatrist

ELIGIBLE SERVICE SITES (Approved NHSC Sites)

- Public or private non-profit facilities or rural private practice sites in a HPSA.
- Accept Medicaid, Medicare, and qualifying health insurance plans
- Implement a Sliding Fee Scale

- Montana State Loan Repayment Program focuses on increasing access to healthcare services in rural and frontier areas.

- Eligible healthcare providers can receive awards up to \$15,000 per year in return for a 2 year commitment while practicing at an approved NHSC site.

- Montana State Loan Repayment Program is funded through a federal grant that requires a \$1 to \$1 match with non-federal dollars.

- NHSC approved sites who provide \$1 to \$1 match can award up to \$25,000 per year for a 2 year commitment from the eligible healthcare providers.

- Providing match dollars for loans deepens the relationship between the staff and the community – reinvesting directly back to your local community!

<http://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/primarycare/slrp.aspx>

INCENTIVIZING HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS BY PROVIDING STATE LOAN REPAYMENT

The Montana Primary Care Office facilitates Montana's State Loan Repayment Program.

Each year the Primary Care Office solicits the dollar to dollar matching funds from community based organizations, hospitals, clinics, foundations, or other community resources.

In Fiscal Year 2016, three healthcare providers received \$25,000 each from their employing organizations who matched the federal dollars.

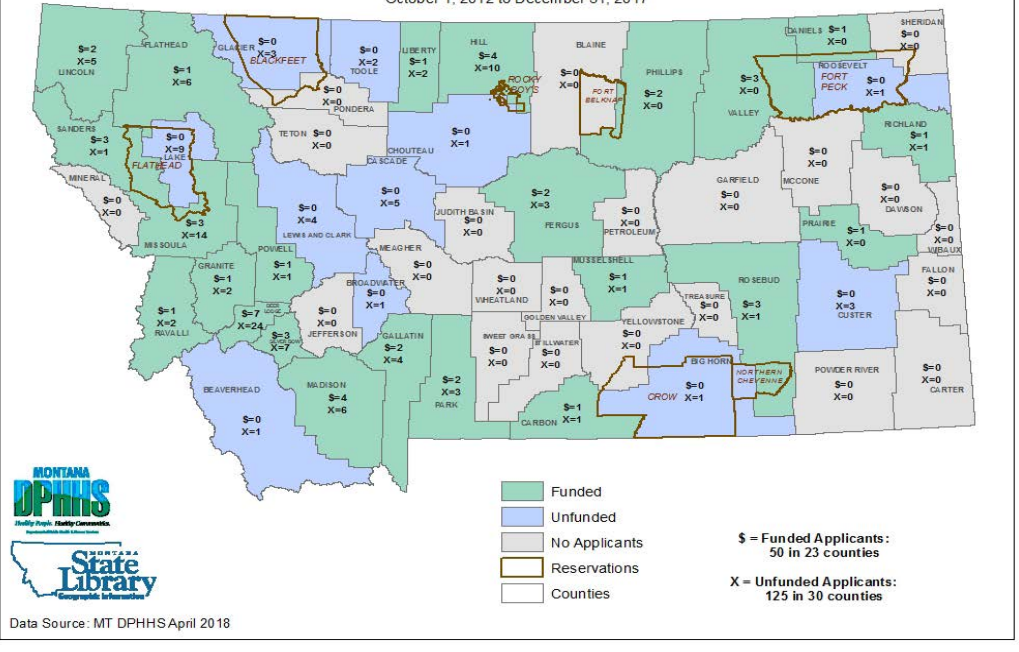
WHAT'S IN IT FOR MY ORGANIZATION BY PROVIDING THE MATCHING FUNDS?

According to the November 5, 2012, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill document: "*Findings of the First Year Retention Survey of the Multi State/NHSC Retention Collaborative.*"

"Among participants of the National Health Service Corp (NHSC) and state programs combined, more than two-thirds (69%) did or anticipated remaining in their service sites at least one year beyond their service terms; nearly half (48%) anticipate remaining at least three years; and one-in-five (20%) anticipate remaining at least 10 years."

WHERE ARE THE SLRP AWARDEES?

Montana State Loan Repayment Program Funding by County
October 1, 2012 to December 31, 2017



DESIGNATED HPSAS:

HRSA developed the Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) designation criteria. The criteria determines whether areas may be designated as having a shortage of primary medical care, dental or mental health providers.

WHAT IS THE SERVICE COMMITMENT?

There is a minimum 2-year service commitment.

IS THERE TAX LIABILITY?

Repayment awards are tax exempt.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Applications open annually in the fall of each year and are posted at: <http://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/primarycare/SLRP.aspx>

HOW MY COMMUNITY BENEFITS FROM A SLRP AWARDEE:

"The Montana State Loan Repayment Program is an excellent recruitment tool for Critical Access Hospitals and Rural Health Clinics. The Montana SLRP provides an incentive for healthcare providers who strive to increase the access to services in our rural and frontier areas. The impact of such an award flows beyond the walls of our services here at the Clark Fork Valley Hospital into supporting Sanders County's local economy."

—Dr. Greg Hanson, President and CEO at Clark Fork Valley Hospital



For questions or more information contact:

Brandy Kincheloe, Primary Care Office Specialist
(406) 444-3934
e-mail: bkincheloe@mt.gov

dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/primarycare