

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**New Hampshire State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP)
2020 Annual Report**

Program Summary

The Division of Public Health Services (DPHS), Rural Health & Primary Care Section (RHPC) administers the New Hampshire State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP). The program provides funds for educational loan repayment to health care professionals working in areas of the State designated as medically underserved. Medically underserved areas include Health Care Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs), Mental Health Professional Shortage Areas (MHPSAs), Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas (DHPSAs), Medically Underserved Areas/Populations (MUA/Ps), and Governor's Exceptional Medically Underserved Populations (E-MUP). These designations indicate that a shortage of primary healthcare providers exists, posing a barrier to access to primary health care services for the residents of these areas. Organizations/facilities funded by programs in the Department of Health and Human Services are also considered eligible sites. Health care providers participating in the SLRP agree to provide medical services to all patients regardless of their ability to pay. In addition, the health care provider and the practice site must offer a sliding-fee schedule based on current federal poverty guidelines, accept Medicaid, Medicare, and provide free care when medically necessary. The SLRP requests non-State matching funds for the loan repayment contract but does not require them.

More information on repayment amounts, eligibility and provider types can be found at:
<http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/bchs/rhpc/repayment.htm>

Provider Licensure Acronyms:

MD/DO – Physician; Medical Doctor, Doctor of Osteopathy

DMD/DDS – Dentist; Doctor of Dental Medicine, Doctor of Dental Surgery

PA – Physician Assistant

NP – Nurse Practitioner

Psych NP - Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner

PsyD – Doctor of Psychology

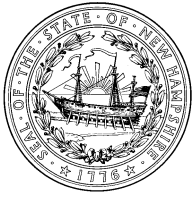
LCMHC – Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor

LICSW – Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker

MFT – Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist

MLADC/LADC – Licensed Alcohol & Drug Counselor (Masters and Bachelors level)

RDH – Registered Dental Hygienist



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Program Participation (July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020)

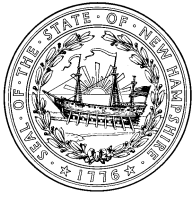
Seventy-seven (77) providers are currently serving under the SLRP.

Provider Types:

MD/DO – 10
DMD – 4
RDH - 3
APRN – 20
Psych NP – 6
PA – 3
Psychologist – 2
LICSW – 6
LCMHC – 14
LADC/MLADC – 5
MFT – 3
Dual Licensure LICSW/MLADC - 1

Locations:

Ammonoosuc Community Health – 1 RDH, 1 APRN, 1 LICSW
Amoskeag Health Center – 1 MFT, 1 LICSW, 1 MLADC
Center for New Beginnings – 1 Psychologist, 1 LCMHC
Community Partners – 1 LCMHC, 1 Psych NP
Concord Hospital Family Health Center – 1 LCMHC
Coos County Family Health Center – 2 MD, 1 RDH, 1 DMD
Dental Health Works – 1 RDH
Easter Seals – 1 DMD
Families in Transition – 1 LADC, 1 MLADC, 1 LICSW/MLADC
Greater Nashua Mental Health Center – 1 LCMHC
Greater Seacoast Community Health – 1 DMD
Headrest – 1 MLADC
Huggins Hospital – 1 PA, 1 DO
Keady Family Practice – 2 APRN
Lakes Region Mental Health Services – 2 LCMHC, 2 Psych NPs
Lamprey Healthcare – 2 APRN, 1 MD
LRGHealthcare – 5 APRN, 1 PA, 1 MD
Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester – 2 LCMHC, 1 LICSW, 2 Psych NP
Mid-State Health Center – 1 APRN, 1 DMD
Monadnock Family Services – 1 MLADC, 1 LICSW



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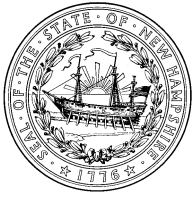
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Monadnock Hospital – 2 APRN
New London Hospital – 1 MD
Northern Human Services – 1 LCHMC, 1 Psych NP
North Country Primary Care – 1 APRN, 1 DO
North Country Women’s Health – 1 APRN
Plymouth OB/GYN – 1 MD
Riverbend Community Mental Health Center – 1 Psychologist, 1 Psych NP, 1 MFT, 1 LICSW, 3 LCMHC
Saco River Medical group – 2 APRN, 1 PA, 1 DO
Seacoast Mental Health Center – 1 MFT, 1 LCMHC
Speare Hospital – 1 DO, 2 APRN
Valley Regional Hospital – 1 APRN
West Central Behavioral Health – 1 LCMHC, 1 LICSW

Program Modifications

HB 4, Laws of 2019 increased the annual SLRP budget from \$250,000 a year to \$6.5 million over two years. In recognition of the increase in resources, the Rural Health & Primary Care Section (RHPC) decided to gather input on potential expansions to the SLRP. In October and November of 2019, RHPC conducted several interviews with other DHHS programs (Medicaid to Schools, Substance Use Disorder, and the NH Hospital) to talk about their healthcare workforce needs and whether the SLRP could be modified to support those efforts. On January 7, 2020, the RHPC held a SLRP Summit to get stakeholder input on ways to expand SLRP to cover more provider types and/or site types. The Summit gave everyone a baseline understanding of the program and its purpose, brought together various stakeholders with common goals, and resulted in new ideas for the program. In addition, a Dental SLRP Advisory group was formed to help create a private practice dentist pilot. The RHPC also changed the program guidance from three SLRP applicants per organization per year to five applicants per organization per year.

In the first phase of the expansion, the SLRP program will add primary care RNs (at already eligible sites), hospitalists at Critical Access Hospitals, and licensed school psychologists who serve Medicaid-enrolled students. In the second phase the SLRP will add behavioral health providers at eligible sites who are under supervision to acquire their license and a pilot loan repayment program for private practice dentists who provide access to Medicaid clients.



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Gap Statement

In March/April of 2020, \$4 million of SLRP funds were transferred, along with tens of millions of other General Funds in the Department of Health and Human Services, to address the COVID crisis. These General Funds were used until the Federal Government passed the Cares Act bill and provided funds to the state, and until FEMA expenditures were determined. DHHS did commit to the Joint Legislative Fiscal Committee that if/when those General Funds were no longer needed they will transfer those funds back to their original location. In October, the Governor approved the transfer, which is currently in process.

Due to the COVID-19 Emergency Use Authority (EUA) contracts moved forward for Governor and Executive Council approval. Due to the inability to move SLRP contracts through the approval process 22 clinicians were not able to receive SLRP awards in SFY20.

The 22 clinicians were affiliated with the following organizations:

- Amoskeag Health Center - 1 APRN, 1 LICSW
- Families in Transition – 1 LADC
- Greater Nashua Mental Health Center – 2 LICSW
- Greater Seacoast Health Center - 1 LICSW/MLADC
- Keady Family Practice - 2 APRN
- Lakes Region Mental Health Center - 1 Psych NP
- Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester - 1 LICSW, 1 LCMHC
- Mid-State Health Center – 1 APRN
- Monadnock Family Services - 1 LCMHC
- Moultonborough Family Medicine – 1 APRN
- Riverbend Community Mental Health Center – 1 PsyD, 1 Psych NP, 1 LICSW, 1 LCMHC
- Seacoast Mental Health Center -1 Psych NP
- Tamworth Family Health & Ossipee Family Health - 1 PA
- West Central Behavioral Health – 1 LICSW
- Wentworth-Douglass Hospital – The Doorway – 1 LICSW/MLADC

Short-Term Recommendation(s)

Maintain the amount of general funds budgeted in each SFY. This is critical in order for the State Loan Repayment Program to meet the demand under the current guidelines and be able to implement the planned expansion phases.