



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

New Hampshire State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) 2017 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>

Program Modifications

The SLRP operates using general funds in the amount of \$400,000/year. In the State Fiscal Years' 2016/2017 biennium budget beginning July 1, 2015 the \$400,000/year budget line was reduced by \$169,034 each year. This limited the program's ability to grant future SLRP contracts and to extend existing SLRP contracts. In July of 2015 we received a commitment of \$1.6 million from the New Hampshire Medical Malpractice Joint Underwriting Association (JUA) to fund the SLRP. Because of this influx of funding and the growing concern around available workforce in the areas of mental health and substance use disorder services, we decided to modify the SLRP in order to meet more workforce needs. Starting October 1, 2015 we added new site types that include all DHHS, Maternal & Child Health Section funded primary care centers, include all DHHS, Bureau of Behavioral Health funded community mental health centers, and include all DHHS, Bureau of Drug & Alcohol Services funded treatment centers – outpatient services only. The SLRP also added the provider types of Master Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors (MLADCs) and Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors (LADCs), if they provide outpatient services at those sites.



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Outcomes

As of July 1, 2017, 50 providers have SLRP contracts. Of those 50, 15 are general funded and 35 are JUA funded.

Locations:

- 23 of the providers located at Federally Qualified Health Centers
- 13 at Community Mental Health Centers
- 10 at Rural Health Clinics
- Three (3) at DHHS funded outpatient, substance use disorder treatment centers
- One (1) at DHHS funded oral health programs

In reference to the behavioral health providers, our number of behavioral health provider participation increased by three (3) times the amount after we added the additional site eligibility. All but one participant comes from an organization that was unable to provide any matching funds.

Gap Statement

SLRP has committed all of the available funding through June 30, 2017. There are currently 25 providers on the waitlist:

- 14 are behavioral health providers and are located at Community Mental Health Centers or substance use disorder treatment programs
- Eight (8) are primary care providers
- Three (3) are oral health providers

Short-Term Recommendation(s)

Increase the amount of general funds committed to supporting the State Loan Repayment Program at a level that meets the demand under the current program guidelines.