

# New Hampshire State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) 2023 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 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 health care providers exists, posing a barrier to access 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. 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. When there is adequate funding, SLRP participants are offered the

More information on repayment amounts, eligibility and provider types can be found on the <u>State Loan</u> Repayment Program webpage.

#### **Provider Licensure Acronyms:**

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

opportunity to continue their service for loan repayment.

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 and Family Therapist

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

RDH – Registered Dental Hygienist

RN – Primary Care Registered Nurse

BHUS – Behavioral Health professional Under Supervision for licensure



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### Program Participation (July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023)

Providers currently serving under the SLRP - 84 New contracts – 77 Continuation contracts - 7

#### *Provider Types:*

**Primary Medical Care - 14** 

MD/DO - 5

APRN - 5

PA - 1

RN - 3

#### Behavioral Health - 66

Psych NP – 14

Psychologist - 0

LICSW - 8

LCMHC - 16

MFT - 2

MLADC - 7

LADC - 0

Dual Licensure LICSW/MLADC – 2

Behavioral Health under Supervision for licensure (BHUS) - 17

#### Oral Health - 4

DMD/DDS - 0

**RDH - 3** 

PPD-DMD (SLRP-Private-Practice Dentists) - 1

#### Locations:

Ammonoosuc Community Health Services –1 Psych NP, 1 APRN

Amoskeag Health Center – 1 DO, 1 LICSW/MLADC

Antrim Medical Group – 1 APRN

Center for Life Management – 3 BHUS

Concord Hospital Primary Care - Franklin – 1 PA

Conway Family Dental Care – 1 PPD-DMD

Coos County Family Health Services – 1 RDH, 1 RN

Dental Health Works of Cheshire County – 2 RDH

Doorway at Concord Hospital - Franklin – 1 MLADC



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Doorway at Wentworth-Douglass – 1 LICSW/MLADC

Greater Nashua Mental Health Center – 1 LCMHC, 3 BHUS

HealthFirst Family Care Center – 1 RN

Lakes Region Mental Health Center -5 Psych NP, 1 LCMHC, 1 LICSW, 1 MLADC, 4 BHUS

Lamprey Healthcare – 1 MD, 1 APRN

Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester – 3 Psych NP, 5 LCMHC, 1 LICSW, 2 MLADC, 3 BHUS

Monadnock Family Services –1 MLADC

Moultonborough Family Medicine (Huggins Hospital) – 1 APRN

Northern Human Services -1 LCHMC

Plymouth Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine (Speare Memorial Hospital) – 1 DO, 1 APRN

Riverbend Community Mental Health Center – 1 Psychiatrist, 1 RN, 2 Psych NP, 3 LICSW, 9 LCMHC, 5 BHUS

Seacoast Mental Health Center – 2 Psych NP, 1 LICSW, 1 MFT, 1 MLADC, 1 BHUS

West Central Behavioral Health – 1 LICSW

Wolfeboro Family Medicine (Huggins Hospital) – 1 DO

#### **Rural Status**

In July 2013, the NH DHHS, through the Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services (BDAS) and Division of Public Health Services (DPHS) established a strategic partnership to align multiple regional and local public health partnerships into one integrated system. The Regional Public Health Networks (PHNs), a network of 13 NH regions, integrates multiple public health initiatives and services into a common network of community stakeholders for communities with comparable public health issues and priorities in order to improve health outcomes specific to these regions. In place of counties or other geographically defined areas, DPHS, including Rural Health and Primary Care (RHPC), uses these PHNs when reporting on geographic areas of the state. This ensures both consistency and use of NH-appropriate definitions. RHPC defines rurality for PHN using population and population density measures (Figure 1). RPHNs with a population of 100,000 or more and with a population density of 150 people per square mile or more are considered non-rural. RPHNs that don't meet these criteria are categorized as rural.

Rural – 30 Non-Rural – 54

#### **Program Modifications**

None at this time. We continue to utilize SLRP funding from the American Rescue Plan Act.



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### Update Statement

After August 1, 2022, when the SLRP removed the requirement that Behavioral Health under Supervision for licensure (Master's level) professionals have at least 12 months of supervision before applying, the number of applications from these professionals has nearly doubled. This program policy change demonstrates program efficacy to retain behavioral health therapists as they enter the workforce pipeline.

### **Short-Term Recommendation(s)**

Maintain or increase 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.