

Idaho State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP)

Q: What is the Idaho State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP)?

A: SLRP is a multi-discipline, state-based loan repayment program for nurses, clinicians, and physicians working in federally-designated Health Professional Shortage Areas. Loan repayment is provided through a \$1 to \$1 match from the federal grant and healthcare site in which the clinician is employed. Participating sites must implement a sliding fee scale for low-income and uninsured patients and accept Medicare and Medicaid. A two-year, full-time service obligation is required for participants. Recipients may receive loan repayment awards up to \$50,000 for oral and behavioral health disciplines and \$75,000 for primary care disciplines for a two-year service obligation. Awards may vary due to the amount of money the healthcare site can match, clinician's discipline, competitiveness of the application cycle, and the amount of eligible debt of the clinician. Sites must submit annual reports during the funding period. Participants currently receiving loan repayment and fulfilling a service obligation are not eligible.

Q: How many hours of services are required?

A: "Full-time" service (40 hours/week) is defined as shown for the discipline:

Discipline	Full-Time
Primary Care	• <i>Direct Clinical Care:</i> At least 32 hours/week, which may include up to 8 hours/week in teaching activities and up to 12 hours/week in approved alternative settings. • <i>Administrative Duties:</i> Up to 4 hours/week.
Oral Health	• <i>Direct Clinical Care:</i> At least 32 hours/ week, which may include up to 8 hours/week in teaching activities or in approved alternative settings. • <i>Administrative Duties:</i> Up to 4 hours/week.

Discipline	Full-Time
Behavioral Health	• <i>Direct Clinical Care:</i> At least 32 hours/ week, which may include up to 8 hours/week in teaching activities, and up to 20 hours/week in approved alternate settings or performing services as a behavioral or mental health professional in schools or other community-based settings as directed by the healthcare site. • <i>Administrative Duties:</i> Up to 4 hours/week.

Q: How do practitioners and sites apply for SLRP?

A: The application process requires the submission of two applications; a clinician and healthcare site portion. The healthcare site must implement a sliding fee scale for low income and uninsured patients based on Health and Human Services (HHS) guidelines, accept Medicare and Medicaid, be an eligible site type, and agree to provide the \$1 to \$1 matching funds for the total award for the clinician. The full-time practitioner must agree to a two-year service obligation, submit proof of healthcare professional education debt, and agree to repayment provisions if the service obligation is not completed.

Q: What type of facilities can participate in Idaho's SLRP?

A: Eligible facilities include public and nonprofit entities which cannot lawfully hold or use any part of its net earnings to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual and which does not hold or use its net earnings for that purpose. They must also be located in a federally-designated [Health Professional Shortage Area](#) and include the following:

Eligible Facility Types	
Community Health Centers	Community Outpatient Clinics
Migrant Health Centers	Long-Term Care Facilities
Federally Qualified Health Centers and Look-a-Likes	State or County Health Department Clinics
Certified Rural Health Clinics	State Mental Health Facilities

Eligible Facility Types	
Critical Access Hospitals (with affiliated outpatient clinic)	Community Mental Health Facilities
Federal Prisons	Indian Health Service Practice Sites
State Prisons	Tribal/638 Health Clinics
Rural Emergency Hospital with affiliated outpatient clinics	

Priority will be given to sites in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) with scores > 16.

Q: What is a UEI (Unique Entity Identifier) number and how do I get one?

A: A UEI number is a number assigned to all entities registered in the System for Award Management (SAM.gov) to receive federal funding. [SAM.gov | Home](https://sam.gov). This number is required on the application for healthcare sites. If you need assistance, please contact SAM.gov helpdesk.

Q: What disciplines are eligible to apply?

A: Eligible primary care, oral health, and behavioral health disciplines are defined in the table below.

Eligible discipline (column 1)	Eligible discipline (column 2)
MD: Allopathic Medicine	LCSW: Licensed Clinical Social Worker
DO: Osteopathic Medicine	PNS: Psychiatric Nurse Specialist
DDS/DMD: General and Pediatric Dentistry	HSP: Health Service Psychologist (Clinical and Counseling)
NP: Nurse Practitioner	LPC: Licensed Professional Counselor
CNM: Certified Nurse-Midwife	MFT: Marriage Family Therapist
PA: Physician Assistant	RN: Registered Nurse
DT: Dental Therapists	RD: Registered Dietician (considered part of primary care team)
Pharm: Pharmacist	RDH: Registered Dental Hygienist
Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counselors licensed/credentialed/certified by their state of practice that meet educational requirements and master's degree requirements	

- 1) Priority will be given to Primary Care (family medicine, internal medicine, OB/GYN, pediatrics) physicians, psychiatrists, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and registered nurses employed full-time by public and non-profit entities, and;
- 2) Mental/behavioral health clinicians with substance abuse certifications/training employed at qualifying sites.

Q: How are the loan repayments provided over the two-year service obligation?

A: It depends on the discipline of the clinician being awarded for oral, behavioral, or primary care:

Here is an example for an **oral or behavioral health** SLRP clinician who has been awarded a maximum award of \$50,000 for their two-year, full-time service obligation:

Service year	Healthcare Site Match Portion:	SLRP Grant Portion:	Award:
Year 1:	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$25,000 (Year 1)
Year 2:	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$25,000 (Year 2)
Total award for oral or behavioral health SLRP clinician:			\$50,000

Here is an example for a **primary care** SLRP clinician who has been awarded a maximum award of \$75,000 for their two-year, full-time service obligation:

Service year	Healthcare Site Match Portion:	SLRP Grant Portion:	Award:
Year 1:	\$18,750	\$18,750	\$37,500 (Year 1)
Year 2:	\$18,750	\$18,750	\$37,500 (Year 2)
Total award for primary care SLRP clinician:			\$75,000

Q: What if my healthcare site cannot provide the matching funds?

A: Unfortunately, you would not qualify to participate in the program. A \$1 to \$1 dollar

match from the healthcare site is required to participate in the program.

Q: What if my healthcare site cannot provide the matching funds for a maximum award amount?

A: In the application, healthcare sites may list an amount that they are able to provide for the matching funds. The competitiveness of the application cycle, federal funds provided, and the amount of eligible debt of the clinician may impact the award amount. The official award amount will be established and agreed upon before the start of the service obligation.

Q: When is the application period?

A: The SLRP application cycle for sites and clinicians is anticipated to be open September 2026 and awards will be determined by November 2026.

Q: How are loan repayments made to successful recipients?

A: Awards will be established under a subgrant with the clinician. Payments are made to the clinician in annual installments **after** the service year is completed. SLRP must be applied to qualifying healthcare professional education debt in full, lump sum payments. This program does **NOT** reimburse you for payments already made to your eligible debt even while under service obligation. If you have made contributions to your overall debt amount during your service obligation making the total amount of debt owed less than your original award amount, adjustments on loan repayment amounts from the healthcare site and SLRP grant portion will be made to equal the current debt amount.

Q: What are the SLRP monitoring and reporting requirements?

A: The Idaho Bureau of Healthcare Access (BHA) will review the loan repayment participant reports, practice site policies, and service obligation dates to ensure the site and participant(s) are meeting SLRP's on-going eligibility requirements.

The Idaho BHA will also require program sites and participants to complete annual service site monitoring reports. The reports will be used to ensure sites and participants follow SLRP policies and guidelines. The service site monitoring report is required annually. This report requires demographic and discipline data to ensure

site validity and continued eligibility.

Q: What documentation is required for loan vetting?

A: A document showing the applicant's name, account number, when the loan was disbursed, the loan type, and the original loan amount. Also, a document showing the most recent account summary/statement.

Q: Does Idaho's SLRP pay for undergraduate loans?

A: A qualified education loan eligible for repayment means a government, commercial, or foundation loan for actual costs paid for tuition, reasonable education expenses, and reasonable living expenses related to the graduate or undergraduate education of a healthcare professional.

Q: What are the selection criteria?

A: The dual application process requires the submission of an application by the healthcare site and the clinician seeking the loan repayment award. The BHA will review all applications for eligibility and program requirements. Clinician funding priorities during the federal grant cycle include primary care and mental/behavioral health clinicians. Site funding priorities include Critical Access Hospitals and State Mental Hospitals.

Q: What is the service obligation?

A: SLRP participants are **required** to complete a **service obligation**. Clinicians are required to fulfill a **two-year** service obligation. There are substantial default provisions for breach of service.

Q: What if I cannot complete my service obligation?

A: SLRP participants are in federal default if they do not complete their service obligation at an Idaho approved site in accordance with their SLRP contract or otherwise fail to comply with the terms of the contract. A SLRP recipient experiencing extenuating circumstances requiring absences that exceed six weeks per service year are required to request a suspension of service to avoid default. A written suspension of service request must be submitted to the BHA by the recipient with the required documentation. Allowable suspensions of service include:

- military training

- military deployment
- close of business
- medical leave

Each request must include:

- Reason for suspension of service request
- Expected date of return
- Employer letter of support
- Medical justification (if applicable)
- Letter of deployment or activation (if applicable)

The Idaho BHA will review each suspension of service request for compliance and notify the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). SLRP clinicians and healthcare sites will receive request determinations.

If a participant fails to complete their service obligation, the BHA will implement the breach of contract policy. This policy requires recipients to reimburse the BHA for the remainder of the service obligation and includes the following contract provisions:

- (A) The amount paid to the participant for any period **not** served;
- (B) The number of months **not** served, multiplied by \$7,500; and
- (C) The interest on the amounts described in subparagraph (A) and (B), at the maximum legal prevailing rate, as determined by the Treasury of the United States, from the date of the breach; except that the amount the United States is entitled to recover under this paragraph **shall not be less than \$31,000.**

Q: Are SLRP payments from Idaho Department of Health and Welfare subject to state and federal taxes?

A: No. Funds for loan repayment in this program are currently not state or federally taxed. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) amended the tax code in 2008 to eliminate taxes on this federal program. We advise clinicians and organizations to consult a tax professional for questions and clarification.

Q: Are there additional loan forgiveness programs in Idaho?

A: Yes. For additional opportunities, please see: [Loan Repayment and Grants | Idaho](#)

[Department of Health and Welfare](#)

Q: Who can I contact for more information?

A: Bureau of Healthcare Access

Phone: (208) 334-0669

Email: alex.prado@dhw.idaho.gov or RuralHealth@dhw.idaho.gov