

## Tennessee State Loan Repayment Program (TSLRP)

TSLRP provides educational loan repayment to qualified primary care practitioners in exchange for an initial 2 year service obligation to practice full-time or part-time at an ambulatory public, non-profit or private non-profit primary care site located in a federally designated Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA).

**\*\*\*\*\*“TSLRP is pleased to announce that qualified behavioral health professionals are now eligible for loan repayment. A separate TSLRP application cycle will open on January 15, 2019 to accept applications for psychiatrists, psychiatric nurse specialists, psychiatric nurse practitioners, and licensed clinical social workers” in exchange for a service obligation in a Mental Health HPSA\*\*\*\*\***

### Eligible Practitioners

Primary care physicians, dentists, advanced practice nurses, certified nurse midwives and physician assistants, **primary care behavioral and mental health psychiatrists, psychiatric nurse specialists and licensed clinical social workers.**

#### Primary Care Physician

**MD** Doctor of Allopathic Medicine or **DO** Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine

Family Medicine  
Osteopathic Medicine  
Pediatrics  
Obstetrics/Gynecology  
Geriatrics

(Physicians who have not completed a residency training program are not eligible)

#### Dentist

**DDS** Doctor of Dental Surgery or **DMD** Doctor of Dental Medicine

General Practice  
Pediatrics

#### Advanced Practice Nurse

**NP** Primary Care Certified Nurse Practitioner or **NM** Certified Nurse Midwife

Adult  
Family  
Pediatric  
Geriatric  
Women’s Health  
Psychiatric

#### Physician Assistant

**PA** Primary Care Physician Assistant

Adult  
Family  
Pediatric  
Geriatric  
Women’s Health

#### Primary Care Behavioral Health and Mental Health Professionals

Psychiatrists  
Licensed Clinical Social Workers  
Psychiatric Nurse Specialists

### Practitioner Eligibility Requirements

Primary care providers applying for participation must meet the following TSLRP program requirements.

- Must be a United States citizen
- Must be licensed to practice in Tennessee
- Must agree to use the Tennessee State Loan Repayment Program funds only to repay qualifying educational loans
- Must have no obligation for health professional services and have not breached a health professional contract
- Agree to pay damages for breach of service
- Must not have a judgment lien against his/her property for a debt to the United States, have any federal debt written off as non-collectible, or any federal service or payment obligation waived
- Must be willing to commit to a service agreement contract for a minimum of two (2) years and a maximum of five (5) years
- Must provide services in a Health Professional Shortage Area (Primary Care, Dental or Mental Health)
- Must provide services to Medicaid and Medicare patients
- Must enter into an appropriate agreement with the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (Tennessee CoverKids) to provide service to children under Title XXI
- Must provide a sliding fee scale for the uninsured which must be posted in a public area
- Must work forty (40) hours a week with no more than eight (8) hours per week spent on practice related administrative duties or part-time, twenty (20) to thirty-nine (39) hours per week choosing a two (2) or four (4) year service obligation commitment

- Must not have any active Primary Care Loans

## Eligible Practice Site

An eligible site is an ambulatory **primary care public, non-profit or private not-for-profit** entity located in a federally designated Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) or a facility designated as a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) or Rural Health Clinic (RHC).

*A Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) is a geographical area, population group, public or nonprofit private medical facility, or public facility determined by the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services to have a shortage of primary health care, mental health, or dental health professionals. Click the following link to find designated HPSAs: <http://hpsafind.hrsa.gov/>*

## Award Amount

Maximum TSLRP award is **up to \$50,000** for an initial 2-year service obligation, contingent upon funding availability.

## Award Renewal Extension

TSLRP recipients in good standing are eligible to reapply for a maximum of **up to \$20,000** per year in continued loan repayment awards after fulfilling their initial 2-year service obligation and as long as they have outstanding educational loans to repay, contingent upon funding availability.

## Applications

Applications are accepted during the application cycles listed below with the deadline on the last day of the cycle. Postmark should be **no earlier** than the first day of the cycle and **no later** than the last day. TSLRP awards are approved until all funds are committed.

**\*\*\*Note: Only qualifying Public Non-Profit or Not-for-Profit Private ambulatory primary care entities, located in a federally designated Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) are eligible practice sites for participation in TSLRP.\*\*\***

## Application Cycle

- **Primary Care Behavioral and Mental Health**  
**January 15, 2019 - March 15, 2019**

## Contact

Tresea Donelson, TSLRP Coordinator at (615) 532-0195 or [tresea.donelson@tn.gov](mailto:tresea.donelson@tn.gov)

## Application Process

Applications will be reviewed for consideration with priority given to:

- practice sites that **do not** currently have a TSLRP recipient practicing at their location  
*TSLRP awards are limited to only one provider per site and three per health care system per year. Consideration will be given to approving additional providers contingent upon the (a) severity of the local primary care workforce shortage (b) funding availability (c) number of TSLRP recipients currently practicing on location*
- critical need to recruit and retain primary care providers or behavioral health professionals
- collaboration with local systems of care
- public health indicators
- number and spatial distribution of providers in the local area
- availability of funding during the application cycle
- length of practitioner service commitment beyond the initial 2 year obligation

## Contact

If you have questions or need assistance with completing the TSLRP application:

### Tresea Donelson, TSLRP Program Coordinator

State Office of Rural Health and Health Access  
Division of Health Disparities  
Tennessee Department of Health  
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