

# **FIVE PROGRAMS THAT AWARD EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT TO STUDENTS AND EARLY CAREER PSYCHOLOGISTS IN EXCHANGE FOR PROVIDING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN PUBLICALLY SUPPORTED HEALTH/MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS IN CALIFORNIA**

---

## ***A Message from Doris Penman, Ph.D., 2009 CPA President***

Listed below are 6 programs that award educational support to students and early career psychologists in exchange for providing mental health services in publically supported health/mental health programs in California.

The California Psychological Association has participated in the development of many of these programs in different ways: by ensuring the state would participate in and disseminate information about the federally funded state program; ensuring that state programs were available to the psychology profession (among other mental health professionals), ensuring that the state programs would be available to post-graduate psychologists (not just licensed psychologists), and ensuring that state program service sites would include private non-profit contract agencies in addition to directly funded public mental health settings. Dr. Charles Faltz, CPA's Professional Affairs Director and Amanda Levy, CPA's Government Affairs Director, have played important roles in CPA's involvement in these Programs.

The student stipend program described here is administered by the California Psychology Internship Council (CAPIC) with funds from the California Department of Mental Health, secured from the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA). Two graduate programs have also been funded to administer stipend programs under this funding arrangement: CSPP/Alliant International University and Pacific Graduate School of Psychology (now Palo Alto University). Students enrolled in those programs should seek information about the stipends from their administration.

Two of the loan repayment programs are state-funded and administered by the Health Professions Education Foundation (HPEF), one with funding from a surcharge on psychology licensees and one with funding from the Department of Mental Health, secured from the MHSA.

Two of the loan repayment programs are funded by the federal government. One is administered by California's Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development with funds from the National Health Service Corps, a program of the US Department of Health and Human Services. Another one (more briefly described) is administered directly by the National Health Service Corps (NHSC).

***Important Notice: While I have done my best to gather, summarize and disseminate this information about these programs to as many students and early career psychologists as possible, please do not rely solely upon the information provided in this summary. Programs and requirements change, as do deadlines and amounts of funding available. A prospective applicant should view the full details of programs of interest at the official websites cited.***

## **CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH**

### **THE CAPIC-MHSA PROGRAM: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATIONAL STIPEND PROGRAM FOR CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS (2009-11)**

**Source of Funding:** In 2004, California voters approved Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA). The MHSA provides a vision for transformation in the delivery of public mental health services to become client and family driven, integrated and collaborative, culturally competent and recovery/resiliency oriented and tailored to the needs of children, transition age youth, adults and older adults. The MHSA also addresses the need to develop a workforce of mental health service providers that is equipped to deliver these transformed services. To meet this need, the Department of Mental Health (DMH) developed a Workforce Education and Training Plan that addresses the creation of educational stipend programs and curricula to prepare and encourage persons enrolled in academic institutions who want to be employed in the public mental health system. This stipend program is supported by funds secured from the Mental Health Services Act and in partnership with the California Department of Mental Health.

The DMH Stipend Program for Clinical Psychologists funds three graduate level educational stipend programs over a period of three years to disburse stipends to students who are studying to be clinical psychologists and who commit to work in California's public mental health system. Programs are to develop and promulgate a curriculum for the students in the stipend program that reflects the principles and values of the MHSA. The programs are to encourage students from these communities and populations to participate in the program, mentor them as they seek employment in the public mental health system, and support them in their job search.

The CAPIC-MHSA Program administered by the California Psychology Internship Council (CAPIC) is one of the three 3 graduate level educational stipend programs for clinical psychologists funded by the Department of Mental Health.

**Terms and Amount of Award:** The CAPIC-MHSA program provides the stipend to psychology interns training in publicly funded mental health agencies in California. The program funds stipends of up to \$20,750 for a person completing a fulltime internship, and half that for a person in a half-time internship. These stipends are in addition to whatever stipend the internship agency provides. The stipend carries the obligation to work for one year in a publicly funded mental health agency in California following graduation (half that time for a half-time stipend).

The CAPIC-MHSA Students who receive a stipend and do not honor this commitment will be obliged to pay the entire stipend back to the State of California. Participating in this stipend program also requires stipend recipients to complete up to 16 online learning modules within the year of their internship.

CAPIC will maintain an up-to-date job bank of open psychologist positions in publicly supported California mental health agencies and will actively assist stipend recipients in their job search. For students who work closely with CAPIC to locate a qualifying post graduation site for their payback obligation (either an organized postdoctoral training program or a job that provides clinical supervision) and find themselves unable to get such a position within the state, CAPIC will be able to provide documentation of the recipient's efforts and information on how to request a waiver of the required payback from the Department of Mental Health.

**Applicant Eligibility and Qualifications:** All students from regionally accredited doctoral programs enrolled in internships in publicly supported agencies may apply for the stipend award, with the exception of students from Alliant International University and the Pacific Graduate School of Psychology (now Palo Alto University), as indicated below. Students who apply for these stipends must expect to complete their doctoral degree at the conclusion of their internship.

**Application Process and Program Contact:** Students interested in learning more about this funding program can read informational documents on the CAPIC website ([www.capic.net](http://www.capic.net)) and consult with their doctoral program director for more information. Students who wish to apply for a CAPIC/MHSA stipend will complete and submit the online application form to CAPIC. CAPIC will contact the graduate program director to confirm that the applicant has the support of his/her program to apply for this stipend. After each student's Director of Clinical Training certifies that the student is academically eligible for this program, CAPIC will evaluate the application.

**Selection Process and Award Criteria:** Stipend recipients are selected through a defined protocol that is available on the CAPIC website ([www.capic.net](http://www.capic.net)). The protocol requires a blind rating of the complete application. For the 2008-09 year, 39 psychology interns were selected from a larger pool to receive this award.

Alliant International University and Palo Alto University Students: In addition to CAPIC, the Department of Mental Health awarded MHSA-funded stipend program grants to the California School of Professional Psychology/Alliant International University and the Pacific Graduate School of Psychology (now Palo Alto University) for students at their campuses. Students enrolled in psychology doctoral programs at these schools should speak to their Director of Clinical Training to learn about the program as it is administered by their schools.

## HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Housed within the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, the Health Professions Education Foundation (HPEF) is a nonprofit public benefit corporation established to increase access to healthcare in medically underserved areas, by offering scholarships and loan repayment programs to health professions students and graduates. Applicants must be both a resident of California and a citizen or permanent resident of the U.S. in order to apply for all programs administered by the Foundation.

### LICENSED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDER EDUCATION PROGRAM (LMHSPEP)

**Source of Funding:** The student loan repayment awards distributed by the LMH Program are funded by a ten dollar license fee surcharge collected by the Board of Psychology at the time of initial licensure and renewal. This program was authorized by the California State Legislature through Assembly Bills AB 938 (2004) and 1852 (2006). It is administered through the Health Professions Education Foundation. The goal is to increase the supply of mental health professionals practicing in shortage areas and to improve access to mental healthcare in rural and urban areas of California. The program aims to improve conditions which lead to mental health disparities in the state arising from cultural and linguistic barriers by encouraging culturally or linguistically competent mental health service providers to practice in qualified facilities in California by repayment of educational loans in exchange for services in areas or to populations where mental health disparities exist.

**Terms and Amount of Award:** LMH provides for educational loan repayment to mental health service providers who deliver direct patient care in a publicly funded facility, or a mental health professional shortage area, or a non-profit mental health facility. The recipient of this award contracts to practice their profession as a volunteer or employee for two years within a designated facility in exchange for which the loan program directly reimburses the lender of the recipient's government or commercial educational loan incurred while obtaining their mental health education. The loan repayments are issued in a total of eight repayments throughout the term of the two-year service obligation in the form of checks sent directly to the lender. Award recipients are responsible for making continued loan payments to their lender throughout their participation in the program. The loan repayment does not affect the salary of the awardee.

An awardee may receive up to **\$15,000** to repay educational loans **over a two-year period**, although some awards may be for a lesser amount. The awards are competitive and not all applicants receive an award. The number of awardees each application cycle depends on the number of applications and the availability of funds in the loan pool. The loan repayment may not exceed the amount of the awardee's loan balances. Loan repayment recipients may receive a total of two awards from this program, with no limit as to the number of times someone can apply. Each application requires a complete new application packet.

Award recipients are required to complete a two-year service obligation in a qualified facility providing a minimum of 32 hours per week of direct patient care. The start date of the two-year service obligation begins after the award has been made and is

identified in the contract. If the recipient has been working in a qualified facility already, he/she cannot use prior employment toward completion of the obligation. The recipient can change jobs during the term of obligation, but must remain employed with a qualified facility. If unable to fulfill the terms of the obligation, the recipient will be required to repay all loan repayments received, plus ten percent interest.

**Applicant Eligibility and Qualifications:** An applicant does not have to be licensed in order to apply for this program, but must at least be at the postdoctoral level. Those who may apply are a licensed psychologist OR a postdoctoral level psychology trainee (postdoctoral level Psychological Assistant, a Registered Psychologist or postdoctoral trainee in an exempt setting). An individual completing a service obligation to another entity, such as a MHSA-funded stipend program, is not eligible until the pre-existing obligation is completed.

Selection of awards is based solely on the information and documents contained in the application. Selection for awards is based in the following criteria: work experience, cultural and linguistic competence, career goals, community service, community background and fluency. Priority is given to individuals whose community background and commitment indicates the likelihood of long-term employment in a qualified facility even after the service obligation has ended.

**Employment Site Qualifications:** An awardee commits to practicing and providing direct care in a publicly funded or public mental health facility, a non-profit mental health facility, or a mental health professions shortage area. Qualified facilities for the LMH program are defined as one of the following:

- (1) Mental Health Professional Shortage Area - means an area designated as such by the Bureau of Health Professions Shortage Designation Branch of the US Department of Health and Human Services.
- (2) Publicly funded facility - means a health facility as defined by the California Health and Safety Code, operated by the state or any division of the state, such as a county or city.
- (3) Publicly funded or public mental health facility - means a hospital, clinic, or long-term care facility licensed and/or certified by the Department of Mental Health and/or the Department of Healthcare Services that is operated by the state or political subdivision, and that provides mental health services.
- (4) Non-profit private mental health facility means a hospital, clinic or long-term care facility licensed and/or certified by California DMH and/or the California Department of Health Care Services that is operated by a non-profit entity that contracts with a county mental health entity or facility to provide mental health services.

**Funding Cycle and Application Deadlines:** The funding cycle consists of two application periods per year. The annual postmark deadlines for application to the LMH program are **March 24 and September 11** and the application form used must be from the most current year as posted on the HPEF website. Applicants should submit their applications as early as possible prior to the postmark deadline in order for Foundation staff to verify that the application packet is complete; incomplete applications won't be considered. Applicants are notified of results within 4 months of the filing date.

**Application Process:** An application can be downloaded at [http://oshpd.ca.gov/HPEF/Text\\_pdf\\_files/LMH\\_app.pdf](http://oshpd.ca.gov/HPEF/Text_pdf_files/LMH_app.pdf)

Information an Applicant Must Provide with His/Her Application Form:

- **Personal Statement:** The application requires a separate Personal Statement that elaborates the applicant's background and explains his/her interest in working in an underserved community. The applicant must describe his/her work in the qualified facility where employed. Because the awards are intended for psychologists who have a strong desire to practice in facilities for the underserved, whether in rural or urban areas, the program seeks evidence of a commitment to providing mental health services to disadvantaged individuals in medically underserved facilities/areas as well as familiarity with such populations and/or environments. The applicant is asked to describe any experience he/she has had of living in an economically disadvantaged background or in a rural, inner city or medically underserved area. The applicant must describe any upbringing and/or training that have prepared him/her to understand and respond effectively to the cultural and linguistic needs of mental health consumers in the community where he/she is providing services; however one does not have to be bilingual in order to apply. The applicant must describe community service or professional organizations with which he/she has for the last 2 years been involved outside of internship hours, and the role and length of time committed to these groups. Finally the applicant is asked to describe his/her professional goals for the next 5 to 10 years, as they relate to professional practice.
- **Educational Debt Reporting Form:** This includes the total educational debt owed and information about the schools attended, the lending institutions, and the outstanding balance with each.
- **Lender Statements:** This entails copies of most recent lender statements, name of lender, balance owed, account number and monthly payments.
- **Employment or Volunteer Verification Form:** This is to be signed by a supervisor who can verify the applicant's hours of employment or volunteer service.
- **Professional Letters of Recommendation:** Two letters are to come from an organization or entity for which the applicant has provided services. These letters can be sent directly to the HPEF or submitted with the application.
- **Proof of Licensure, Registration or Waiver:** This is a copy of a document which includes a license or registration number issued by the California Board of Psychology.

**Program Information and Contact:**

Health Professions Education Foundation  
 Licensed Mental Health Service Provider Education Program  
 400 R Street, Room 460  
 Sacramento, CA 95811  
 (800) 773-1669 or (916) 326-3640

The LMHSPEP website can be found at:  
[www.healthprofessions.ca.gov](http://www.healthprofessions.ca.gov)

The LMHSPEP application form can be found at:  
[http://oshpd.ca.gov/HPEF/Text\\_pdf\\_files/LMH\\_app.pdf](http://oshpd.ca.gov/HPEF/Text_pdf_files/LMH_app.pdf)

## MENTAL HEALTH LOAN ASSUMPTION PROGRAM (MHLAP)

**Source of Funding:** The MHLAP was created by the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), passed by California voters in November 2004. This loan assumption program is supported by funds secured from the Mental Health Services Act and in partnership with the California Department of Mental Health. The Act provided funding to develop a loan forgiveness program in order to increase the number of qualified mental health providers available to work in the Public Mental Health System (PMHS) and to retain those working within it. It rewards mental health practitioners who are dedicated to practicing in underserved communities by reducing their debt load from acquiring their higher education degree. It improves access to healthcare in rural and urban areas of California, reducing healthcare disparities in the state. Through the Workforce, Education and Training component of the Act, approximately \$2.6 million will be available in Fiscal Year 2009-10. The Department of Mental Health determines the funding available for each county for awards. To view a list of these allocations, go to [http://www.dmh.ca.gov/DMHDocs/2009\\_Notices.asp](http://www.dmh.ca.gov/DMHDocs/2009_Notices.asp)

**Terms and Amount of Award:** Qualified applicants may receive up to \$10,000 in educational loan repayments in exchange for working 12 consecutive months in a hard to fill or retain position in the Public Mental Health System. Prior award recipients may reapply annually for a maximum of up to \$60,000 over a total of 72 months, depending on the availability of funds. The loan assumptions will not exceed the amount of the participant's outstanding educational balance. The provider must maintain either full-time (40 hours per week) or part-time employment (20 hours per week) for a minimum of 45 weeks per year, although individuals in situations with involuntary furloughs will be given special consideration. The MHLAP repays outstanding government or commercial education loans for expenses incurred for undergraduate and graduate education. The loan repayment does not affect the salary of the awardee. The award is sent by the Foundation directly to the lending institution after 12 months of consecutive service. Award recipients are responsible for making continued loan payments during the course of their participation in the MHLAP. Award recipients will be required to sign a written contract outlining the provisions which must be met to fulfill the obligations under the program. If unable to fulfill the terms of the obligation, the recipient will usually be required to repay all loan repayments received, plus interest.

**Applicant Eligibility and Qualifications:** Eligible Psychology Applicants include Licensed Psychologists, Registered Psychologists, Postdoctoral Psychological Assistants, and Postdoctoral Psychological Trainees. Thus, an applicant does not have to be licensed in order to apply for this program, but must at least be at the post doctoral level.

There is no age limit for applicants. The applicant does not have to have attended a California graduate program, but does need to be a California resident and U.S. citizen or permanent resident and will be required to provide services in a California facility. Ordinarily, an individual completing a service obligation to another entity is not eligible until the pre-existing obligation is completed.

**Award Criteria:** The most qualified applicants in each county who are employed in hard-to-fill/retain positions in the Public Mental Health System will be selected. Priority consideration will be given to applicants best suited to meet the cultural and linguistic needs and demands of mental health consumers, based on the applicant meeting one or more of the following criteria: work experience in the Public Mental Health System;

cultural and linguistic competence; fluency in a language other than English; personal and community background in which the applicant was raised (with priority given to individuals with a history of inner city or rural living and/or having lived in an economically disadvantaged situation); community service, volunteer activities and/or professional organization membership; and career goals for the next 10 years. Priority consideration will be given to those applicants whose background and commitment indicates the likelihood of long-term employment in the PHHS even after the service obligation has ended. The selection is based solely on the information and documents contained in the application.

**Employment Site Qualifications:** When submitting an application, the applicant must already be working at or must have entered into an agreement to begin work in the Public Mental Health System. "Public Mental Health System" means publicly-funded mental health programs/services and entities that are administered, in whole or in part, by DMH or the County, and may be contracted or sub-contracted with DMH or the County. The system does not include programs and/or services administered in or provided in correctional facilities.

Prior to the end of their 12 consecutive months of service, should an award recipient change County of employment or change to a practice location that does not comply with the requirements of the MHLAP, they shall be removed or suspended from the program.

**Funding Cycle and Application Deadlines:** The Foundation is currently accepting applications. In order to qualify for the program, the applicant's County Mental Health Director must confirm the applicant's employment in a hard to fill or retain position in the Public Mental Health System. For the 2010 application cycle, please note that the County Employment or Volunteer Verification Forms to be included in the application must be postmarked to the County Mental Health Director by December 10, 2009. This form will then be forwarded to the Foundation on the applicant's behalf. Applications and all supporting documentation must be postmarked by the deadline of January 24, 2010. Each part of the application must be completed. Applicants should submit their applications as early as possible prior to the deadline in order for Foundation staff to verify completion. Applicants will be notified by the Foundation within 120 days of the final filing date.

### Information an Applicant Must Provide with His/Her Application Form:

- **Personal Statement:** The application requires a separate Personal Statement that elaborates on the applicant's community background; his/her interest in working in an underserved community; life experience and/or training that has provided an understanding of the cultural, linguistic and mental health needs of the community in which employed; engagement in volunteer, community service and professional activities; and professional goals for the next 5-10 years as they relate to a mental health profession.
- **Educational Debt Reporting Form:** This includes the total educational debt owed and information about the schools attended, the lending institutions, and the outstanding balance with each.
- **Lender Statements:** This entails copies of most recent lender statements, name of lender, balance owed, account number and monthly payments.
- **Professional Letters of Recommendation:** Two letters are to come from an organization or entity for which the applicant has provided services, such as a supervisor of a clinical practicum or internship.

- **Proof of Licensure, Registration or Waiver:** This is a copy of a document which includes a license or registration number issued by the California Board of Psychology.

#### **Program Information and Contact:**

Health Professions Education Foundation  
Mental Health Loan Assumption Program  
400 R Street, Suite 460  
Sacramento, CA 95811  
(800) 773-1669

For a copy of the application, guidelines, or funding information, or to learn more about other loan forgiveness programs sponsored by the Health Professions Education Foundation, call or visit the HPEF web site at

[www.healthprofessions.ca.gov\\_or](http://www.healthprofessions.ca.gov_or)

The MHLAP website can be found at:

<http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/HPEF/MHLAP.html>

The MHLAP application form can be found at:

[http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/HPEF/Text\\_pdf\\_files/MHLAP\\_app101409.pdf](http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/HPEF/Text_pdf_files/MHLAP_app101409.pdf)

The Foundation will host a variety of application workshops and informational meetings across the state. Applicants are invited to RSVP for one of the following Technical Assistance conference Calls: November 30, 2009 (12 - 1 p.m. and 5:30-6:30 p.m.), December 3, 2009 (12 - 1 p.m. and 5:30-6:30 p.m.).

## **NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS**

### **NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM (NHSC/LRP) - U. S. RESIDENTS**

The NHSC/LRP was congressionally authorized in 1987 under the U.S. Public Health Services Act. NHSC/LRP aims to increase the number of health service providers, including mental health providers practicing in federally defined Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) by authorizing repayment of educational loans to health professionals, who in turn must commit to practice in medically underserved areas in public or non-profit entities for a minimum of two years and maximum of four years. The NHSC Loan Repayment Program provides \$50,000 (or the outstanding balance of qualifying government or commercial student loans if it is less than \$50,000), tax free, to primary care medical, dental and mental health clinicians in exchange for two years of service with the Corps at an approved site in a Health Professional Shortage Area (health centers, rural health clinics and other health care facilities that care for uninsured and underserved people). Upon completion of the initial service commitment, clinicians may be eligible to apply for additional support for extended service. Licensed clinical and counseling psychologists are eligible for the program. The NHSC seeks applicants who can offer culturally competent, interdisciplinary primary health services.

In June, 2009 the National Health Service Corps was given \$200 million for its loan repayment program through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, with the requirement that the money be spent in the next 18 months. To accommodate this requirement, the NHSC program instituted a rolling deadline through the end of the 2010 fiscal year to increase the number of clinicians within the program by the deadline. Applications will be accepted continuously

until funds are expended or September 30, 2010, whichever comes first.

Award recipients through this program may work at any qualified site in the U.S., but must already be licensed in the jurisdiction in which they will work in order to qualify.

#### **Program Contact:**

Psychologists interested in the national program, can view the program's website at:

<http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/loanrepayment/>

Full details of the program, including its requirements and application forms and processes, can be found at:

<http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/loanrepayment/nhsclrpaib.pdf>

### **NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS/STATE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM (NHSC/SLRP) - CALIFORNIA RESIDENTS**

**Source of Funding:** The NHSC/SLRP is funded through a grant from the U.S. Bureau of Health Professions, National Health Service Corps and is administered by the State of California, Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development.

**Terms and Amount of Award:** The program provides up to \$50,000, tax free to primary healthcare professionals who provide healthcare services for a minimum of two years and a maximum of four years in federally designated professional shortage areas (HPSAs) in California. For an additional 3rd and/or 4th year commitment, an awardee can receive up to \$35,000 for each year. However, loan repayment beyond the two-year commitment cannot be guaranteed.

An applicant must commit to providing full-time (40 hours per week) primary care service. Full-time is defined as a minimum, of 40 hours per week; 32 hours at site providing direct patient care and up to 8 hours in practice-related activities (e.g., chart review, meetings, supervision, educational activities, etc.). Time spent "on-call" cannot be counted. The program will work with an awardee to accommodate work furlough requirements at government sites.

Psychologists licensed in California, if they meet program qualifications, would be eligible to apply to either or both of the NHSC programs. Under the Federal NHSC/SLRP the site does not have to match the Federal Award; under the State NHSC/SLRP the site must match the State award. However, under the State Award Program, sites may more easily qualify as loan program sites. Thus the major difference between the NHSC Federal Loan Repayment Program (FLRP) and the NHSC State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) is the site requirement and a requirement that the site match the State Award. The FLRP requires the site to have a HPSA score of 14 or above, while the SLRP does not look at the score. The FLRP pays 100 percent of the award while the SLRP requires the site to match the State award (50/50).

In June 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act made additional funds available to the NHSC State Loan Repayment Program. An open application period will run from October 1 through December 1, 2009 or when funds are expended, whichever comes first and awards will be made on a first-come, first-serve basis. A special application form for this

period must be used and can be found at:  
[www.osphpd.ca.gov/HWDD/SLRP.html](http://www.osphpd.ca.gov/HWDD/SLRP.html).

A special application form for 2009-2010 cycle can be found at:  
[http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/HWDD/pdfs/SLRP\\_Provider\\_Application\\_09-second\\_cycle.pdf](http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/HWDD/pdfs/SLRP_Provider_Application_09-second_cycle.pdf)

**Applicant Eligibility and Qualifications:** Among other health professionals, licensed clinical or counseling psychologists are eligible to apply. An applicant must be a U.S. citizen with a valid California Psychologist License, have no other existing service commitment, be free of judgments arising from Federal debt, be current on all child support payments, and be currently employed or have accepted employment at a California State Loan Repayment Certified Eligible Site. The clinician must be committed to serving at an approved NHSC community site for the duration of the two-year NHSC/SLRP contract.

**Award Criteria:** Applications are ranked according to the following evaluation criteria: training or work experience in a mental health underserved area, cultural competence training and/or work experience; and fluency in a second language. Distribution factors of applicants may also be relevant, such as geographic distribution, rural versus urban distribution, distribution by discipline, and areas of greatest unmet need.

**Employment Site Qualifications:** To be eligible, sites must be 1) a public or private non-profit and be located in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) or an Automatic Facility HPSA, 2) willing to commit to two-year employment, match the State award, 3) pay prevailing wages, and 4) enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the State of California. A "Mental Health Professional Shortage Area" means an area designated as such by the Bureau of Health Professions Shortage Designation Branch, of the US Department of Health and Human Services. An eligible site may be public or private not-for-profit approved by the Office of Statewide Planning and Development and awardees may not establish a private practice.

The Program has Certified Eligible Sites in 43 California counties. They include county facilities, rural health clinics, and community health clinics, federally qualified health centers, and cover the urban rural and frontier areas of California. Program sites must be willing to commit to two-year employment of the awardee; pay prevailing wages; match the State loan repayment award, on a dollar for dollar basis, in addition to salary; agree to pay the match with non-federal funds; and agree to make the loan repayments directly to the provider's lending institution. Certified eligible sites can be downloaded on the program website. Mental health sites can be found at:  
[http://oshpd.ca.gov/HWDD/pdfs/slrp\\_MentalSiteList.pdf](http://oshpd.ca.gov/HWDD/pdfs/slrp_MentalSiteList.pdf)

Twenty-five qualified mental health sites are currently listed in El Dorado, Humboldt, El Dorado, Lake, Los Angeles (Santa Catalina Island), Merced, Modoc, San Diego, Santa Cruz, Stanislaus, and Tulare Counties, although not all have psychology positions posted. Applicants need to contact the sites in the areas where they wish to work. The Program does not do job placement.

Sites that meet the criteria can contact the Shortage Designation Program and request a health Professional Shortage Area designation. A site application can be downloaded from the NHSC/SLRP website.

**Funding Cycle and Application Deadlines:** The application period is ordinarily August 1 through October 1 of each year. However, under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of

2009, the Loan Recovery Program is conducting open and continuous application and award cycles through the conclusion of Fiscal Year 2010 or until funds are exhausted to provide direct support to the mission of the Act. All eligible applications with HPSA scores ranging from the highest to lowest will be funded each cycle until funds are exhausted. Applicants are encouraged to apply early. To be considered for funding during the open and continuous period, applications and supporting documents must be received by one of the cycle consideration periods as follows: (1) July 16, 2009, (2) August 27, 2009, (3) November 10, 2009, (4) February 25, 2010, (5) April 29, 2010, and (6) July 29, 2010. Notification of the award is ordinarily sent out within 6 weeks of the end of the application period. Awards under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will be issued on a first-come, first-serve basis for qualified applicants who submit a complete application packet.

**Application Cycle and Deadlines:** Ordinarily an application is downloaded from the NHSC/SLRP website:  
<http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/HWCDD/stateloan/index.htm>.

For the grant period covered under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, October 1 through December 1, 2009, the current application form must be used for submission. The form title includes the current grant period. To access the most current application go to: [www.oshpd.ca.gov/HWDD/SLRP.html](http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/HWDD/SLRP.html)

**Application Process:** By mid-October, 2009, the documentation required to support an on-line application to the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program will be dramatically reduced. Applicants will need to submit fewer documents and the documents will be easier to compile.

Information an Applicant Must Provide with His/Her Application Form: The applicant must submit a completed application and provide the following additional information:

Personal Statements: The application requires personal statements that describe the types of training or work experience the applicant has had in a mental health professional shortage area and any cultural competency training and/or life experience. The applicant must state his/her reason for wanting to participate in the NHSC/State loan Repayment Program and explain any problems that might affect qualification, such as existing service obligations.

Educational Debt Reporting Form and Lender Statements: This includes the source and amounts of any outstanding educational debt and evidence of the debts.

Certification of Practice Site: This is completed by the practice site and includes the location and the hours to be worked.

Letter of Recommendation from Practice Site: This letter is to state why the applicant would be a good candidate for the Loan Repayment Program.

Memorandum of Understanding: This is completed by the practice site and testifies to an understanding of the terms of the Loan Repayment Program.

**Program Contact:**  
 OSHPD/HWDD (Healthcare Workforce Development Division)  
 State Loan Repayment Program  
 400 R Street, Suite 330  
 Sacramento, CA 95811  
 Phone: (916) 326-3745  
 Email: [SLRP@oshpd.ca.gov](mailto:SLRP@oshpd.ca.gov)  
 Website: [www.oshpd.ca.gov/HWDD/SLRP.html](http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/HWDD/SLRP.html)