



KORH

Kentucky Office of Rural Health

KENTUCKY STATE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

Since 2003, the **Kentucky State Loan Repayment Program (KSLRP)** has served as a recruitment and retention tool to reduce health workforce shortages in rural and underserved locations throughout the state by encouraging primary care providers to serve there. *Applicants selected to participate in the competitive program are required to commit to working full time for two years, providing primary care services at an eligible site in the state.* Participants receive tax-free student loan repayment in exchange for their service commitment.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to apply to the KSLRP, applicants must:

- Be a **U.S. citizen** (either U.S. born or naturalized) or **U.S. National**.
- Have been **trained and licensed to provide direct patient care in one of the program's eligible disciplines and specialties:** Physicians, Physician Assistants, Nurse Practitioners, Certified Nurse-Midwives, Registered Nurses, Dentists, Registered Dental Hygienists, Licensed Clinical Social Workers, Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors, Health Service Psychologists, Marriage and Family Therapists, Psychiatric Nurse Specialists, Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counselors, and Pharmacists.
- **Have a current, full, permanent, unencumbered, unrestricted professional license, certificate, or registration in Kentucky** in the discipline in which you are applying to serve.
- Be **employed at an eligible KSLRP site, or have accepted an offer of employment at an eligible site** where service will begin (and the applicant will begin seeing patients) no later than January 15, 2021.
- **Work in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA)** that corresponds to their training and/or discipline.
- **Practice full time**, as defined by a minimum of 40 hours per week, for a minimum of 45 weeks per year, providing primary health services at an eligible site.
- **Participate or be eligible to participate as a provider in the Medicare, Medicaid, and Children's Health Insurance Program**, as appropriate.
- Agree to use **KSLRP funds only to repay qualifying educational loans**.
- **Have a history of honoring prior legal obligations, have no existing service obligation nor incur any service obligation that would be performed concurrently with their KSLRP service obligation, and should not be currently excluded, debarred, suspended, or disqualified by a federal agency.**

SITE ELIGIBILITY

Eligible practice sites (public or non-profit private entities) include:

- Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)
- FQHC Look-A-Likes
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Certified Rural Health Clinics (RHCs)
- Other Health Facilities (including Community Mental Health Facilities, State and County Health Department Clinics, Free Clinics, Mobile Units, Critical Access Hospitals affiliated with a qualified outpatient clinic, Long-Term Care Facilities)
- Correctional or Detention Facilities (including federal prisons and state prisons)
- Private Practices (Solo or Group)

LOAN REPAYMENT

Loan repayment offered through the KSLRP is based on a 50/50 match: For every federal dollar provided by the KSLRP, participants must have a 1:1 match from a sponsor source. Sponsors can include employers at the practice site; private foundations, corporations, community organizations, and/or philanthropies; and, rurally-oriented organizations requesting that their funds be used to support the placement of practitioners in rural areas.

If an applicant's employer is providing the matching funds, the employer must agree that the funds will not be used as a salary offset. And, when agreeing to provide the matching funds, the sponsor may not add additional service obligations to the applicant.

Participants are awarded funding in a tiered format, based on their provider type, level of loan indebtedness, and sponsor commitment level. Maximum award amounts for a two-year commitment are as follows:

- Physicians, Dentists, Pharmacists: \$80,000
- PAs, NPs, CNMs, Behavioral and Mental Health Specialists: \$40,000
- RNs, RDHs, Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counselors: \$20,000

APPLICATIONS

Applications for the KSLRP are accepted during a 30-day window beginning on September 1. **Applications for 2021 are due by 5 p.m. ET on October 1, 2021.** All application materials — including application instructions and all required forms — can be found online at the program website: www.kyruralhealth.org/KSLRP.

ABOUT KORH

The **Kentucky Office of Rural Health (KORH)** serves as the administrator for the KSLRP, which is funded through the National Health Service Corps, a federal program managed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Bureau of Health Workforce.

Established in 1991, KORH is a federal-state partnership authorized by federal legislation. The UK Center of Excellence in Rural Health serves as the federally-designated Kentucky Office of Rural Health. KORH receives support from the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy in the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The mission of KORH is to support the health and well-being of Kentuckians by promoting access to rural health services. KORH assists clinicians, administrators and consumers in finding ways to improve communications, finances and access to quality health care while ensuring that funding agencies and policymakers are made aware of the needs of rural communities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit the KSLRP website at www.kyruralhealth.org/KSLRP.
- Contact Lisa Garza at 606-439-3557 (ext. 83490) or KSLRP@uky.edu.

