



## **State Loan Repayment Program and Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Frequently Asked Questions**

**3/1/2020**

### **What is the State Loan Repayment Program/Maryland Loan Repayment Program (SLRP/MLARP)?**

Recruitment and retention of the health professional workforce is an MDH priority. SLRP/MLARP in Maryland is a collaborative effort among state and federal entities to offer funds towards higher education loans for health professionals (physicians, physician assistants, and medical residents) who practice medicine in areas of the state that have been designated as having a health professional shortage.

### **What are the differences between SLRP and MLARP?**

The main difference between the two programs is their source of funding, federal (SLRP) or state (MLARP). Also, there are some differences in the individuals and practice sites eligible for SLRP and MLARP awards. For example, SLRP applies to physicians and physician assistants. MLARP applies to physicians, physician assistant, and medical residents in their last year of residency. Other differences are noted below.

Please note that there is only one application process for both SLRP and MLARP.

### **What are the applicant eligibility requirements for SLRP/MLARP?**

- U.S. citizen or U.S. national
- Medical degree and completed residency training or a physician assistant license. Must be valid unrestricted license to practice primary care or specialty medicine in the State of Maryland
- No existing or un-served obligation for any other loan repayment program
- Be employed full-time, at least 40 hours per week, at an eligible practice site (32 hours per week must be in direct outpatient care)
- Existing higher education loan debt in good standing
- Other requirements as outlined in the eligibility application found here:  
<https://pophealth.health.maryland.gov/Pages/Application-Package.aspx>

### **What are the eligible specialties for SLRP funds?**

- Family practice
- Internal medicine
- Pediatrics
- Obstetrics and gynecology
- Women's health
- General psychiatry

### **What are the eligible specialties for MLARP funds?**

- Family practice
- Internal medicine
- Pediatrics

- Obstetrics and gynecology
- Women’s health
- General psychiatry
- Emergency medicine
- Any medical specialty other than primary care may be considered if there is an identified healthcare professional shortage in that specialty

**What are the eligible practice sites for SLRP funds?**

An eligible practice site for SLRP funds is one operated as a public clinic by any federal, state, local governmental entity or a non-profit medical care facility that 1) treats all persons regardless of ability to pay, and 2) is located in a geographic region of Maryland that the Health Resources and Services Administration has designated as a health professional shortage area ([HPSA](#)) (Primary Care HPSA for internal medicine, family medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics/gynecology and geriatrics; Mental HPSA for psychiatry).

**What are the eligible practice sites for MLARP funds?**

An eligible practice site for MLARP funds could be non-profit or for profit medical facility that 1) treats all persons regardless of their ability to pay; and 2) is located in a HPSA, Medically Underserved Area, or in one of the [18 rural counties of the State](#).

**What is the application process?**

The application includes eight parts:

- Part I: Candidate Information (to be completed by Candidate - electronically)
- Part II: Practice Site Confirmation (to be completed by Candidate and Employer - electronically)
- Part III: Site Eligibility Application (to be completed by Employer - electronically)
- Part IV: Lender Verification Form (to be completed by each lender)
- Part V: Official Transcript Form (to be sent by medical or physician assistant school)
- Part VI: Cultural Competency Requirement (to be completed by the Candidate and Employer)
- Part VII: Retention Study Form (to be completed by the Candidate and Employer)
- Part VIII: Understanding Breach of Contract (to be read by the Candidate and Employer)

Parts I-III of the application must be submitted to the Office of Population Health Improvement (OPHI) within the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) by email and parts IV -VII can be faxed or mail (see program website for more information about the application and submission). Please note that part VIII is a disclosure about the SLRP/MLARP breach of contract and does not need to be submitted to our office.

**When can I apply?**

The application cycle is open from March 1 through April 15 annually.

**Where can I find the application?**

The application is posted on the OPHI website from the application open date until it closes: <https://pophealth.health.maryland.gov/Pages/State-Loan-Repayment-Program.aspx>. Any program updates will be posted to the site as well.

**Are incomplete applications considered and reviewed?**

No. Incomplete applications will be denied.

**Whose responsibility is it to submit a complete application?**

The applicant is responsible for making sure that our office receives all parts of the application before the

application deadline.

**What is the award amount and obligation period?**

The award amount is up to \$50,000 per year, for a two-year obligation. Individuals are eligible to receive up to \$200,000 total.

**Do all eligible applicants receive an award?**

Due to the high volume of applications and limited availability of funding, all eligible applicants are not able to be awarded. After the application closes, there is a comprehensive review of all complete applications and a technical scoring is used to rank applicants to determine who will be awarded, and the associated award amounts.

**How many times can I apply and be awarded?**

An applicant can apply and be awarded up to two, two-year obligation times, not exceeding \$200,000.

**Who should I contact for more information?**

Sadé Diggs, MPH

Coordinator, State Office of Rural Health and Workforce Development

Office of Population Health Improvement, Maryland Department of Health

**Phone:** 410-767-6123

**Email:** [mdh.providerworkforceprograms@maryland.gov](mailto:mdh.providerworkforceprograms@maryland.gov)

**Website:** <https://pophealth.health.maryland.gov/Pages/State-Loan-Repayment-Program.aspx>