



## State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP/MLARP)

### COVID-19 Potential Impact on Service Obligations: Frequently Asked Questions

Updated May 8, 2020

As a Maryland Office of Workforce Development (Office) program participant, you play an integral part in the healthcare provider network within our State. The Office has no doubt that the COVID-19 public health emergency is impacting your current work environment and potentially your normal duties. Below are topics that have been identified as potential areas of concern for those serving Marylanders who are SLRP/MLARP loan repayment participants. Sections of the *SLRP/MLARP Service Obligation Agreement* are noted throughout the responses to serve as reference to program policy.

The COVID-19 pandemic remains a rapidly evolving situation. You are encouraged to check the [Office website](#) often for important updates to this document and any other SLRP/MLARP announcements.

**1. Q: My hours have been reduced to less than what is required for the program. What do I need to do?**

**A:** The SLRP program requires awardees to be employed 40 hours/week with no less than 32 hours/week in direct patient care. If the COVID-19 response by your practice site, requires you to work less than this, please inform the Office of the date that this change was implemented and provide details the work changes that are a result of COVID-19. The Office will document the changes and provide follow-up guidance based on the duration of the change. It is possible, with an extended reduction in hours that time will need to be added to the end of your service obligation to fully meet obligation requirements. (Reference Section IV.B.7, Service Obligation Agreement)

**2. Q: Is it permissible to provide care through telehealth under the service obligation?**

**A:** Yes. Time spent meeting with patients over video or audio conferencing for the purpose of a telehealth visit is considered time worked in direct patient care.

**3. Q: Can I provide services at a new/additional practice site?**

**A:** Yes. To provide services at a new/additional site, you must inform the Office of the desired changes requested by your employer. Practice sites must be pre-approved. New

/additional practice sites must meet all SLRP/MLARP eligibility requirements. A change like this requires a new Site Application, Promissory Note, and Service Obligation Agreement. (Reference Section IV.B.6, Service Obligation Agreement)

**4. Q: Can my employer change the terms of my contract?**

**A:** Yes. Your employer may change the terms of your contract if the contract allows this. If your contract is changed, you must submit a copy of the contract addendum to the Office prior to the effective date of the changes to allow the Office a full review to ensure compliance with service obligation requirements. (Reference Section IV, Service Obligation Agreement)

**5. Q: My educational loans are in administrative forbearance under the CARES Act. Does that impact compliance with SLRP/MLARP?**

**A:** No. As long as the loans remain in active and good standing, there will be no impact of this non-payment period on your standing with SLRP/MLARP.

**Please contact the Office of Workforce Development with any questions or concerns:**

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