

NEW

VIRGINIA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM



The 2021 General Assembly established a **Virginia Behavioral Health Loan Repayment Program (BH-LRP)** to help recruit and retain behavioral health (BH) professionals to practice in underserved areas of the Commonwealth and/or provide counseling and treatment to underserved populations.

This program will repay a portion of an eligible BH professional's loan debt. In return, recipients commit to practicing in Virginia for a minimum of two years at an eligible site. For fiscal year 2024, the general assembly has approved a budget allocation of \$7,350,000.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

BH-SLRP awardees must possess a valid and unrestricted license to practice in Virginia in one of the following disciplines:

- Psychiatrists,
- Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists,
- Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists fellows,
- Psychiatric Physician Assistants,
- Licensed Clinical Psychologist,
- Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners,
- Psychiatric Registered Nurses,
- Licensed Clinical Psychologists
- Licensed Professional Counselors,
- Licensed Clinical Social Workers.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

The application cycle begins October 1st and closes April 15th of each year.



Visit <https://bit.ly/2XrKvls> for full Eligibility Guidelines, Application Instructions, and FAQs.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

- Eligible BH-SLRP practice sites include behavioral health authorities or community services boards, federally qualified health centers, free clinics/hybrid clinics, rural health clinics, state mental health or correctional facilities, nonprofit organizations serving uninsured or medically underserved populations and/or communities, and stand-alone inpatient psychiatric facilities serving uninsured or medically underserved populations and/or communities.
- Priority will be given to eligible BH professionals of color, those who speak more than one language fluently, and/or those who practice in one of Virginia's many mental health professional shortage areas
- Total award amount will not exceed 25% of student loan debt, with annual limits of \$50,000 for Psychiatrists, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists fellows, Psychiatric Physician Assistants, Licensed Clinical Psychologist, Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners, Psychiatric Registered Nurses, and \$20,000 licensed Clinical Psychologists, and License Clinical Social Workers, and License Professional Counselors and up to \$20,000 per year for all other tier III mental health providers as defined in 54.1-2400.1 of the cod of Virginia.
- No employer or community match is required.

Please send questions to: olivette.burroughs@vdh.virginia.gov or call 804-864-7435.