

**NC Rural Practice Incentive Programs**  
**North Carolina Office of Rural Health**

2009 Mail Service Center

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**2016 – 2017 State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP)**

**for Behavioral Health Therapists**

**Incentive Guidelines**

**Loan Repayment:**

Offers up to \$30,000.00 for a 2-year service commitment to work in a community-based setting that provides access to comprehensive behavioral health services; i.e., an integrated primary/behavioral health care setting.

**Qualifying disciplines:**

LCSW Licensed Clinical Social Worker  
LPC Licensed Professional Counselor  
MFT Marriage and Family Therapist  
PNS Psychiatric Nurse Specialist  
HSP Health Service Psychologist  
(Clinical & Counseling)

**Qualifying Sites (Primary Care Setting):**

Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)  
Community Health Centers (CHCs)  
Migrant Health Centers  
FQHC Look-Alikes  
CMS Rural Health Clinics  
State Designated Rural Health Centers  
Community Mental Health Facilities  
Critical Access Hospitals  
Health Department Clinics

**Tax Liability**

Not taxable

## **Service commitment**

Minimum 2-year service commitment

Possible awards for additional 1-year service commitments

## **Eligibility Requirement:**

- Provider must be a U.S. citizen (U.S. born or naturalized), U.S. national, or Lawful Permanent Resident
- Provider must be licensed to practice in North Carolina
- Provider must be currently work or be applying to or accepted to work at an eligible site that is in a federally designated Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA)
- Provider must have unpaid government or commercial loans for school tuition, reasonable education expenses and reasonable living expenses, segregated from all other debts (that is, not consolidated with non-educational loans)
- Providers cannot be actively fulfilling a service obligation with another incentive program while receiving state loan repayment
- Full-time behavioral health providers must work a minimum of 40 hours/week, for a minimum of 45 weeks/service year. At least 32 hours/week are spent providing patient care at the approved service site(s); of which no more than 8 hours/week may be spent in a teaching capacity. The remaining 8 hours/week are spent providing patient care at the approved site(s), and as an extension of care at other approved sites(s), or performing clinical-related administrative activities.
- Half-time behavioral health providers must work a minimum of 20 hours/week, for a minimum of 45 weeks/service year. At least 16 hours/week are spent providing patient care at the approved service site(s); of which no more than 4 hours/week may be spent in a teaching capacity. The remaining 4 hours/week are spent providing patient care at the approved site(s), and as an extension of care at other approved sites(s), or performing clinical-related administrative activities.
- **SLRP State Contract Breach and Default**  
SLRP participants are considered to be in default if they do not complete the period of obligated service at an eligible site in accordance with their SLRP contract, or otherwise fail to comply with the terms of the contract, even if no monies have yet been disbursed to the participant. That is, if a state does not release SLRP funds to a participant until the service obligation is completed, an individual found in breach of the obligation would still incur a debt to the state.

## **Disclaimer:**

Guidelines are subject to change at any time, contingent upon funding and per the discretion of the ORH.