

TITLE 540. HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE TRAINING COMMISSION

CHAPTER 50. HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE OKLAHOMA MEDICAL LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM

540:50-1-1. Purpose

The purpose of the Physician, ~~and~~ Physician Assistant, and Certified Nurse Practitioner Loan Repayment Programs (PLRP, PALRP, and CNPLRP, respectively), is to provide financial assistance to physicians, ~~and~~ physician assistants, and certified nurse practitioners in repaying educational loans when they elect to provide health care in rural and underserved areas of Oklahoma. The Programs, depending upon and limited to available funding, shall provide educational loan repayment assistance to Oklahoma licensed primary care physicians, ~~and~~ physician assistants, and certified nurse practitioners who agree to establish a practice in a community located in Oklahoma approved by the Commission.

[63:1-2721(A)(5)]

540:50-1-3. Terms and conditions of loans

- (a) The terms and conditions governing the Programs shall be as prescribed and formulated by the Health Care Workforce Training Commission. The physician, ~~or~~ physician assistant, or certified nurse practitioner shall agree to practice in the designated need areas identified by the Commission as a condition of the loan repayment. If the physician, ~~or~~ physician assistant, or certified nurse practitioner does not fulfill the service obligation, or doesn't comply with the reporting requirements, the Commission may discontinue the payments beginning with the current year, and may remove the physician, ~~or~~ physician assistant, or certified nurse practitioner from the Program.
- (b) Physicians, ~~and~~ physician assistants, and certified nurse practitioners must submit proof that they are not currently obligated, and will not become obligated, to any other repayment program that has a conflicting service obligation.

540:50-1-4. Eligibility

- (a) A physician, ~~or~~ physician assistant, or certified nurse practitioner shall be eligible to participate in the PLRP, ~~or~~ PALRP, or CNPLRP, respectively, if the physician, ~~or~~ physician assistant, or certified nurse practitioner:
- (1) Is licensed to practice medicine in Oklahoma;
 - (2) Is a new primary care residency graduate/Physician Assistant school graduate/nursing school graduate; or
 - (3) Is a current practicing physician, ~~or~~ physician assistant, or certified nurse practitioner and has met criteria established by the Commission. [63:1-2721(C)(1-3)]; and
 - (4) Agrees to provide medical care and services to Medicaid and Medicare recipients as authorized by the Oklahoma Health Care Authority [63:1-2721(B)]
- (b) "Primary care services" shall mean the practice of family medicine, geriatrics, general internal medicine, general pediatrics, obstetrics/ gynecology, ~~or~~ emergency medicine, or general surgery by physicians, ~~and~~ or the substantial equivalent of such services when performed by a physician assistant or certified nurse practitioner. [63:1-2721(A)(2)]

540:50-1-5. Amount and method of payment

- (a) Physicians, ~~and~~ physician assistants, and certified nurse practitioners would have to provide documentation of legitimate educational debt in the amount of \$200,000/\$60,000 or above to receive the maximum amount available. If total debt is less than \$200,000/\$60,000 a contract would be tailored, on a prorated basis, to provide an amount not to exceed legitimate educational debt of the physician, ~~or~~ physician assistant, or certified nurse practitioner. Prior to any disbursement, the Commission will certify and properly review reports submitted by the participating physician, ~~or~~ physician assistant, or certified nurse practitioner detailing performance of activities in accordance

with the Program. [63:1-2721(A)(6)]

- (b) Maximum amounts of financial assistance first year \$50,000/\$10,000; second year \$50,000/\$20,000; third year \$50,000/\$30,000; and fourth year \$50,000 physicians only. Payments would be made after the physician, ~~or physician assistant,~~ or certified nurse practitioner completed the first year and on each anniversary thereafter, up to a maximum of four years. The Commission will review the performance in the Program of the participating physician, ~~or physician assistant,~~ or certified nurse practitioner and determine whether an award may be granted for additional years pursuant to rules. [63:1-2727(A)(7)]

540:50-1-6. Procedures for administering loans

The Commission shall promulgate and adopt procedures as may be necessary to carry out the administration of the program. The Commission shall delineate the following procedures:

- (1) **Promulgation of information concerning loans.** Every reasonable effort shall be made to contact all eligible physicians, physician assistants, or certified nurse practitioners concerning the availability of the program. Preference will be given to graduates of the primary care residency programs affiliated with the Oklahoma State University of College of Osteopathic Medicine, the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine, the University of Oklahoma College of Nursing, the Oklahoma State University Nurse Science Program, and the teaching hospitals affiliated with both schools of medicine and teaching health centers located in this state. [63:1-2721(C)(2)]
- (2) **Applications.** All interested physicians, ~~or physician assistants,~~ or certified nurse practitioners shall file an application with the Health Care Workforce Training Commission. This application can be submitted at any time during the year. Applications are available at www.pmtc.ok.gov <https://www.oklahoma.gov/hwtc> and in the office of the Health Care Workforce Training Commission.
- (3) **Approval by the Commission.** Applications shall be submitted to the Commission for approval at any regular Commission meeting. Applications will be reviewed in the order they are received and will be approved or denied as determined by the Commission.
- (4) **Renewal of contracts.** The original contract shall be guaranteed for the initial year, and renewed each anniversary thereafter contingent upon available funding.

540:50-1-7. Repayment by practice or repayment of monies received

- (a) Each physician, ~~or physician assistant,~~ or certified nurse practitioner shall repay the financial assistance received by practicing full time in an approved community in Oklahoma. The period shall begin on the date the physician, ~~or physician assistant,~~ or certified nurse practitioner begins to practice in the approved community.
- (b) Repayment of the total amount received, plus interest, and litigation costs as assessed by the Commission, upon failure of the physician or physician assistant to fulfill the contractual obligations, shall be made payable to the Commission.

540:50-1-8. Applicant contracts

- (a) Each physician, ~~or physician assistant,~~ or certified nurse practitioner shall enter into a contract with the Commission agreeing to the terms and conditions upon which financial assistance shall be granted to the physician, physician assistant, or certified nurse practitioner.
- (b) The physician, ~~or physician assistant,~~ or certified nurse practitioner shall fulfill their contractual obligation to a qualifying community as outlined in the original contract.
- (c) The contract shall include such terms and provisions as will carry out the full purpose and intent of the Program, and shall be in a form prepared and approved by the Attorney General.
- (d) The contract shall be signed by the Executive Director on behalf of the Commission, and by the applicant.
- (e) The Commission may cancel any contract made between it and any physician, ~~or physician assistant,~~ or certified nurse practitioner upon cause deemed sufficient by the Commission.
- (f) The Commission shall maintain copies of the contracts in its offices.