



## ***Statewide Investments Fact Sheet: Student Loan Repayment Program***

### **Program Overview**

The Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers is administering the MassHealth Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) Statewide Investment programs focused on the community-based primary care and behavioral health workforce and community health readiness on behalf of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) Office of Medicaid (MassHealth) following a competitive procurement. The Statewide Investments funding stream is one component of MassHealth's \$1.8 billion DSRIP program authorized under the Medicaid Section 1115 Waiver and comprises eight initiatives over the five-year DSRIP program. The community-focused primary care and behavioral health workforce programs and the community health center readiness program will support the ACOs, CPs, and CSAs by building and strengthening their capacity to improve health outcomes and reduce the total cost of care (TCOC) for MassHealth members.

The Student Loan Repayment Program aims to address the shortage of primary care and behavioral health providers practicing in community-based settings by offering partial repayment of student loan obligations for providers who commit to four years of service in a community health center (CHC), community mental health center (CMHC; inclusive of community-based mental health centers, substance use programs, and psychiatric day treatment programs) or Emergency Service Program (ESP) providers participating in MassHealth payment reform, or a Community Service Agency (CSA) or a Community Partner (CP) or their Affiliated Partner or Consortium Entity as well as providers of In-Home Therapy (IHT) that are contracted with an ACO. Quarterly learning days will also be offered to enhance the commitment of participating providers to community-based careers.

### **Eligibility**

This program is open to Family Physicians, General Internists, Pediatricians, Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), Nurse Practitioners (NPs), Psychiatric Care Nurse Specialists (PCNAs), Physicians Assistants (PAs), Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSWs), Licensed Certified Social Workers (LCSWs), Licensed Mental Health Counselors (LMHCs), Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFTs), and Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors 1 (LADC1s) working in community-based practice settings that are also participating in MassHealth payment reform.

For the purposes of this program, participation in MassHealth payment reform includes the following:

- Formal engagement in a MassHealth ACO as a contracted primary care provider entity.
- Formal engagement in a MassHealth CP as a contracting entity, Affiliated Partner, or Consortium Entity.
- Contracted with a MassHealth ACO to provide behavioral health (BH) or substance use disorder (SUD) services for MassHealth ACO members.
- Contracted as a MassHealth CSA and/or contracted with a MassHealth ACO to provide In-Home Therapy (IHT).

Click on the [Eligible Organizations document](#) to determine who is eligible to apply.

Please note that providers working in a MassHealth CP or their Affiliated Partner or Consortium Entity or in an entity contracted with a MassHealth ACO to provide BH or SUD services for MassHealth ACO members must 1) be providing clinical services paid for by either MassHealth, the



Department of Mental Health (DMH) or the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) or 2) be serving in a care management role in a MassHealth CP or Affiliated Partner or Consortium Entity in order to be eligible for this program.

Clinicians in organizations contracted with an ACO to provide IHT must be providing IHT services to be eligible for this program.

Providers applying to this program will be required to have a hire date at an eligible organization within 6 months of the application due date or to have been employed for 5 years or less at an eligible organization within 6 months of the application due date. All applicants must have outstanding educational debt and be willing to commit to working full- or part-time in an eligible organization for four years.

For the current year only, masters-prepared licensed behavioral health providers working in a MassHealth Behavioral Health (BH) CP or their Affiliated Partner or Consortium Entity, in a CMHC, in a Community Service Agency, or providing In-Home Therapy in an organization contracted with an ACO should submit applications to the **DSRIP Statewide Investments Behavioral Health Workforce Development Program**. If all slots in the DSRIP Statewide Investments Behavioral Health Workforce Development Program are filled, remaining applications may be moved by MassHealth to the **DSRIP Statewide Investments Student Loan Repayment Program** for further consideration without any additional work by the provider.

### **Funding**

This program will run for four consecutive years and provide the following:

- 30 slots per year of \$50,000 in student loan repayment over two years (\$25,000 to be paid out in single program year) for Family Physicians, General Internists, Pediatricians, Psychiatrists, and/or Psychologists
- 20 slots per year of \$30,000 in student loan repayment over two years (\$15,000 to be paid out in single program year) for APRNs, NPs, PCNSs, and/or PAs
- 20 slots per year of \$30,000 in student loan repayment over two years (\$15,000 to be paid out in single program year) for LICSWs, LCSWs, LMHCs, LMFTs, and/or LADC1s

### **Process and Timeline**

Eligible providers who are interested in participating in this program must submit applications to the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers (League) by no later than Tuesday, April 17, 2018 in order to be considered for the first-year awards. Due to the anticipated high demand as well as tight timeline for review, incomplete applications will not be considered for this round of funding.

Applications will be reviewed by a diverse committee of experts in the field of community-based primary care and behavioral health. All applicants will be notified of the outcome by Tuesday, May 29, 2018. For further details about this program, please refer to the additional documents posted on the [Programs and Initiatives section of the League website](#).

### **Contact Information**

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