



## **DSRIP Statewide Investments Student Loan Repayment Program INFORMATION FOR EMPLOYERS**

The Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers (MassLeague) is administering the MassHealth Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) Statewide Investments programs focused on the community-based primary care and behavioral health workforce and community health center 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 advance the goals of MassHealth payment and care delivery restructuring.

### **General Description**

The Student Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) aims to reduce the shortage of primary care physicians, psychiatrists, psychologists, advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs), psychiatric clinical nurse specialists (PCNSs) nurse practitioners (NPs), physician assistants (PAs), licensed independent clinical social workers (LICSWs), licensed certified social workers (LCSWs), licensed mental health counselors (LMHCs), licensed marriage and family therapists (LMFTs), and licensed alcohol and drug counselors I (LADC1s) in community settings across Massachusetts. The program accomplishes this goal by repaying a portion of the student loan obligations of providers selected via a competitive process in exchange for their four-year commitment to practice in a community setting. The program also offers quarterly Learning Days intended to expose program participants to leaders in community health and related fields, while at the same time fostering a network of like-minded peers among early career community-based providers.

The SLRP will engage an estimated 90 new providers per year for four years. Early career providers at community health centers (CHCs), community mental health centers (CMHCs) (inclusive of community-based mental health centers, substance use programs, psychiatric day treatment programs), and emergency service programs (ESPs), participating in MassHealth payment reform, as well as Community Service Agencies (CSA) and Community Partners (CP) and their Affiliated Partners and Consortium Entities, and organizations contracted with a MassHealth approved ACO that provide In-Home Therapy (IHT) within Massachusetts, will be eligible to apply. The program will repay student loan obligations up to \$50,000 for MDs and PhDs and up to \$30,000 for all other provider types over a period of two years of active program engagement in exchange for four years of obligated service in a Massachusetts community-based practice site. To facilitate providers' participation in quarterly Learning Days over these two years, the program will also provide salary replacement support to sponsoring CHCs, CMHCs, ESPs, CSAs, and CPs and Affiliated Partners and Consortium Entities, and organizations contracted with a MassHealth ACO to provide IHT.

### **Provider Eligibility**

This program is open to primary care physicians, psychiatrists, psychologists, APRNs, PCNSs, NPs, PAs, LICSWs, LCSWs, LMHCs, LMFTs, and LADC1s working in community settings across Massachusetts. Providers applying to this program will be required to have a hire date at an eligible organization within six months of the application due date, or be currently employed five years or less at an eligible organization within six months of the application due date. All applicants must have outstanding educational debt and be willing to commit to working full-time or part-time (as defined in Attachment A) in an eligible organization for four years.



Please [visit the MassLeague’s website](#) to confirm the eligibility of your practice site before starting your application.

**Employer Application Requirements**

For the providers to be eligible for the DSRIP Statewide Investments SLRP managed by the MassLeague, the following employer application requirements must be filled out and submitted through the applicant’s application in the secure web-based platform:

- Organization Information (including but not limited to, name, type of organization, address, contact information, etc.)
- Vacancy and Staffing Information for Site (including but not limited to, whether the applicant is meant to fill a vacancy, fill a new position, retain a valued provider, etc.)
- Statement of Organization Need (including but not limited to, a description of how the organization needs the applicant and how the patients benefit from the applicant, etc.)
- Organization Retention Plan (including but not limited to, a description of the organizational plan for retaining the provider during the loan repayment period, etc.)
- Letter of Commitment (including but not limited to, a description of how the organization will support the provider during the DSRIP Statewide Investments SLRP, etc.)
- A signature by the **President/CEO or equivalent**.

For a sample of the Employer Application, please [click here](#). It can also be found on our website under ‘[Resources for Employers](#)’.

**Note: the sample is not an Employer Application. Only Employer Applications submitted by the applicant through the secure web-based platform will be considered for awards if received by the application deadline.**

<i>Application Deadline</i>	<b>April 12, 2019 by 5:00 PM EST</b>
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**Employer Requirements for Awarded Providers**

If an applicant from an organization has been awarded, participants agree to participate in eight quarterly Learning Day sessions administered by MassLeague over the course of the initial two years of the four-year obligated service period. The Learning Days are intended to provide an opportunity for professional development and networking with peers. The schedule of sessions will be provided in advance and the participant will be expected to attend. The awardee’s organization of employment will be provided with salary replacement if the participant attends the Learning Day. The employer will need to agree to release their employer for the eight Learning Day sessions scheduled and use the salary replacement funds as designed per provider for salary replacement time for the participant. The awardee’s organization of employment will be asked to sign an agreement with the MassLeague prior to the disbursement of funds. For a sample copy of the contract, please email: [StatewideInvestments@massleague.org](mailto:StatewideInvestments@massleague.org).

For more information about the applicant’s requirements, selection criteria and review process, please visit the [Information for Applicants](#) document on our website. Also, for frequently asked questions please visit our [Student Loan Repayment Frequently Asked Questions](#) document.



**Contact Information**

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## **Attachment A**

### **DSRIP Statewide Investments Student Loan Repayment Program**

#### **ELIGIBLE DISCIPLINES**

Eligible disciplines are defined as primary care physicians, psychologists, psychiatrists, advanced practice registered nurses, psychiatric clinical nurse specialists, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, licensed independent clinical social workers, licensed certified social workers, licensed mental health counselors, licensed marriage and family therapists, and licensed alcohol and drug counselors I.

#### **DEFINITION OF FULL/PART TIME PRACTICE**

**Full-time clinical practice** is a full-time equivalent between 80% and 100%. Full-time clinicians will be required to maintain a minimum of 6 clinical sessions (based on 4-hour sessions) or 24 hours of direct on-site patient care per week or time seeing patients. Case management time is NOT included in the 24 clinical-hour required minimum. On-site clinical hour obligations may be adjusted for family medicine physicians who participate in obstetrical care. On-call time may not offset weekly work hours in the office. Please note that on-site and on-call requirements do not apply to clinicians working in ESPs.

**Part-time clinical practice** is a full-time equivalent below 80% and not less than 60%. Part-time clinicians will be required to maintain a minimum of 5 clinical sessions (based on 4-hour sessions) or 20 hours of direct on-site patient care per week or time seeing patients. Case management time is NOT included in the 20 clinical-hour required minimum. On-site clinical hour obligations may be adjusted for family medicine physicians who participate in obstetrical care. On-call time may not offset weekly work hours in the office. Please note that on-site and on-call requirements do not apply to clinicians working in ESPs. For part-time primary care physicians, psychologists, and psychiatrists, awards are prorated to a maximum of up to \$40,000 for a four-year commitment. For part-time advanced practice registered nurses, psychiatric clinical nurse specialists, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, licensed certified social workers, licensed independent clinical social workers, licensed mental health counselors, licensed marriage and family therapists, and licensed alcohol and drug counselors I awards are prorated to a maximum of up to \$20,000 for a four-year commitment.

#### **For licensed behavioral health providers in care management roles in a contracted MassHealth BH or LTSS CP:**

For licensed behavioral health providers whose primary role is to provide case management or care management in a contracted MassHealth BH or LTSS CP the eligibility is different. Full-time practice is a full-time equivalent between 80-100% providing case management or care management, clinical sessions are not required. Part-time practice is a full-time equivalent below 80% and not less than 60% providing case management or care management, clinical sessions are not required.