

Licensure Equity Achievement Program (LEAP) Program Overview & Application Instructions

The Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers (Mass League) is administering the Licensure Equity Achievement Program (LEAP) in partnership with MassGeneral Brigham (MGB). When reviewing pass rates for behavioral health licensing exams, it has been well documented that there are disparities among racial groups, individuals who speak English as a second language, and individuals 32 years and older. These disparities are linked to inequitable access to economical, educational, and social resources that LEAP aims to address by providing funding to access testing resources, one on one coaching, and peer support groups.

Objectives & Eligibility:

Our goal through this program is to support up to 66 behavioral health providers per cycle over two cycles. Participants eligible for this program include behavioral health providers who are Master's-prepared or post-doctoral graduates, have been employed by a Community Health Center (CHC) for at least 90 days, and who meet at least one of the following criteria: identify as a person of color, speak English as a second language, are 32 years or older, or were participants in the Behavioral Health Internship Pipeline Program (BHIPP) seeking licensure in the below disciplines:

- Licensed Clinical Social Worker
- Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker
- Licensed Supervised Mental Health Counselor
- Licensed Mental Health Counselor
- Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist
- Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor 1
- Doctoral Psychology

Providers who are seeking to retake their exam are eligible for these funds.

Program Components:

LEAP will provide financial support totaling \$2,000 per individual to use towards test prep and their licensing exam. A total of \$1,500 will be provided up front with the remaining \$500 provided after taking the exam and confirmation that they are still employed by a CHC. Upon award, individuals select a coach from a list of biographies provided and will have access to up to five one-hour coaching sessions. These coaching sessions are paid for by the Mass League. Awardees will also be provided with two test prep resources. Participants are not required to use these test prep resource organizations; however, in doing so they may receive a discount on their services. Any test prep services are paid for by the awardee. Additional drop-in support groups will be offered and led by a licensed behavioral health professional.

Applications for this program are submitted by individuals interested in receiving this support. There will be a rolling application cycle for this program.

Administrative Requirements:

Awarded funds will be paid directly to the awardee via check. A total of \$1,500 will be provided up front with the remaining \$500 provided after taking the exam and confirmation that they are still employed by a CHC. The Mass League does not provide specific tax advice, and the awardee should anticipate the need to seek independent tax advice to determine the tax status of the stipend. No penalties will be applied if the participant leaves their CHC.

Instructions:

Interested providers will submit their application via the Survey Monkey link below:

[LEAP Application](#)

Applications are accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis. After the review, awardees will be notified and required to submit a completed W9 and execute a contract. After a fully executed contract is received, funding is disbursed, and the awardees are provided with a booklet of available coaches and test prep resources. All awarded providers are required to submit a quarterly licensure status update.

Please contact leap@massleague.org with any questions.