

Wyoming Healthcare Professional Loan Repayment Program

Wyo. Stat. § 9-2-118 (Physician and Dentist) and 9-2-119 (Allied Healthcare Professional)

Overview

The Wyoming Healthcare Professional Loan Repayment Program was created during the 2005 legislative session and amended to increase the allied healthcare professional award in 2015. The Program provides educational loan repayment to physicians and dentists of up to \$30,000 per year and allied healthcare professionals up to \$10,000 per year (\$20,000 per year as of 7/1/2015) in exchange for practicing full-time in an approved area of the state and treating Medicare/Medicaid/Kid Care CHIP eligible patients for a period of three (3) years.

This program was not funded for the 2017/18 biennium.

Award Prioritization

The Office of Rural Health prioritizes awards to ensure that awards are issued to areas and professions of greatest need with emphasis placed on primary medical, dental and mental health professionals. The Office of Rural Health conducts an annual provider census, rotating between primary care, mental health, and dental, to determine coverage levels by county. The data collected from the census is used to determine overall statewide need and need by county per profession. In addition, the Office of Rural Health gathers information from other WDH programs and partners to determine need levels for various allied healthcare professions. Applications are prioritized as follows:

1. County need for each profession (highest need has top priority)
2. General statewide need for each profession (highest need has top priority)
3. Graduation from the University of Wyoming or a Wyoming Community College has priority
4. Length of time practicing in Wyoming (least amount of time has priority)

Award Terms

Physicians and dentists may receive up to \$90,000 and allied healthcare professionals may receive up to \$30,000 (\$60,000 as of 7/1/2015) in educational loan repayment, not to exceed the awardees outstanding educational loan debt. Awardees must enter into an award contract with the Office of Rural Health with the following main requirements:

1. Practice full-time in the approved area for a period of three (3) years from the effective date of the award contract;
 - A. Relocation to another community is considered on a case-by-case basis
2. Treat Medicare/Medicaid/Kid Care CHIP eligible patients during the three (3) year service obligation;
3. Agree to pay all funds received from the Program to their qualified educational loans;
4. Provide proof of compliance with 1 – 3 above to the Office of Rural Health;
5. Repay the Office of Rural Health all funds received under the Program in the event of non-compliance.

