



Health Care Loan Forgiveness Program

Elizabeth Fenske | Loan Forgiveness Administrator

Program Purpose

- The purpose of Minnesota's Loan Forgiveness program is to recruit and retain health care professionals to needed areas and facilities within Minnesota. Loan forgiveness is an important benefit for health care professionals as well as health care facilities and communities experiencing a shortage of access to primary health care services.
- [Sec. 144.1501 MN Statutes](#)

Hospital Nurses- New This Year

- Nurse and Patient Safety Act
 - [Chapter 75 - MN Laws](#)

Loan Forgiveness Professions

Hospital RNs	Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists	RN in LTC	Licensed Alcohol & Drug Counselors
Physician Assistants	Certified Nurse Midwives	LPN in LTC	Licensed Psychologists
Dentists	Psychiatric Nurse Specialists/NP	Certified Nurse Practitioners	Licensed Independent Clinical Social Workers
Dental Therapist/ Adv. Dental Therapist	Nurse Faculty	Advanced Clinical Nurse Specialists	Licensed Marriage & Family Therapists
Pharmacists	MD/DO	Public Health Nurses w/certificate	Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors

Eligibility Hospital RNs

- Employed by and working in a hospital in MN
 - excluding for-profit hospitals
- Must be licensed and working by March 31, 2024
- Working in direct patient care
- Excludes outpatient surgical center RNs, those working in clinics associated with hospital

Service Obligation and Funding

OBLIGATION

- Minimum 2-year/ maximum 4-year obligation
 - 30 Hours per week for at least 45 weeks per year (this is an average) in direct patient care
 - Providing direct patient care/client-centered services. Hours cannot be fulfilled meeting with providers, process improvement, policy development, supervising, or administering programs
 - Not retroactive-previous work is not counted

FUNDING

- Currently \$24,000 for 4-year commitment
 - The size of award is determined using 15% of average educational debt in field
 - Award amount cannot exceed student loan debt

Award Disbursement

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Total Forgiveness
Annual Payment*	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$24,000

Annual Reporting

- Annually at the end of each contract year, the ORHPC requires participants to verify their employment and document that they have applied the loan forgiveness funds to their student loans.
- Upon verification of these documents, the next year's disbursement will be released. It is the participant's decision whether they wish to pay their loan servicer(s) with a lump sum payment or make monthly payments that total the annual disbursement.
- At the end of the last year, once the documents have been verified, a completed copy of the contract is sent back to the participant for their records.
- Contact us if anything changes-address, job site etc

Loan Eligibility

The Loan Forgiveness Program provides funds for repayment of qualifying educational loans for actual costs paid for tuition, reasonable education and living expenses related to the graduate or undergraduate education of the nurse. Qualified loans may include:

- Government loans (Subsidized, Unsubsidized, GradPLUS)
- Private Loans (Sallie Mae, MN SELF, Discover Student Loan, etc.)
- Not Eligible-ParentPLUS Loan, loans in default, personal loans, student loans consolidated with non-student loans

Temporary Suspension of Service

- Service obligations may be suspended as a result of an illness, disability, job transfer, or parental leave during the contract
- All requests must be in writing and substantiated by documentation acceptable by the state and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis
- Suspensions cannot exceed 12 months

Penalty for Non-Fulfillment

Carefully Consider the Terms of the Service Commitment Before Applying!

If a participant does not fulfill the obligations of the contract, the participant is required to repay the **TOTAL** amount ORHPC paid plus interest, at a rate established according to Minnesota Statute 270C.40. The current rate is 7.5%.

Online Application

- **Resume**
 - Volunteer & leadership experience
 - Training
 - Education
 - Work history
- **Student Loan Statements**
- **At least two references**
 - One must be supervisor
 - Ex. Charge Nurse

Online Application continued

- **Essay**

- Describe your connection to the community as a healthcare provider.
- Explain why you care about this setting and would like to continue working there
- Share how your experiences will impact healthcare outcomes for the patient population you will be serving

Application Timeline

- Open application August 1, 2023-October 6, 2023
 - Must be fully licensed and working by March 31, 2024
 - Decisions made in January/February
 - Not all who apply will be selected

Other programs

- Minnesota State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP)
 - [Minnesota State Loan Repayment Program \(SLRP\) - MN Dept. of Health](#)
 - Primary care RNs working in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA)
 - [Find Shortage Areas by Address \(hrsa.gov\)](#)
- Federal programs
 - [Apply Today for One of Our NHSC Loan Repayment Programs | NHSC \(hrsa.gov\)](#)
 - [Apply to the Nurse Corps Loan Repayment Program | Bureau of Health Workforce \(hrsa.gov\)](#)

Questions? Thank you!

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