

Alaska's SHARP Program

Concurrent Service Obligation: Disallowed

Alaska's SHARP program disallows clinician-participants from having more than one service obligation, at the same time (i.e. concurrently). That is, the clinician-participant can only be receiving one support-for-service award, which entails a service obligation or commitment.

- SHARP-II Language in the AS 18.29 Statute:

(e) A loan or interest on a loan is not eligible for repayment under this section if the loan or interest is to be repaid by another source, including another loan repayment or forgiveness program or an employer-sponsored repayment program;

- Language in the SHARP regulations:

7 AAC 24.080. Employee eligibility to participate. The department will not consider a participant that has a simultaneous contract or service obligation with another entity for loan repayment. However, a participant is not subject to the limitation in this section if the obligation consists of service in (1) the reserves of the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard; (2) the National Guard; or (3) the commissioned corps of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Surgeon General, Public Health Service.

- Language in the SHARP service contract (MOA):

C. (The Practitioner agrees and certifies that he or she) does not currently and may not at any time during the term of the SHARP MOA have any other service obligation(s) (aka concurrent service obligation(s)) based on the practitioner's service at the Site. "Other service obligation" means other outstanding contractual obligation(s) to the Federal Government (e.g., an active military obligation, National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program, National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program, NURSE Corps Loan Repayment Program, Nursing Scholarship Program, or Indian Health Service Loan Repayment Program obligation), or to any other State or any other entity, whether it be public, private, employer, state or federal, for the provision of health professional service(s). This includes, but is not limited to, loan repayment, signing bonuses, a service-option loan(s), moving expense agreement(s), and/or similar financial benefit(s) that entail a service obligation. If incurred, the Practitioner and the Site must immediately declare in writing to the SHARP Program any healthcare profession service obligation of any nature.

Individuals in the Reserve Component of the U.S. Armed Forces or National Guard or USPHS Commissioned Officers Corps are eligible to participate in SHARP. If the SHARP Practitioner's military or USPHS-related training and/or service, in combination with the participant's other absences from the service Site, exceed 35 workdays per service-year away from clinical practice, then the SHARP service obligation end date will be extended to adjust for break in agreed-upon service.

The Practitioner recognizes and accepts that having a current service obligation (aka double dipping) is disallowed at any time during the SHARP contract service-period, whether the other (non-SHARP) obligation was incurred before or following initiation of SHARP contract. The Practitioner here-declares if he or she does hold another service obligation.

- Definition of “Concurrent Service Obligation” (in SHARP MOA):

This is any other outstanding contractual obligation, in addition to the SHARP service contract, simultaneously held by the Practitioner with the Federal Government (e.g., active military obligation, National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program, National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program, NURSE Corps Loan Repayment Program, Nursing Scholarship Program, or Indian Health Service Loan Repayment Program obligation), or with any other State or any other entity, whether it be public, private, employer, state or federal, for provision of health professional service(s). This includes, but is not limited to, loan repayment, signing bonuses, a service-option loan(s), moving expense agreement(s), and/or similar financial benefit(s) that entail service obligation.

- Language in federal HRSA's SLRP grant guidance for SHARP-I:

(Clinician-participants) must **not** have an outstanding contractual obligation for health professional service to the Federal Government, or to a State or other entity, unless that service obligation will be completely satisfied before the SLRP contract has been signed. Please note that certain provisions in employment contracts can create a service obligation (e.g., an employer offers a physician a recruitment bonus in return for the physician's agreement to work at that facility for a certain period of time or pay back the bonus).

Individuals in the Reserve Component of the U.S. Armed Forces or National Guard are eligible to participate in the SLRP. If the SLRP participant's military training and/or service, in combination with the participant's other absences from the service site, exceed 35 workdays per service year, the SLRP service obligation should be extended to compensate for the break in service.

Individuals who have Primary Care Loans through the Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Bureau of Health Professions are NOT eligible to participate in the SLRP.