

## **Alaska SHARP Program FAQs for SHARP-II**

### **PARTICIPATION IN SHARP-II**

**1. Q. How are participants in the SHARP-II Program selected?**

A:

- The selection recommendations are issued by the SHARP-II Advisory Body, a deliberative and oversight group which is required by HB-78, and adopted into the Regulations. The Advisory Body receives the final list of eligible candidates from the SHARP-II Program Manager, then in public meeting the Body reviews and issues recommendations for support, and other findings.
- Once the findings are issued, there is a final vetting process within DHSS.
- In the past, and most likely in the future, factors may include but are not limited to elements such as: geographic distribution, level of focus on priority populations, distribution across the eligible occupations, level of established need, level of profession shortage, portion of applicant pool that is very hard-to-fill, and several other considerations.

**2. Q. How many individuals are able to participate in the SHARP-II Program?**

A: The statute (HB-78) specifies that the SHARP-II option can support up to 90 participants at any one time.

**3. Q. Is there a list of which positions are considered regular-fill and very-hard-to-fill?**

A: No, we do not have a list of which positions are regular fill or very hard-to-fill. That determination is based upon data that the individual site – applicant organization, or employer – provides to SHARP-II on its Site Application. Whether the site wants any of its positions designated as very hard-to-fill is a decision that the site makes, then submits required information. Then the SHARP-II program staff decides if there is enough information to justify a very hard-to-fill designation.

**4. Q. I have been informed that the facility where I work will not participate in the Sharp-II program. I am willing to re-locate to a facility that is participating in the program. Is this a possibility?**

A: Yes, it is possible to participate in SHARP-II at another practice site. More generally, the process is for purposes of both recruitment and retention of clinicians. Therefore, some sites and some clinicians are encouraged to apply “solo.” As the program matures we are hoping and expecting that some clinicians and sites will individually apply, and then possibly find a match in those pools.

**5. Q. If I am selected as a SHARP-II participant and I then change jobs, can I transfer my SHARP benefit to my new job, or do I need to reapply?**

A: No. The SHARP support-for-service award is executed through a three-way contract between Alaska DHSS, the clinician, and the site. There are certain relatively rare circumstances in which the clinician might change employers and those are for compelling reasons. There is no option by which the clinician-participant can simply switch jobs and take the applicant’s support-for-service benefit with him or her.