

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

### **SHARP-II and BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

**1. Q. Are Licensed Professional Counselors (LPCs) included in the occupations under SHARP-II?**

A: The LPC is not one of the occupations included in SHARP-II. LPCs were not identified by the legislature as a group to receive funding under SHARP-II.

**2. Q. Who is qualified to work as a behavioral health clinician under SHARP-II?**

A: In SHARP-II the social worker clinician must be a social worker providing clinical services. In most instances that means they must be licensed as an LCSW. Exemptions to the licensure requirement may include social workers that are working in a State of Alaska funded mental health center.

**3. Q. I received my MSW and am now working as a clinician. I am currently not receiving licensure supervision, although I will continue to seek means to obtain supervision eventually, and have not received any licensure at this time. I want to apply for SHARP-II but noticed that licensure is a requirement. Are there any exceptions in order for me to be eligible?**

A: All clinicians are welcome to submit their application materials. The situation described above is somewhat ambiguous but it is reasonable that you apply to the program. The Department remains in process of determining the eligibility of master's level social workers who are not licensed.

**4. Q. I have a PhD in Clinical Psychology and in Alaska I have licensure as a Professional Counselor. I have only just begun the process of applying for temporary licensure as a Clinical Psychologist. I need to know if I will be eligible to apply for the SHARP-II program with a temporary (two-year) license to practice Clinical Psychology in the State of Alaska. During that time period I will complete the requisite post-doctoral year of supervision and take my examinations toward full licensure. Is SHARP-II open to individuals who are working on post-doc requirements under temporary licensure?**

A: Licensure as an LCSW needs to be (a) full and unencumbered, or, (b) the practitioner needs to be formally exempted from the State's licensure requirement (e.g. working in a tribal health entity, as licensed in another state).

**5. Q. I am a recent graduate from college with a Master's Degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. I am now working in Alaska as a Child and Family Therapist for a tribal health organization. I am currently working towards state licensure. I am hoping that I qualify for the SHARP II student loan repayment program.**

A: For SHARP-II both (a) Licensed Professional Counselor, (b) Psychological Associate (MA-prepared), and the Marriage & Family Therapist are all NOT included in this solicitation.