

Alaska SHARP Program

FAQs for SHARP-II

SHARP-II FOR SERVICE SITES

Important: There is a SHARP-II Site Application form that prospective employer sites must fill out. Employers who competed an application for “traditional” SHARP-I must complete the SHARP-II application to be considered for that program.

- 1. Q. Our site was selected as an eligible site for the SHARP II program during the first solicitation. Do I need to reapply as a site for this second application cycle?**

A: If the position (e.g. psychiatrist) was already applied for (Section II – Site Application), and no other aspects of Section-II has changed, then you don’t need to submit another Site Application.

If, however, you are requesting another position type (e.g. pharmacist, etc.), then you would need to submit another Site application.

- 2. Q. What are the site requirements to be considered eligible for SHARP-II?**

A: For a site to be considered eligible it must accept patients covered by Medicare, Medicaid, and provide services free or charge patients according to a reduced fee (sliding) schedule.

- 3. Q. Does the definition of underserved in the SHARP-II statute (HB 78) include those who receive other forms of federal health program benefits such as Tricare, Champus or VA?**

A: Yes. According to Sec. 18.29.035 (c) of the governing statute:

“The commissioner shall prioritize eligible sites based on the needs assessment score for the site, remoteness of the site, the percentage of underserved patients treated at the site, or a combination of these elements; in this subsection, an underserved patient

- (1) is uninsured;
- (2) receives or is eligible to receive medical assistance or Medicare coverage; or
- (3) receives or is eligible to receive other federal health program benefits.”

4. Q. What if a facility doesn't have a sliding fee schedule?

A: An alternative to a sliding fee schedule for the uninsured would be an explicit charity care policy.

5. Q. Would a private medical or dental practice qualify as a SHARP-II employer site?

A: Yes, it is possible for a private practice to be eligible under SHARP-II. The key element in this question is whether the practice is determined to be within a State-designated Health Care Services Shortage Area.

6. Q. Are Division of Juvenile Justice facilities and employees eligible for the SHARP-II Program?

A: Keep in mind that SHARP-II is for selected types of health care clinicians. As regards site eligibility, we do expect that some of the DJJ facilities will be eligible, and here we are speaking of those clinicians that provide healthcare, and who are in the eligible occupational licensure groups. The specific sites must be in a designated Health Care Service Shortages Area, which is determined once the sites apply for SHARP-II.

7. Q. If our agency already employs a SHARP-I clinician, does that qualify us for SHARP-II?

A: No. In SHARP-II all site applications are position specific. If you know of clinicians who want to apply for SHARP-II, you would need to complete a site application for each position.

8. Q: What are the requirements for charity care and a sliding fee scale for employer site participation in SHARP-II?

A: Page 7 of the SHARP-II Memorandum of Agreement states:

G. For Non-Tribal Healthcare Sites, the Site will:

- i. Ensure that the Practitioner charges for his or her professional services at the usual and customary prevailing rates in the area in which such services are provided, except that if a person is unable to pay such fee, such person shall be charged at a reduced rate (i.e., discounted sliding fee scale) or not charged any fee, and will submit copy of that policy.
- ii. Ensure that the Practitioner provides health services to any individual seeking care. The Site will ensure that this Practitioner does not discriminate on the basis of the

patient's ability to pay for such care or on the basis that payment for such care will be made pursuant to Medicare (established in Title XVIII of the Social Security Act), or Medicaid (Title XIX of such Act).

iii. Enter into an appropriate agreement with the State of Alaska, Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Health Care Services to provide service to individuals entitled to receive Medicaid &/or Medicare benefits.

H. For Tribal Healthcare Sites, Pursuant to Section II, Q (above), the site will:

i. Ensure that the Practitioner charges for his or her professional services at the usual and customary prevailing rates in the area in which such services are provided, except in instances where a person qualifies for the agency's sliding fee or charity care policy, and will submit copy of that policy.

ii. Ensure that the practitioner provides health services to any individual seeking care that is also deemed eligible for services at the site under 25.U.S.C. 1680c. The Site will ensure that the Practitioner will not discriminate on the basis that payment for care will be made pursuant to Medicare (established in Title XVIII of the Social Security Act), or Medicaid (Title XIX of the Social Security Act).

iii. Enter into an appropriate agreement with the State of Alaska, DHSS, Division of Health Care Services, to provide service to individuals entitled to receive Medicaid and/or Medicare benefits and eligible for services under 25 U.S.C. 1680c.