

Alaska SHARP Program

Practitioner Eligibility – Specialty Issue (5/11/10) WWAMI Participation

Summarized below are the circumstances under which a WWAMI physician may be eligible to participate in SHARP & thus received its loan repayment benefit.

Regarding SHARP:

- In order to be eligible for SHARP loan repayment benefit, the Practitioner must not have any other concurrent service obligations (e.g. NHSC, I.H.S., WWAMI, etc).
- SHARP participants must sign an MOA that states that he/she "...has no outstanding contractual obligation for health professional service to the Federal Government (e.g., an active military obligation, National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program, National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program, Nursing Education Loan Repayment Program or Nursing Scholarship Program obligation), or to another State or other entity."

Regarding WWAMI:

- WWAMI medical student participants incur a 5-year service obligation.
- Whether the WWAMI practitioner repays the State of Alaska via cash, or provides the healthcare service, is his/her choice. If the Practitioner is not repaying the loan commitment in cash, then the WWAMI Practitioner's commitment is a "service obligation".
- The borrower cannot concurrently receive service-related forgiveness on the WWAMI contract and also receive SHARP loan repayment for work occurring during the same period.
- Therefore, the WWAMI physician is disallowed from SHARP participation during the period that he/she is serving his/her 5-year service obligation
- However, WWAMI Practitioners have the ACPE option of filing a "WWAMI/ACPE Deferment Application" (here-attached).
- If the WWAMI physician files the ACPE deferment form, and the request is approved by WWAMI/ACPE, then the physician may be eligible for SHARP benefit (that is, if otherwise eligible & selected).
- The deferment of the WWAMI obligation can be available to a WWAMI borrower for the purpose of participating in SHARP, but only for the purpose of earning repayment benefits to thus pay on non-WWAMI loans.

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<http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dhcs/healthplanning/sharp/>