

Alaska State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP)

A federal program with non-federal match
that helps to recruit & retain healthcare
practitioners for Alaska

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What we'll cover ...

This webinar provides Alaska CHC administrators and clinicians with information about the “Alaska State Loan Repayment Program” (SLRP).

It provides overview of one of HRSA’s main healthcare practitioner recruitment & retention programs, one that requires a 50% / 50% federal-non-federal funding match. Funding sources are described.

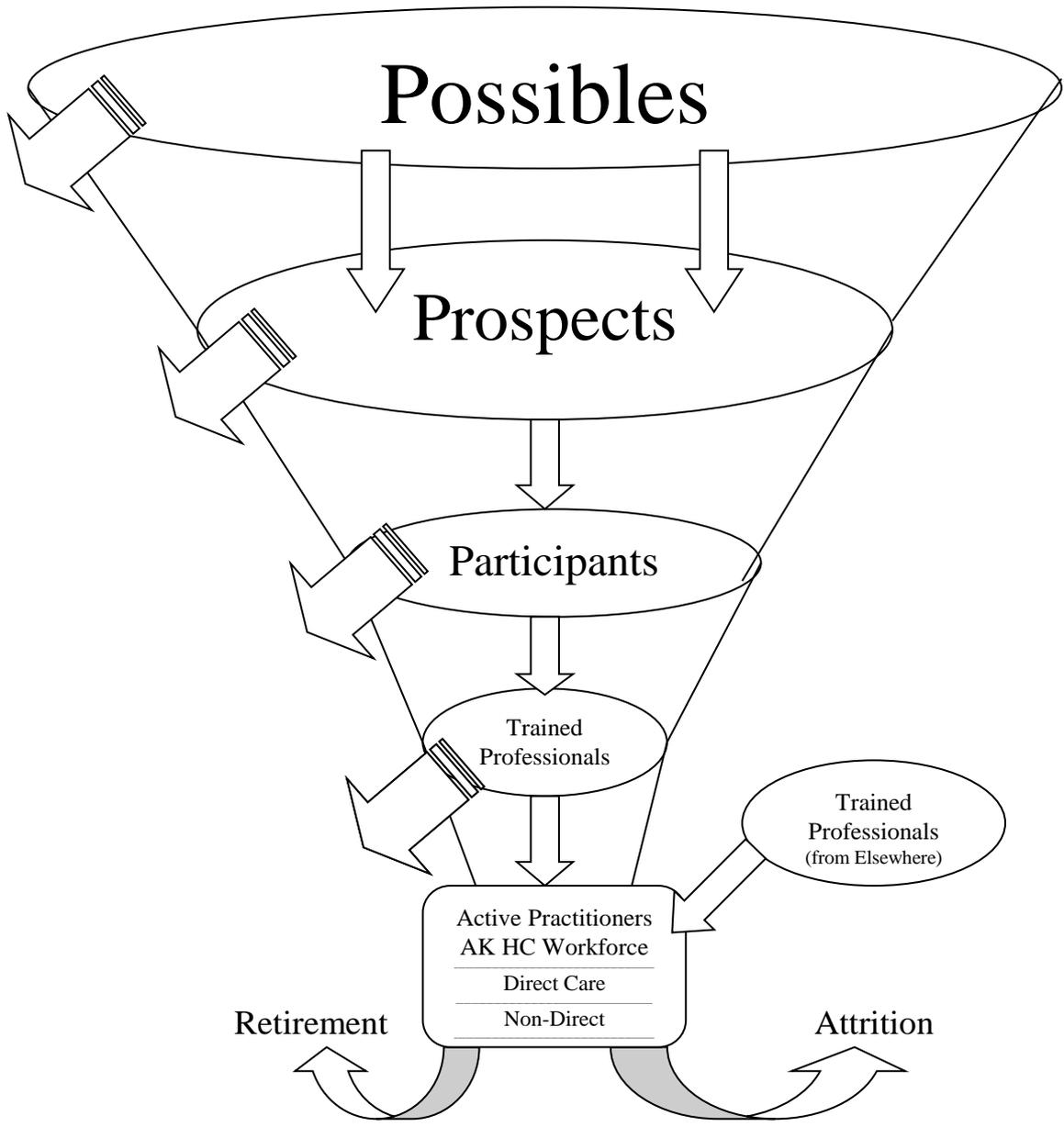
It describes how provider agencies and Alaska DHSS will work together to find, place and support eligible healthcare practitioners.

The training explains how CHCs and other primary care clinics will be able to submit “site applications” and how individual HC practitioners will be able to apply.

Expected program timeline is presented, and potential future opportunities are also discussed

What does this program do?

SLRP provides “support-for-service” to healthcare practitioners by providing loan repayment awards to eligible professionals in exchange for at least two years of service in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA).



Why use the SLRP program?

- Debt-load ...
- Practitioners going to “other bidders” ...
- Does the LPR cost your agency anything?
- Tax-free benefit...
- Amount (totals are max for 2-year service)
 - Tier-1: Up to \$70,000
 - Tier-2: Up to \$40,000

Program Elements

1. Program Management
2. Practitioner Eligibility
3. Site Eligibility
4. Revenue Collection
5. Contract Execution
6. Program Evaluation
7. Program Visibility

1. Program Management

- AK DHSS –Commissioner Bill Hogan
- DHSS Department Structure
 - DHCS – Deputy Comm. Bill Streur
 - HPSD – Section Chief Pat Carr
 - Primary Care Office - Mark Millard
 - SLRP Program Director – Robert Sewell
- Program has SLRP Advisory Council

SLRP Program Staffing

(all partial FTE's)

- Program Director – Robert Sewell
- Loan Eligibility Specialist – TBA (at ACPE)
- Accounting Technician I – TBA (at DHCS)
- Administrative Clerk III – Jan Wood

- Federal HRSA does NOT pay for any administrative costs

Advisory Council

Interagency Oversight Group

- ASHNHA
- APCA
- ANTHC
- ANHB
- UA Health
- United Way
- ASMA
- ADS
- ACPE
- Div BH
- Div HCS
- AMTHA

Role of Alaska DHSS

1. HPSAs: PCO submits HPSA applications
 1. HRSA approves the HPSA applications
2. AK SLRP Office: accepts SLRP site applications, and approves eligibilitiy
3. AK SLRP Office: accepts practitioner applications, and approves eligibility
4. Upon approval, DHSS pays eligible lenders

2. Eligible Healthcare Occupations

- Primary care physicians (MD or DO)
- Certified nurse practitioners
- Primary care physician assistants
- General practice dentist (& Pediatric)
- Registered clinical dental hygienists

- Psychiatrists
- Health service psychologists
- Clinical social workers
- Psychiatric nurse specialists
- Marriage & family therapists
- Licensed professional counselor

Tier Designations

- Clinical Service Practitioners
- Tier-1: Physicians, Dentists
- Tier-2:
 - Primary Care: NPs, PAs
 - Dental: Dental Hygienists
 - Beh Hlth: CPs, CSWs, PNSs, LPCs, MFTs

Practitioner Eligibility

Other Requirements

- Determination of Eligible Loans
- Re-Application – is (typically) possible
- Recruitment Process
 - Plan for Distribution
 - Annual Cohort
 - Selection via Advisory Council guidance

SLRP Practitioner Requirements for Eligible Loan Repayment Recipients

SLRP has several expectations for participating healthcare practitioners

A summary of these may be found at:

<http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dhcs/healthplanning/primarycare/loans/aslrp.htm>

3. Site Eligibility

- Submits Site Application
- Federally defined eligible sites, e.g. HPSA
- Preferences within federal requirements to be determined by Advisory Council
- Primary care is required
- Acceptance of Medicaid, Medicare & the Uninsured is required (sliding fee scale)
- Agree to participate in program evaluation

HPSA Determinations

- Site must be determined as a “Health Profession Shortage Area” (HPSA)
- However – the “score” does not matter
- There are three relevant HPSA types:
 - ___ Dental Health
 - ___ Mental Health
 - ___ Primary Care

Health Professional Shortage Area

- How to find your HPSA score?
<http://hpsafind.hrsa.gov>
- If you have questions call ...
Alaska Primary Care Office
907/465-4065

Find Shortage Areas ...

.... HPSA by State & County

- On the Web ...
- First go to ...

<http://hpsafind.hrsa.gov/HPSASearch.aspx>

- Then ... go to ...
- “Advanced search by HPSA Type, Score, Metro & Status”

What the “Site” must do ...

The Site must
become
“approved”

Site Application

- Site application & approval process
- There is a required form for each site to complete
- A “site” is defined as a HC service-delivery location with a unique physical address
- Submit applications any time during year

Site Application

- Once the Site Application is approved, then SLRP loan repayment can be offered as a “possible” benefit
- Do not promise the benefit as the “approval” is out-of-your-control

4. Revenue Collection

- Fiscal Agent – is Alaska DHSS
- Receipt Authority for both federal and non-federal “matching” funds
- Assurance that LRP match is “non-federal”
- Disallowance of “Off-set”
- Assurance of total encumbrance for each practitioner contract

Funding Sources – FFY 2010

- \$600,000 = Federal HRSA
- \$400,000 = Alaska MHTA
- \$214,000 = Three Alaska CHCs
- \$ 25,000 = Rasmuson (prof srv; max)

5. Contract Execution

- Practitioner Service Contract
- Period of Contract = 2 years
- Must charge for services
- Must offer a “sliding-fee scale” (re: income)
- Must accept Medicaid and Medicare
- Must accept uninsured patients

Contract Stipulations

- Citizenship (or naturalized) required
- Ambulatory practice (with some(?) hospital)
- Full Time Clinical Practice
- Compliance with Service & Payment Obl.
- Qualified loans
- No other concurrent service obligation(s)
- Rigorous default stipulations

LRP Payment Issues

- Payment is sent directly to eligible lender
- Eligible loans are NOT consumer loans
- Maximum annual benefit
 - (T1=\$35K, T2=\$20K)
- Payment cycle – quarterly; following the period of documented service

6. Program Evaluation

- Workforce Assessment
- Adoption by Council
- Formative Evaluation
- Summative Evaluation
- Final Report
- Dissemination

The Road Ahead

- SLRP (FFY 2010) is seen as a “start”
- Re-application to HRSA is likely (Mar'10)
- Alaska is considering it's own state-sponsored “Health Care Professions Loan Repayment & Incentive Program”
- Both SLRP (n=23) and HCPLRIP (n=90+) are needed - now

For more information...

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