

Healthcare Professionals

Loan Repayment Assistance Programs in Texas

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has various loan repayment assistance programs available to support individuals in targeted groups of professions in paying back student loan debt. Unlike financial aid programs for students, loan repayment awards are for individuals who have completed their education and are disbursed after each year of service has been provided. Awards are disbursed directly to participants' student loan servicers.

Nurse Faculty

Purpose: Supporting the instructors who train the next generation of nurses.

Eligibility Requirements

- hold a master's or doctoral degree in nursing;
- be licensed by the Texas Board of Nursing for the State of Texas;
- have been employed for at least one year, and be currently employed as a faculty member of a nursing program at an eligible institution in a position that requires an advanced degree in professional nursing.

\$ Amount: SB25 eliminated the \$7,000 annual maximum and authorized the Coordinating Board to establish a new maximum on an annual basis, which can be awarded up to five service periods.

Nurses

Purpose: Supporting nurses, especially those working in rural and shortage areas.

Eligibility Requirements

- be currently working as a nurse in Texas as a Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN), Registered Nurse (RN), or Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN);
- be licensed by the Texas Board of Nursing as an LVN, RN, or APRN, with no restrictions;
- have been working as a nurse in Texas for at least one year; preference goes to those working in rural and/or Health Professional Shortage Areas.

Note: This program will be available starting in September, 2024.

\$ Amount: Up to \$16,000 per year, depending on type of license and full-/part-time status for up to three years.

Program Overviews

Mental Health Professionals

Purpose: Supporting mental health professionals working in mental health professional shortage areas and other high need facilities.

Eligibility Requirements

- be practicing in an eligible practice specialty (psychiatrist, psychologist, licensed professional counselor, advanced practice registered nurse, clinical social worker, school psychologist, chemical dependency counselor, marriage and family therapist);
- have completed at least one year of qualifying full-time service;
- provide direct mental health services in a MHPSA to Medicaid/CHIP recipients, or in TDCJ/TJJD correctional facilities;
- not be employed in a contract employee status.

\$ Amount: Between \$10,000 and \$160,000 over three years, depending on the practice specialty.

Physicians

Purpose: Supporting physicians who practice in medically underserved areas.

Eligibility Requirements

- hold a full physician license from the Texas Medical Board, with no restrictions;
- have completed at least one year of qualifying service practicing:
 - in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA), serving persons who are enrolled in Medicaid and/or CHIP, uninsured, or enrolled in Medicare;
 - in a TDCJ/TJJD correctional facility; or
 - by providing primary care to Medicaid and/or Texas Women's Health Program enrollees, if outside an HPSA.
- be eligible for board certification and certified by 4th year of participation.

\$ Amount: Up to \$180,000 over four years.

Note: Not all eligibility criteria are included. Visit www.hhloans.com for more information.

Loan Repayment Assistance Data (FY 2019 – FY 2023)

Nurse Faculty

5-Year Figures

Average Number of Participants = **179**
Median Debt Level for New Participants = **\$49,328**
Average Amount Disbursed Annually = **\$1,370,305**

Outcomes

Completed Maximum Number of Years = **16%**



In FY23, the program was allocated \$1,462,500 (all eligible participants were funded).

Nurses

Applications for the program will be available starting in September, 2024. There is **\$12,500,000** available for loan repayment in FY25.



Mental Health Professionals

5-Year Figures

Average Number of Participants = **105**
Median Debt Level for New Participants = **\$72,252**
Average Amount Disbursed Annually = **\$774,709**

Outcomes

Completed Maximum Number of Years = **43%**
Recipients Who Remained in Shortage Area = **85%**



In FY23, the program was allocated \$1,035,938 (all eligible participants were funded).

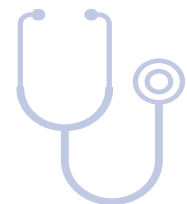
Physicians

5-Year Figures

Average Number of Participants = **302**
Median Debt Level for New Participants = **\$187,299**
Average Amount Disbursed Annually = **\$10,914,284**

Outcomes

Completed Maximum Number of Years = **65%**
Recipients Who Remained in Shortage Area = **60%**



In FY23, the program was allocated \$14,767,492 (all eligible participants were funded).