



## ***Statewide Investments Fact Sheet: Student Loan Repayment Program***

### **Program Overview**

The Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers (MassLeague) is administering the MassHealth Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) Statewide Investments programs focused on the community-based primary care and behavioral health workforce and community health readiness on behalf of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) Office of Medicaid (MassHealth) following a competitive procurement. The Statewide Investments funding stream is one component of MassHealth's \$1.8 billion DSRIP program authorized under the Medicaid Section 1115 Waiver and comprises eight initiatives over the five-year DSRIP program. The community-focused primary care and behavioral health workforce programs and the community health center readiness program will support the ACOs, CPs, and CSAs by building and strengthening their capacity to advance the goals of MassHealth payment and care delivery restructuring.

The Student Loan Repayment Program aims to address the shortage of primary care and behavioral health providers practicing in community-based settings by offering partial repayment of student loan obligations for providers who commit to four years of service in a community health center (CHC), community mental health center (CMHC; inclusive of community-based mental health centers, substance use programs, and psychiatric day treatment programs) or Emergency Service Program (ESP) providers participating in MassHealth payment reform, or a Community Service Agency (CSA) or a Community Partner (CP) or their Affiliated Partner or Consortium Entity, as well as providers of In-Home Therapy (IHT) that are contracted with an ACO. Quarterly Learning Days will also be offered to enhance the commitment of participating providers to community-based careers.

### **Eligibility**

This program is open to Primary Care Physicians, Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), Nurse Practitioners (NPs), Psychiatric Clinical Nurse Specialists (PCNSs), Physician Assistants (PAs), Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSWs), Licensed Certified Social Workers (LCSWs), Licensed Mental Health Counselors (LMHCs), Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFTs), and Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors 1 (LADC1s) working in community-based primary care or behavioral health practice settings that are also participating in MassHealth payment reform.

For the purposes of this program, participation in MassHealth payment reform includes the following:

- Formal engagement in a MassHealth ACO as a contracted primary care provider entity.
- Formal engagement in a MassHealth CP as a contracting entity, Affiliated Partner, or Consortium Entity.
- Contracted with a MassHealth ACO to provide behavioral health (BH) or substance use disorder (SUD) services for MassHealth ACO members.
- Contracted as a MassHealth CSA and/or contracted with a MassHealth ACO to provide In-Home Therapy (IHT).

Click on the [Eligible Organizations document](#) to determine who is eligible to apply.

Please note that providers working in a MassHealth CP or their Affiliated Partner or Consortium Entity or in an entity contracted with a MassHealth ACO to provide BH or SUD services for MassHealth ACO members must: 1) be providing clinical services paid for by either MassHealth, the Department of Mental Health (DMH) or the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) or 2) be serving in a care management role in a MassHealth CP or Affiliated Partner or Consortium Entity in order to be eligible for this program.



Clinicians in organizations contracted with an ACO to provide IHT must be providing IHT services to be eligible for this program.

Providers applying to this program will be required to have a hire date at an eligible organization within six months of the application due date or to have been employed for five years or less at an eligible organization within six months of the application due date. All applicants must have outstanding educational debt and be willing to commit to working full- or part-time in an eligible organization for four years.

### **Funding**

This program expects to award the following for this cycle:

- 25 slots per year of up to \$50,000 in student loan repayment over two years (\$25,000 to be paid out in single program year) for Primary Care Physicians, Psychiatrists, and/or Psychologists
- 25 slots per year of up to \$30,000 in student loan repayment over two years (\$15,000 to be paid out in single program year) for APRNs, NPs, PCNSs, and/or PAs
- 40 slots per year of up to \$30,000 in student loan repayment over two years (\$15,000 to be paid out in single program year) for LICSWs, LCSWs, LMHCs, LMFTs, and/or LADC1s

Please note that the actual number of slots awarded per provider type may change depending on the mix and quality of the applications received.

### **Process and Timeline**

Eligible providers who are interested in participating in this program must submit applications to the MassLeague by no later than Friday, April 12, 2019. Due to the anticipated high demand as well as tight timeline for review, incomplete applications will not be considered for this round of funding.

Applications will be reviewed by a diverse committee of experts in the field of community-based primary care and behavioral health. For further details about this program, please refer to the additional documents posted on the [Programs and Initiatives section of the MassLeague website](#).

### **Contact Information**

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