

OMH Community Mental Health Loan Repayment Program

OVERVIEW

On November 10th, the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) announced a new program to support licensed community mental health programs with recruiting and retaining psychiatrists and psychiatric nurse practitioners (PNPs). The OMH Community Mental Health Loan Repayment Program (OMH CMHLRP) will award \$9 million in total annual funding through State Aid grants for loan repayment across a minimum of 360 awards (180 psychiatrists/180 PNPs).

Additional details are available [here](#). Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first serve basis until funds are exhausted.

FUNDING

Loan repayments may be awarded for both existing and newly hired staff, as follows:

- Up to \$120,000 in loan repayment over a three-year period for psychiatrists; and
- Up to \$30,000 in loan repayment over a three-year period for PNPs.

The number of available awards and funding amount is further allocated by region (Central, Hudson River, Long Island, New York City, and Western) as noted in the OMH summary document. Individual programs are eligible for a maximum of \$500,000 in total annual funding. Funding will be provided directly to the licensed community mental health program, that will enter into loan repayment agreements with eligible staff and distribute payments accordingly.

Loan repayment funds under this program are exempt from federal and state taxes.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

The following providers may apply on behalf of eligible staff:

- *Inpatient/CPEP*: Article 28 hospital inpatient psychiatric units, Article 31 freestanding inpatient hospital programs, and Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Programs (CPEPs).
- *Outpatient*: Article 31 outpatient programs, including Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) teams, Continuing Day Treatment (CDT), Children's Day Treatment, Partial Hospitalization (PH), Personalized Recovery Oriented Services (PROS), and Mental Health Outpatient Treatment and Rehabilitative Services (MHOTRS) clinics.

In order to be eligible, staff must:

- Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident alien holding a green card;
- Be licensed to practice in New York State;
- Have student loan expenses that can be repaid;
- Not be fulfilling any current state or federal loan repayment obligation where the obligation period of that repayment program would overlap or coincide with the OMH CMHLRP obligation period;

- Be in good standing with the Department of Health;
- Not be in breach of a health professional service obligation to federal, state, or local government or have any judgment liens arising from federal or state debt;
- Not be delinquent in child support payments; and
- Be working or planning to work full-time clinical capacity as a psychiatrist or PNP within eligible OMH licensed community mental health programs in New York State. If the employee works part-time, the award will be proportionally reduced based on the eligible program's definition of full-time staff.

Eligible participants will be expected to fulfill their three-year service obligation pursuant to the agreement with the eligible program in which the award was made.

TIMELINE

Applications will be accepted from eligible programs on an ongoing basis until funds are exhausted and all awards have been made. If all awards have not been made by February 28, 2023, awards may be allocated to any other region/applicant with a waitlist. Applications should be submitted to OMH.CMHLRP@omh.ny.gov.

Questions may be submitted to the email address above.