

Good morning, Chairwoman Lee and members of the Human Services Committee. My name is Bobbie Will, and I serve as the Primary Care Office Director for the North Dakota Department of Health. I am here to provide information on the health care professional student state loan repayment program, including the proposed amendment in Senate Bill 2125 relating to adding licensed behavioral analysts to the behavioral health professional field section.

In 1994, the North Dakota State Legislature established student loan repayments for certain health care professions to increase the number of providers in areas of the state with defined health professional needs. Since then, loan repayments have been made to physicians, clinical psychologists, advance practice nurses and physician assistants. Behavioral health professionals were added in 2016.

Further information on the State Loan Repayment Programs can be found in the attached fact sheet and on the Primary Care Office website: [www.ndhealth.gov/pco/main.asp](http://www.ndhealth.gov/pco/main.asp) in the Program Resources tab.

The amended language in Senate Bill 2125 will allow the State Health Council to consider awarding a student repayment loan to a licensed behavioral analyst along with the current five disciplines listed in 43-12-3.06 e. The selection criteria, state award, community match and eligibility for participation will not change.

This concludes my testimony. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

# LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM FACTS

## NORTH DAKOTA HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL Student Loan Repayment Program

### ELIGIBLE DISCIPLINES

- Physicians
- Advanced Practice Registered Nurses
- Physician Assistants
- Clinical Psychologists  
(licensed by the State Board of Psychologist Examiners)
- Behavioral Health Professionals
  - Licensed Addiction Counselors
  - Licensed Professional Counselors
  - Licensed Social Workers
  - Registered Nurses
  - Specialty Practice Registered Nurses

### WHERE PROVIDERS SERVE

Providers must serve in areas of the state with a defined need for such services.

### FINANCIAL BENEFITS

Providers can enter into an agreement up to 5 years.

Discipline	State Award	Community Match
Physician	\$100,000	\$50,000
APRN, PA	\$20,000	\$2,000
Clinical Psychologist	\$60,000	\$15,000
Behavioral Health	\$20,000	\$2,000

### PROVIDER SELECTION CRITERIA

- Health care professional's specialty
- Need for the specialty in the area
- Education and experience
- Date of availability and anticipated term of availability
- Willingness to accept Medicaid and Medicare patients
- Length of residency in North Dakota
- Attendance at an in-state or out-of-state institution

### COMMUNITY SELECTION CRITERIA

Public and private entities are eligible for this program.

Site criteria is based on the following factors:

- Located in an area that is statistically underserved
- Located at least 20 miles outside the boundary of a city with more than 40,000

## NORTH DAKOTA DENTAL Loan Repayment Program

### ELIGIBLE DISCIPLINES

General/Pediatric Dentistry (DDS, DMD)

### WHERE PROVIDERS SERVE

Dentists must serve a public health clinic, practice with a focus on an underserved population, or a nonprofit clinic.

### FINANCIAL BENEFITS

Providers can enter into an agreement up to 5 years for a total award of \$100,000.

### PROVIDER SELECTION CRITERIA

- Be fully licensed to practice in North Dakota;
- Dentist located in a federally designated Dental Health Professional Shortage Area or a state-defined critical shortage area;
- Dentists trained in general or pediatric dentistry or in a dental specialty where such services are needed in the identified city or surrounding areas;
- Accept Medicare and Medicaid patients; and
- A dentist selected for loan repayment who practices within fifteen miles (24.14 kilometers) of the city limits of one of the three largest cities in the state must:
  - have received dental medical payments of twenty thousand dollars in the form of medical assistance reimbursement; or
  - have practiced at least two full workdays per week at a public health clinic or a nonprofit dental clinic that uses a sliding fee schedule for patient billing.

### COMMUNITY SELECTION CRITERIA

- Priority is given to sites or clinics in the following categories: dental services provided in a public health clinic, a practice with a focus on an underserved population, or a nonprofit dental clinic.



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North Dakota State Loan Repayment Programs  
<http://www.ndhealth.gov/pco/main.asp>  
<https://ruralhealth.und.edu/projects/primary-care-office>

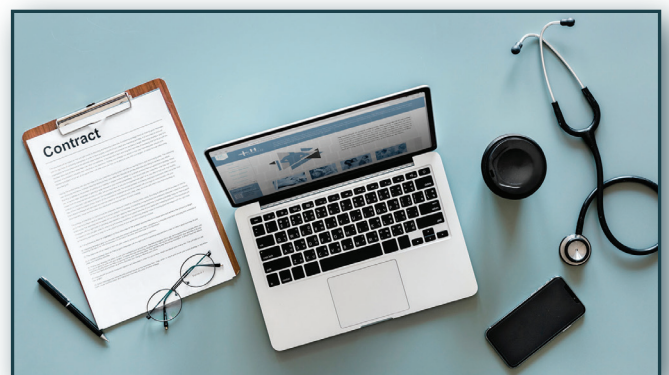
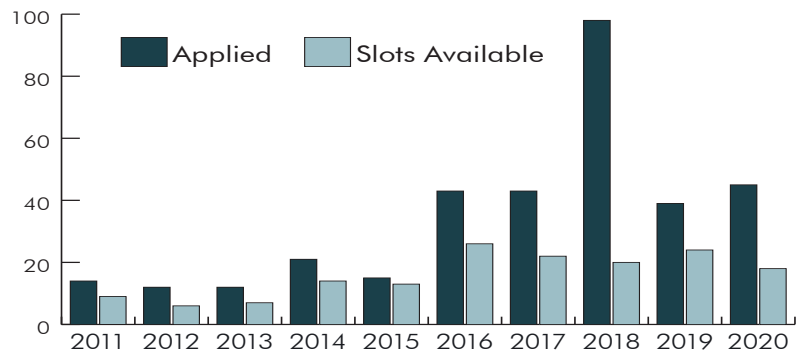


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## LOAN REPAYMENT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED VS SLOTS AVAILABLE

Summary of total loan repayment applicants verses the number of awards available based on funding for the years 2011 through 2020.

Includes Dentists, Physicians, Advanced Practice Providers (PA & NP), Psychologists, Behavioral Health Providers.



## THE NEED VS FUNDING AVAILABLE

	Dentists	Physicians	Advanced Practice Providers (PA & NP)	Psychologists	Behavioral Health Providers
<b>2011</b>					
Number Applied	8	3	3	n/a	n/a
Number Available to Award based on funding	3	3	3	n/a	n/a
<b>2012</b>					
Number Applied	8	4	0	n/a	n/a
Number Available to Award based on funding	3	3	info unavailable	n/a	n/a
<b>2013</b>					
Number Applied	8	4	0	n/a	n/a
Number Available to Award based on funding	3	4	info unavailable	n/a	n/a
<b>2014</b>					
Number Applied	5	12	4	n/a	n/a
Number Available to Award based on funding	3	7	4	n/a	n/a
<b>2015</b>					
Number Applied	5	3	7	n/a	n/a
Number Available to Award based on funding	3	3	7	n/a	n/a
<b>2016</b>					
Number Applied	8	7	11	1	16
Number Available to Award based on funding	8	3	4	1	10
<b>2017</b>					
Number Applied	9	11	12	1	10
Number Available to Award based on funding	4	4	4	1	9
<b>2018</b>					
Number Applied	7	7	15	5	64
Number Available to Award based on funding	4	4	4	2	6
<b>2019 \$900,000 ND State Appropriations</b>					
Number Applied	7	10	7	0	15
Number Available to Award based on funding	3	3	3	3	12
<b>2020 \$900,000 ND State Appropriations</b>					
Number Applied	7	9	7	4	18
Number Available to Award based on funding	3	4	3	2	6

### PHYSICIANS

1993-2020

56 CONTRACTS COMPLETED

**66%**

OF THE CONTRACTED REMAIN IN ND

### DENTISTS

2001-2020

45 CONTRACTS COMPLETED

**87%**

OF THE CONTRACTED REMAIN IN ND

### PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

1994-2020

14 CONTRACTS COMPLETED

**71%**

OF THE CONTRACTED REMAIN IN ND

### NURSE PRACTITIONERS

1997-2020

15 CONTRACTS COMPLETED

**67%**

OF THE CONTRACTED REMAIN IN ND