

ND Federal Loan Repayment Program

Site Application Guidance

ND Federal Loan Repayment Program

The North Dakota Federal Loan Repayment Program is administered by the North Dakota Primary Care Office (NDPCO) which is located within the North Dakota Health and Human Services (NDHHS). The North Dakota Federal Loan Repayment Program is public-private partnership funded by federal, state, and local sources.

The purpose of this program is to improve access to healthcare for rural and underserved communities in North Dakota by alleviating health disparities resulting from poor access to primary medical, oral, and behavioral health services.

This program is a support-for-service effort that provides financial support to healthcare providers serving in medical, dental, or behavioral health HPSAs in North Dakota. Providers must practice at an approved ND Health Service Corps site for a minimum of 2 years with opportunities for continuation.

ND Federal Loan Repayment Site Eligibility and Requirements

ND eligible site types include public or nonprofit entities that provide comprehensive outpatient primary care services to the community, accept Medicaid, Medicare, CHIP, offer a sliding-fee scale for uninsured and low-income patients, and has a formal organizational policy for patient access to the sliding-fee scale and a declared nondiscrimination policy.

Eligible site types include:

- Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC)
 - Community Health Centers
 - Migrant Health Centers
 - Homeless Programs
 - Public Housing Programs
- Certified Rural Health Clinics
- Other Facilities
 - Community Outpatient Facilities
 - Community Mental Health Facilities
 - State and County Health Department Clinics
 - Immigration and Customs Enforcement Health Service Corps
 - Free Clinics
 - Mobile Units
 - School-based Programs
 - Critical Access Hospitals affiliated with a qualified outpatient clinic
 - State Mental Health Facilities
- Indian Health Service Facilities, Tribal-Operated 638 Health Programs, and Urban Indian Health Programs
 - Federal Indian Health Service (IHS) Clinical Practice Site
 - Tribal/638 Health Clinics
 - Urban Indian Health Program
- Correctional or Detention Facilities
 - Federal Prisons
 - State Prisons



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Frequently Asked Questions

ND Federal Loan Repayment Site Eligibility and Requirements (continued)

Sites must:

- Be located in a federally designated Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA).
- Provide comprehensive primary medical, oral, behavioral health to all members of the community within the HPSA.
 - Continuation of Care is defined by federal guidelines as not focused or limited to gender identity, organ system, a particular illness, or categorical population (e.g. developmentally disabled or those with cancer). Sites must provide preventive, acute and chronic primary health services in an approved discipline. Sites treat all patients fairly, regardless of disease or diagnosis, and offer a full range of primary care services.
- Accept all patients regardless of their ability to pay
- Accept all patients on public insurance which includes Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP.
 - If a site doesn't see patients over the age of 65, the Medicare requirement is waived. If the site doesn't see children, the CHIP requirement will be waived.
- Offer a sliding fee scale based on family size and annual income for individuals at or below 200 percent FPL.
- Maintain an official organizational policy for how the sliding fee scale is structured, administered to and accessible by the patient or client population

Sites must submit documentation to become certified.

Sites will have to reapply every 3 years.

1. Sliding-Fee Scale updated according to the Federal Poverty Guidelines ([Hyperlink to Sliding-Fee Scale Guidance](#))
2. Sliding Fee Scale Discount Program Policy ([Hyperlink to Same Sliding-Fee Discount Policy](#))
3. Non-Discrimination Policy
4. Posted Signage Notifying Patients about the Sliding Fee Discount Program

Participating ND Federal Loan Repayment Organizations Must:

- Have a current organizational staff member designated as a "Site Administrator" for all the certified North Dakota Health Service Corps sites.
- Know which sites are certified and report any new sites that should be certified by the NDPCO.
- Know the provider application cycle.
- Know the awarded clinicians and where they are with their service obligation.
- Know the conditions and requirements for provider participation in the program.
- Immediately report any changes of FTE or employment status of providers who under a service obligation.
- Consult with the NDPCO before allocating provider hours to a non-approved site.



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