



## TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

### T.L.L. Temple Foundation Student Loan Repayment Program

The T.L.L. Temple Foundation Student Loan Repayment Program (Temple Program) is administered by the Texas State Office of Rural Health (SORH) at the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). The T.L.L. Temple Foundation serves 22 rural counties in East Texas – all of which are health professional shortage areas (HPSA) for primary care providers and dentists. In an effort to attract physicians and dentists who will thrive and remain in the foundation's rural communities, the foundation is supporting a loan repayment program to recruit and retain primary care physicians and dentists at eligible sites in the foundation's rural counties.

For providers selected to participate in the program, loan repayment funds will be reserved for annual disbursement at the end of each of the four years of eligibility and committed service. The provider will be required to serve for at least 12 consecutive months at an approved eligible site to qualify for an annual loan repayment award. The maximum annual award amount is \$30,000. Eligible providers may participate in the program for a maximum of four years.

#### **Who is eligible to apply?**

##### Requirements

1. All providers must be a U.S. citizen or permanent legal resident (or otherwise be legally authorized to work in the United States), practicing an eligible type of health care/dental care, and agree to practice at an eligible practice site.
2. Physicians must have a current unrestricted license from the Texas Medical Board and be board certified or eligible to take the exam from an American Specialty Board that is a member of the American Board of Medical Specialties or the Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists.
3. Dentists must have a current unrestricted license from the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners.

##### Approved Health Care Professions

- Family Practice/Family Medicine
- Internal Medicine
- Pediatrics
- OB/GYN
- Dentists

NOTE: Healthcare providers currently fulfilling an obligation to provide health care services as part of a scholarship agreement, a student loan agreement, or another student loan repayment or reimbursement program cannot simultaneously receive funding from a state-funded loan repayment program for the same period of service. Additionally, a health professional who participates in a program under this subchapter may not use telecommunication technology, including telemedicine, as the sole or primary method of providing services and may not use telecommunication technology as a substitute for providing health care services in person.

## **What loans qualify for repayment?**

To be eligible for repayment:

1. An education loan must be evidenced by a promissory note to pay for the cost of attendance for the provider's undergraduate or professional/graduate education at an accredited institution in the United States. Loans made during residency are not eligible. If the loan has been consolidated with other loans, the applicant must provide documentation of the portion of the consolidated debt that was originated to pay for the provider's cost of attending medical school or dental school.
2. A physician must not have an existing service obligation and must not be participating in repayment through another student loan repayment or loan forgiveness program.

## **What is a qualifying worksites?**

Eligible sites must be either tax-exempt under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code (e.g., primary care clinic, FQHC as defined below), a local mental health authority, or a governmental/public health facility (e.g., outpatient clinic, public health department). Sites must be located in one of the Foundation's 22 rural, Texas counties and have a primary focus on serving the underserved, including Medicaid, CHIP, Medicare, and other low-income, under-insured, or uninsured populations. The following sites are listed in order of priority. The Texas Department of Agriculture and the T.L.L. Temple Foundation will coordinate annually in advance of a cohort's placement to match physicians and/or dentists to priority sites:

1. TLLTF-funded grant partner sites that are Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs).
2. TLLTF-funded grant partner sites that are not FQHCs, but are some other nonprofit primary care and/or behavioral health sites.
3. FQHCs and other nonprofit primary care and/or behavioral health sites that are not TLLTF grant partners.

Eligible Counties are Anderson, Angelina, Bowie, Cass, Cherokee, Hardin, Houston, Jasper, Jefferson, Liberty, Nacogdoches, Newton, Orange, Panola, Polk, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity, and Tyler.

## **How are participants selected?**

Due to the limited amount of funding available, the Temple Program is competitive. Applications are scored and ranked using the following criteria:

- County HPSA score.
- Proof of student loan for education leading to current profession.
- Applicant medical education from a Texas school.
- Full-time employment.

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